



# 2020 Annual Report

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROFESSIONAL PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Established 1951 | Proudly Representing 9,000 Members





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## PROFESSIONALS REPRESENTING PROFESSIONALS

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association is committed to continuing a "Tradition of Success" in serving a satisfied membership through an effective and expanding professional association. We are a proactive and imaginative organization working in union with employers and other professional groups for necessary changes in policies, laws and legislation that are conducive to the well-being of our members. We will promote the professional interests of our members and the law enforcement community by protecting and enhancing their individual and collective rights.

## L.A. COUNTY PROFESSIONAL PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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TAB RHODES



Well, last year I wrote, “Historic changes occurred in the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and PPOA in 2019.” Little did I know. 2020 has brought unprecedented changes to the world. The COVID-19 pandemic, the accompanying economic downturn, the social justice movement and momentous elections have shaped our county, state and country, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Recognized officially here in California in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives forever. Many of our members have been affected or even infected by this very contagious and sometimes fatal virus. PPOA has expended numerous resources on our primary concern, the health and welfare of our members in the workplace. Your PPOA COVID-19 team was often consulted as subject-matter experts by the Sheriff’s Department, District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation and Medical Examiner’s Office to provide information about best practices in the workplace. At the time of this writing, the news is reporting a second surge throughout the United States. Evidence of that surge is present here in Los Angeles County, as the numbers of hospitalizations have

consistently been at all-time highs since mid-November. While PPOA continues to utilize all our efforts to ensure your safety, please hold yourselves accountable as well. All too often, complacency is the cause of bad outcomes. *Wear a mask! Wash your hands! Practice good social distancing when possible.* While none of these habits is guaranteed to prevent a COVID infection, all of them improve your odds of staying healthy during the pandemic.

As if a pandemic were not enough, the accompanying shutdown of businesses across the country and state is crippling public services. The last numbers reported by the state of California anticipate a \$54 billion shortfall over the next two years. Those *billions* of dollars represent services paid for by the state that will be lost. Those services represent public-sector jobs, wages and benefits, all of which will be at potential risk in the next few fiscal years. The economic loss to our public safety employers and potential impact on our members has yet to be determined.

Added to this fiscal nightmare is the recent passage of Measure J here in Los Angeles County. Measure J amends the County Charter to require that no less than 10% of the County’s General Fund be appropriated from criminal

justice entities and “reimagined” into community-based programs for alternatives to incarceration, health services, diversion and pre-trial non-custody services. This additional 10% cut to the agencies whose members we represent will create additional difficult working conditions in ways that are not yet identified.

Measure J, fast-tracked by the Board of Supervisors onto the November ballot, was in direct response to the social justice movement sparked nationwide following the death of George Floyd at the end of May. Activists across the country have called for the defunding of law enforcement and reform efforts, demanding action *now!* PPOA remains very sympathetic to the movement, while at the same time attempting to collaborate, when possible, to provide vetted, constructive reform solutions within reasonable timelines. Only through cooperative discussions and compromise can sustainable reforms be created without sacrificing public safety.

Oh, and let’s not forget this year’s elections. The polarization between President Trump supporters and now-President-Elect Biden supporters created civil unrest, protests and sometimes riots never seen before in this country. Hopefully, as a nation, we can put our



differences aside to become less divided and more united in 2021.

Within the County, new faces will be joining us in 2021. Congratulations to District Attorney-Elect George Gascón and Supervisor-Elect Holly Mitchell. Gascón returned home to the Los Angeles area and ran a very aggressive and progressive campaign against incumbent District Attorney Jackie Lacey. Thank you, Jackie, for your many years of service to our community and your excellent working relationship with PPOA. We wish you happiness and good fortune in your future. To DA-Elect Gascón, we look forward to the same type of collaborative partnership we had with your predecessor.

Additional congratulations to Supervisor-Elect Holly Mitchell, who comes home full-time from her previous position as a California state senator. She will be sworn in to the seat on the Board of Supervisors vacated by Mark Ridley-Thomas, who was elected to a seat on the Los Angeles City Council.

Last year's article mentioned that one goal for 2020 was to increase PPOA's political voice. I believe we have done that to a certain extent this year, despite the difficulties listed above. However, the last California legislative session was extremely volatile and problematic toward law enforcement. Reform efforts

of decertification, removal of qualified immunity and elimination of the Peace Officer's Bill of Rights were all defeated, but they are almost guaranteed to be reintroduced next year. In addition to these concerns, it is anticipated that political powers in the county and possibly the nation will target the Office of the Sheriff in the next election. Do *you* want a Sheriff with knowledge of the Department and community here in Southern California? Are you willing to risk the possibility of a progressive, activist-minded candidate for Sheriff being brought to and sponsored in Los Angeles County?

The following cannot be emphasized enough: The key component to protecting our members' rights and the Department is to increase the funding of the PPOA Political Action Committee (PAC). The PPOA PAC interviews candidates for elected office, offering endorsements and campaign contributions. These interviews and the accompanying conversations provide PPOA with the opportunity to have reasonable discussions on unrealistic and sometimes dangerous criminal justice proposals and legislation. Additionally, donations to the PAC are used to encourage and defend against statewide legislation, as well as ballot initiatives such as Proposition 20, which we supported, and Measure J, which we

fought fervently. PPOA needs your help to be successful in protecting our jobs, rights and interests, as well as defending our salaries, benefits and pensions. For this reason, PPOA is asking everyone to provide a contribution of at least \$20 per month (or any amount you can afford) specifically to our PAC Plus. To donate, go to [PPOA.com/members/political-action-committee-pac-plus-2](https://PPOA.com/members/political-action-committee-pac-plus-2) and click the Online Application button. Hopefully, the information above provides insight and education as to why last year's suggestion to donate is now a plea for members to assist in PPOA's efforts to defend and protect our membership and your families.

As always, this report provides me the opportunity to publicly thank the PPOA staff for their hard work and commitment to our members. The PPOA team works tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to ensure that we are providing the best services of any labor organization that I have experienced. As members, we are indebted to them for their time and dedication to our organization. Additionally, we must thank all the vendors who support this organization. Please support their businesses, as they most certainly support our membership.

From the PPOA family to your family, happy holidays and best wishes for a very safe 2021!



any of the issues and challenges faced by Los Angeles County law enforcement employees when PPOA was founded in 1951 have continued to surface with regularity for each generation of PPOA members. In fact, a bulletin distributed to PPOA's founding members 69 years ago cited two worrisome problems: threats to public employee retirement systems and questionable handling of promotional exams by the Sheriff's Department.

The cultural shifts in law enforcement, combined with rapid growth (the county population has tripled since 1951), increased responsibilities, and threats to rights and benefits, all played a role in prompting a handful of employees from the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office and Marshal's Office to meet at the Hall of Records late one evening in 1951. A few hours later, they shook hands and agreed to form the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Protective Association (POPA).

Dues were \$1 per month and collected in person by Board members. The average monthly paycheck for a deputy sheriff in 1951 was \$355.

POPA's initial priorities centered on defending employee rights, convincing the County to issue a pay increase and defending pensions. In this sense,



POPA's most important responsibilities have remained unchanged over the last 69 years. However, the union's perseverance has resulted in a much-expanded role. PPOA (the official name and acronym were altered slightly in 1978, but the original pronunciation has stuck) is now one of the largest,

most influential law enforcement associations in California and nationwide. Few single-employer unions have had as much impact as PPOA. The list of PPOA's accomplishments is far too lengthy to publish here, but a few highlights include the following:



#### 4850 TIME

PPOA sponsored legislation in the 1960s to establish a key benefit for peace officers: paid time off for line-of-duty injuries. Additional legal action in the early 1990s secured 4850 time for Custody Assistants.

#### RETIREMENT CREDIT

PPOA's efforts in 1972 resulted in a military buy-back program for L.A. County in which peace officers can make a retirement contribution for years in the military and get additional credited service for retirement.

#### DISABILITY COVERAGE

In 1990, PPOA cofounded the Peace Officers Relief Fund (PORF), which provides 100% employer-paid, long-term disability income, as well as life insurance coverage.

#### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Thanks to PPOA's efforts over the years, peace officers no longer have to purchase their own firearms and safety equipment (e.g., vests), as all became standard issue by Los Angeles County.

#### MEDICAL PRESUMPTIONS

PPOA's full-time legislative efforts have paid off efficiently over the last three decades, resulting in presumptions for cancer, bloodborne pathogens, heart disease, lower-back (duty belt) injuries, staph infections and more.

#### POPA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

PPOA members established their own credit union in 1978. The full-service, nonprofit, member-owned institution now offers four full-service locations in Los Angeles County for all PPOA members.

#### FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

In 2005, PPOA affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) — the world's largest organization of law enforcement officers (now 355,000 strong). The FOP provides PPOA members with a national voice on legislation and a crucial legal defense plan. The FOP was also the driving force behind HR 218 (enacted in 2004), which allows active and retired officers to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws.

#### VENTURA II LAWSUIT

In 2006, a lawsuit filed by PPOA successfully increased pension benefits for future retirees and added \$200 million in benefits for those already retired.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, PPOA offers 12 scholarships worth \$13,500 total to help further education for PPOA members and their dependents.

#### PPOA ONLINE UNIFORM STORE

PPOA members can purchase uniform apparel and accessories at discounts up to 35% off retail prices. The store is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

#### STAR & SHIELD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation provides financial support to families of fallen officers, members in need and worthy causes.

#### NEW MEMBERS

PPOA has proudly enrolled 263 new members to date in 2020, bringing total membership to 9,023. The state of your union is strong, and we are fully committed to forging ahead in 2021 as a leader among the nation's most effective law enforcement organizations.



he union philosophy is centered on power in numbers. The size and strength of PPOA has helped staff and Board members secure an array of benefits not available to individual consumers or members of most other unions. In fact, these PPOA benefits extend far beyond the workplace. They are designed to help you and your family save money and gain peace of mind. From access to PPOA's exclusive discount uniform store to our annual college scholarships, your PPOA membership provides value. We encourage PPOA members to take advantage of the following benefits:

#### **POPA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

POPA Federal Credit Union is full-service, nonprofit and member-owned, with more than \$170 million in assets and four full-service locations in Los Angeles County.

#### **FREE NON-JOB-RELATED**

**LEGAL ADVICE** One free consultation with an attorney is available each year for every PPOA member.

#### **FREE INSURANCE COVERAGE**

All active, full-time PPOA members are provided a \$4,000 accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance policy and \$2,000 life insurance policy (both carried by Voya Insurance) at no cost.

**LEGAL DEFENSE PLAN** Active PPOA members are provided with defense coverage for civil and criminal actions arising in the scope of duties.

#### **PEACE OFFICERS RELIEF FUND**

**(PORF)** PPOA administers this free long-term disability coverage and \$100,000 life insurance policy for active, sworn members.

#### **STAR & SHIELD MAGAZINE AND CONTEST REWARDS**

A complimentary subscription to PPOA's official magazine is given to all members, who have won thousands of dollars in prizes by entering contests posted in each issue.

#### **STAR & SHIELD FOUNDATION**

**UNIFORM STORE** PPOA members save up to 35% off retail prices for LASD uniforms purchased through *PPOA.com*.

**MOBILE APP** The PPOA mobile app allows members to reach a union rep 24/7, access member resources and more. The app is available from the Google Play and Apple App stores.

#### **ANNUAL CALENDAR & BENEFITS BOOKLET**

Members receive a pocket-sized resource listing PPOA benefits and the Smart Saver Blue Pages — a directory of local businesses offering special discounts to PPOA members.

**GROUP DISCOUNTS** Members enjoy exclusive deals for amusement parks, movie theaters, cellphone service and more.

**FREE NOTARY SERVICE** An experienced notary public on staff is available to PPOA members at no charge.

#### **PRE-LABOR DAY BARBECUE**

Hundreds of members and 30-plus vendors gather annually for free food, prizes and fun.

#### **ANNUAL PPOA FISHING TRIP**

A private boat for PPOA members is chartered every summer for a day of angling near Catalina Island.

**PURCHASING POWER** Members who enjoy online shopping can now do so with convenient payroll deduction plans.

**LEO WEB PROTECT** PPOA members can protect personal privacy by having their information removed from the web.

**HEALTHVIEW BODY SCAN** Active members carrying ALADS Blue

Cross insurance are eligible for a free, noninvasive scan and consultation.

#### **RED BOOK AUTO FLEET**

**DISCOUNT** Members save both time and money when purchasing a new vehicle via the Red Book.

#### **PPOA CONFERENCE CENTER**

A modern, multiuse conference center is available to members for work-related meetings at no charge.

**ESTATE PLANNING** United Estate Planning offers peace of mind and exclusive discounts to PPOA members.

#### **ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK**

Members are entitled to exclusive discounts and convenient payment plans.

#### **WORKERS' COMP AND DISABILITY RETIREMENT SEMINARS**

PPOA's trusted panel attorneys at Straussner Sherman host free seminars in the PPOA conference center to help members navigate the workers' compensation system, service-connected disability retirements and more.

#### **ANNUAL RETIREE LUNCHEON**

For 16 years running, PPOA has hosted a free lunch reunion at the Sheraton Fairplex for its retired members and guests.

**PPOA MOBILE BARBECUE** In 2016, PPOA purchased a barbecue trailer as a means to help the Board and staff meet with members at assignments throughout the county while providing freshly grilled meals.

#### **PPOA ANNUAL COLLEGE**

**SCHOLARSHIPS** Every year, PPOA awards no less than 12 college scholarships to members and their dependents.

**AFFILIATIONS** PPOA members benefit from affiliations with a number of significant associations, including Southern California Alliance of Law Enforcement, California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations, Coalition of Los Angeles County Unions, Fraternal Order of Police, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation, AFL-CIO and more.



## GRIEVANCES



When the founding members of PPOA established this union in 1951, their single most important reason was straightforward: to protect the workplace rights of every member. In the 70 years since then, the mission has remained the same. PPOA labor representatives work around the clock (they are available for emergent matters 24 hours a day, 365 days a year) to make sure all members of this union receive the legal protections and professional respect to which they are entitled. Every active PPOA member has a right to perform their duties safely and effectively. Members also have a right to enlist the services of experienced, proven union representatives. PPOA labor representatives and attorneys are the best in the business. In fact, each member of the PPOA defense representation team has more than 20 years of experience with Los Angeles County law enforcement and labor union representation.

The numbers speak for themselves: Since January 2020, the PPOA staff has received *thousands* of calls from

members dealing with various issues. *Hundreds* of those calls were forwarded to the PPOA labor representation team. Approximately 40% of those forwarded calls became cases handled by labor representatives and/or PPOA attorneys. The remaining issues were resolved informally via telephone, meetings, conflict resolution or other correspondence.

Of the cases handled by the PPOA labor representation team, to date, in 2020:

- » 68 were internal investigations
- » 138 were grievances that began as such or became such as a result of the investigation
- » 11 were internal criminal investigations
- » 4 were civil service appeals

PPOA labor representatives and attorneys (no fewer than half a dozen specialized firms) are uniquely experienced and familiar with local, county, state and federal administrative agencies and the laws that govern all aspects of the workplace. This allows your union to provide skilled representation in every aspect of labor,

including but not limited to:

- » Arbitration
- » Contract enforcement
- » IAB investigations
- » ICIB investigations
- » Grievances
- » Unfair labor practices
- » Unit-level investigations
- » Workplace issues

If you are not a dues-paying PPOA member, we encourage you to join the union and protect your career. If you are a member, we thank you for helping your union move forward and remind you to call PPOA as soon as you believe anything may go awry at work. We can help. It's what we do for PPOA members every day.

# 2020

## ➔Year in Review

### January

#### Mourning the Loss of Custody Assistant Felipe Leal

➔Custody Assistant and PPOA delegate Felipe “Flip” Leal passed away unexpectedly in January while off duty. The 21-year LASD veteran was a warm, soft-spoken friend to many on the Department. PPOA’s

Star & Shield Foundation was honored to provide support to the Leal family and proudly grilled lunch for fundraising events at two Sheriff’s stations where Flip had been assigned.

#### PPOA Issues Cease-and-Desist to County Following Pay Error to Coroner Investigators

➔After the County overpaid Coroner Investigators in error in January, the Auditor-Controller sent a letter to impacted employees in an apparent attempt to induce the employees to authorize a repayment schedule that was not agreed to by PPOA. Members were immediately



notified by PPOA to refrain from signing the letter and a cease-and-desist letter was sent to the County. Meetings between PPOA and County executives eventually resolved the overpayment issue.



### February

#### Dedication of L.A. County DA Leadership Library

➔The new DA Leadership Library at the Hall of Justice opened with a ribbon-cutting

dedication in February. Made possible through donations from PPOA and ALADS, the library serves as an invaluable resource for present and future leaders in the L.A. County District Attorney’s Office.



## PPOA Supports LASD Personnel at Civil Response Training

➔ PPOA was proud to team up with ALADS to provide a freshly grilled lunch for approximately 700 LASD Court Services Division personnel during their civil response training. This event was held at the Irwindale Speedway.



## PPOA Delegates Meeting in Burbank

➔ PPOA delegates from units throughout the county gathered with union Board and staff members in Burbank

in February for the first delegates meeting of the year. Topics of discussion included endorsements, training, committees and more.

## March

### Passing of Sergeant Matthew Seier

➔ Sergeant Matthew Seier died on March 14, after battling cancer. Shortly after his passing, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation was honored to deliver financial support to the Seier family.



### Exercise Equipment Delivered to Crime Lab

➔ In early March, PPOA was proud to donate and deliver a new elliptical machine to the employee gym at the LASD Crime Lab. In an effort to prioritize the health and fitness of PPOA members, for the last two years the PPOA Board has budgeted money for the



Star & Shield Foundation to purchase gym equipment for employee unit gyms in need.

### PPOA Launches Comprehensive COVID-19 Resource Site

➔ In mid-March, the rapid onset and proliferation of the coronavirus required PPOA members to adapt to a number of policy changes (including canceled

vacations) and new workplace guidelines. As the United States catapulted to the global epicenter for the virus, PPOA launched a comprehensive resource website for COVID-19 updates geared toward PPOA members. Visit [PPOA.com](http://PPOA.com) for details.



## April

### PPOA Begins Pandemic Supply Distribution Countywide

➔ In early April, PPOA received a donation of thousands of medical masks from Yi Li, president of Renogy, with coordination from Assemblymember Phillip Chen. After expressing gratitude for their generosity and concern for first responders, PPOA immediately began distributing the masks, along with sanitizer purchased by PPOA and other supplies, to units throughout the county.





Los Angeles County  
Sheriff's Department  
**DUAL TRACK**  
CAREER PATH FOR DEPUTIES



### PPOA and LASD Reach Agreement on Dual Track Career Path

➔ After almost a year of conversations and negotiations, PPOA and the Sheriff's Department finalized an agreement in April to eliminate future use of the Dual Track career path, while protecting, through amendment to the MOU, the promotional rights of 51 existing Dual Track Sergeants and Lieutenants. This agreement, in effect through the term of the existing MOU, was the culmination of numerous meetings with PPOA members, the County, the Department and legal

counsel. Thankfully, it ensures that the remaining 51 Dual Track Sergeants and Lieutenants will have the opportunity to participate in future promotional examinations, the same as their peers throughout the Department.

## May

### PPOA Board Member Addresses Media on County Financial Concerns

➔ PPOA joined other L.A. County and City unions in May for a press conference at Trump National Golf Course in Rancho Palos Verdes. The gathering was arranged to draw attention to the need for federal reimbursement funds to the state of California, Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles to offset lost revenue and costs of the COVID-19 crisis. Custody Assistant and PPOA Executive Board member Tony Coleman was among the featured speakers.





### Passing of Sheriff's Security Assistant Anthony Hopkins



➤ Sheriff's Security Assistant Anthony Hopkins died on May 19 following a courageous battle with cancer. The 17-year LASD veteran was assigned to Pasadena Courthouse and was a valued

member of PPOA for his entire career. Shortly after his passing, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation was honored to deliver support to the Hopkins family in their time of need.



### Death of George Floyd Reverberates Across Nation

➤ The May 25 death of George Floyd while being arrested by Minneapolis police officers resulted in massive demonstrations and protests across the nation. This movement put pressure on elected officials throughout the country to

enact police reform, empower civilian review boards and defund law enforcement agencies. In Los Angeles County, severe budget cuts and the election of reform-minded leaders will impact first responders for years, and likely decades to come.

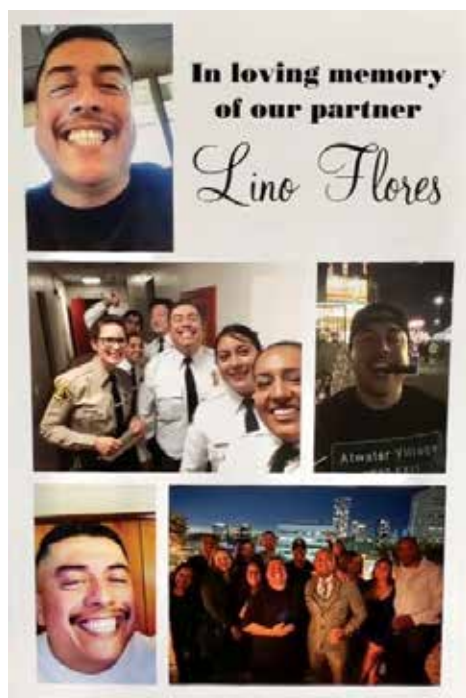
## June



### Civil Unrest Leads to Emergency Schedules for LASD Personnel

➔ Personnel assigned to all patrol stations, County Services Bureau, Transit Services Bureau and Metrolink Bureau had their regular days off and vacations

canceled and were ordered to work 12/12 emergency schedules as a result of the protest demonstrations and civil unrest across Los Angeles County.



### Passing of Sheriff's Security Officer Lino Flores

➔ The unexpected off-duty passing of Sheriff's Security Officer Lino Flores on June 15 was heartbreaking news for his family and countless friends from the

Sheriff's Department. Officer Flores was 48 years old and assigned to the Hall of Administration. PPOA representatives were honored to visit the Flores family, offer their condolences and provide financial assistance from the Star & Shield Foundation.

## Budget Shortfalls, Job Curtailments and Potential Job Fair

➔ On June 9, PPOA and ALADS met with LASD representatives to discuss the Department's concept of increasing the Cadre of Relief Personnel (CARP) program and the reintroduction of the Temporary Overtime Reduction Assignment (TORA) process, to

address anticipated budget shortfalls in the upcoming fiscal year 2020–21. This followed a cease-and-desist filed by PPOA in May after Sheriff Villanueva suggested the need to close Marina del Rey and Altadena stations, among other units. Further, in late June, the Board of Supervisors conducted a special budget meeting as the Sheriff's Department faced the reality of \$162 million in budget cuts.



The Department notified PPOA of an anticipated need for a Department-wide job fair due to the expected curtailments.



## LAC+USC Medical Center Pulls Plug on Contract With Sheriff's Department

➔ The L.A. County Department of Health Services elected not to renew the contract for LASD personnel managing the LAC+USC Medical Center Dispatch

Center and providing public safety to the hospital. The contract ended on June 30 and impacted numerous Sheriff's Security Officers and Law Enforcement Technicians. PPOA immediately arranged a meet-and-confer with LASD representatives to ensure the rights of PPOA members were protected.

## Exercise Equipment Donated/Delivered to Deputy Shayne York Memorial Gym

➔ PPOA was proud to donate and deliver a new elliptical machine to the Deputy Shayne York Memorial Gym

at Pitchess Detention Center in June. In an effort to prioritize the health and fitness of PPOA members, for the last two years the PPOA Board has budgeted money for the Star & Shield Foundation to purchase gym equipment for employee unit gyms in need.



# July



## PPOA Helps Guide Members Through TORA Process

➔ The day after a side letter agreement was reached between PPOA and LASD to address procedural components of the Temporary Overtime Reduction Assignment

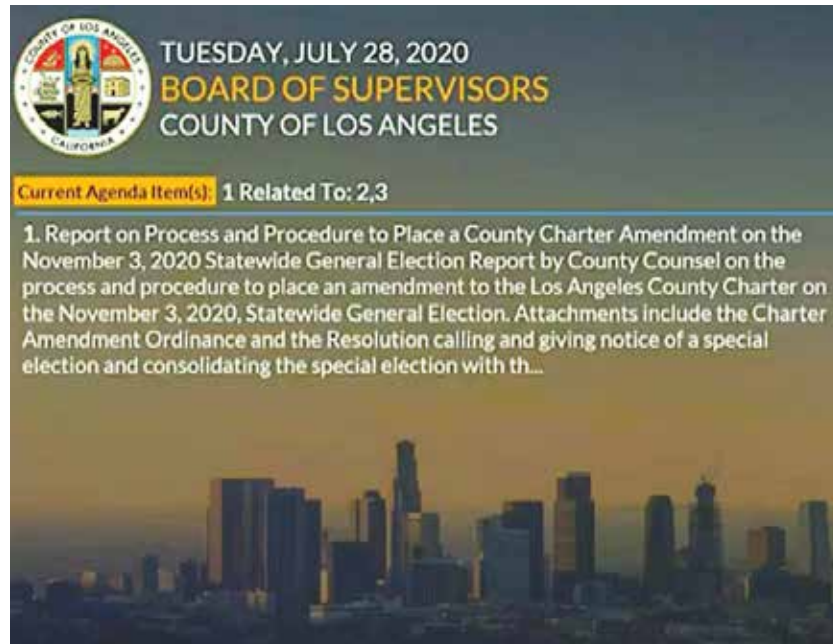
(TORA) process, PPOA representatives were at STARS Center to help guide members through the TORA process while ensuring that all facets of the side letter agreement were followed.



## PPOA Awards College Scholarships

➔ PPOA awarded scholarships to 17 very deserving college students in July. This association has been honored to contribute more than \$100,000 toward

the educational goals of PPOA members and their children/dependents since the inception of the scholarship program nearly a decade ago.



### PPOA Addresses County Supervisors Regarding Ballot Measure to Defund Public Safety

➔ More than a dozen PPOA members volunteered to join President Tab Rhodes in speaking to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors during the online public comment session of the weekly hearing. This marked the third time in July that President Rhodes addressed the supervisors in an effort to convince them

that their proposed ballot measure to redistribute funds away from law enforcement was short-sighted and dangerous. L.A. County voters eventually passed Measure J in November, a move that permanently diverts nearly \$500 million away from essential workers and critical public services.

### Members Embark on 20th Annual PPOA Fishing Trip

➔ Dozens of seaworthy (give or take a few) PPOA members and their guests set off for a day of fishing near Catalina Island. Chartering the boat is a tradition PPOA has maintained for the last two decades.



## August

### Passing of Sergeant Eric Johnson

➔ Sergeant Eric Johnson passed away on August 14 from a sudden, critical illness. The 31-year LASD veteran was assigned to Compton Station at the time of his passing and is survived by his wife and son. Shortly after his passing, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation was proud to deliver financial assistance to the Johnson family in their time of need.



### Fierce Lobbying Results in Crucial Legislative Victory

➔ PPOA members and safety personnel throughout the state earned a crucial legislative victory in August. Senate Bill 731 would have created a decertification process in which an officer's POST

certificate could be revoked. The bill also sought to remove qualified immunity for peace officers. Fierce lobbying from PPOA and a broad coalition of labor organizations and law enforcement associations helped convince legislators not to consider passage of the bill on the final day of the legislative session.

### Support for Members During Extensive Warrant Operation

➔ PPOA was proud to partner with ALADS in providing lunch for personnel from Community Partnerships Bureau during an extensive search warrant operation in Chatsworth.



## September

### No “Workforce Reduction” — No Layoffs for LASD

➔ On September 1, L.A. County Department of Human Resources officially notified the Sheriff’s Department that “a workforce reduction will not be required” as previously believed.

Translation: *no layoffs*. This optimal outcome was the direct result of the collaboration and coalition of labor organizations of which PPOA is a member — providing much-needed political support for our arguments against further defunding of the Department and member layoffs.



### Clean Sweep for PPOA-Endorsed Candidates in LACERA Elections

➔ PPOA members helped propel all three PPOA-endorsed candidates to election victories for the LACERA Board of Retirement and Board of Investments. Les Robbins (LASD ret./PPOA member), Joe Kelly (retired L.A. County Treasurer) and David Green (SEIU vice president) are committed to protecting pensions and health care for L.A. County public employees.



### PPOA Delegates Address Workplace Issues During Zoom Meeting

➔ PPOA hosted a Zoom video conference meeting for delegates on September 17. Approximately 50 members participated, with topics

of discussion including COVID-19, County budget issues, Measure J, contract negotiations and more.



### Retirement of PPOA Board Member Jody Clouch

➔ On September 15, Security Officer and PPOA Board member Jody Clouch retired after 20 years of

dedicated service to the Sheriff’s Department. Jody was one of PPOA’s most dedicated Board members since being elected to represent Sheriff’s Security Officers and Sheriff’s Security Assistants in 2013.

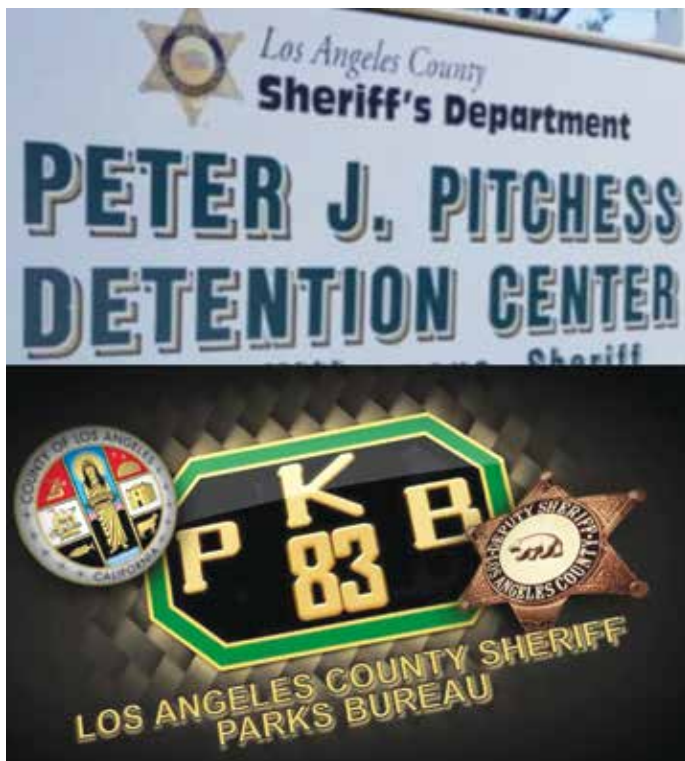
## October

### PPOA Board Election Ballots Mailed to LASD Lieutenants, Sergeants and Custody Assistants

➔ PPOA Board election ballots and candidate statements were mailed to eligible members in late October. Five PPOA members were running for two Unit 612 seats for LASD Sergeants/Lieutenants, and two members were running for one Unit 621 seat for Custody Assistants.

OFFICIAL BALLOT	
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION UNIT 612 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION	
Tear off stub before mailing.	
Ballots must be received at the PO Box via mail or placed into the ballot box at the PPOA office no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, 2020 to be counted. The ballots will be counted at an open meeting on Friday, at 10:00 a.m. November 20, 2020 at the LA County Peace Officers Assn. 188 E. Arrow Highway San Dimas, CA 91773	
VOTING INSTRUCTIONS	
Punch out hole to the right of your choice.	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Vote for (2)
UNIT 612	
Juan Calderon - Sergeant	→ +
Jeffrey Ivask - Lieutenant	→ +
Tony Romo - Sergeant	→ +
Michael Thibodeaux - Sergeant	→ +
Ryan Vienna - Lieutenant	→ +

OFFICIAL BALLOT	
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION UNIT 621 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION	
Tear off stub before mailing.	
Ballots must be received at the PO Box via mail or placed into the ballot box at the PPOA office no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, 2020 to be counted. The ballots will be counted at an open meeting on Friday, at 10:00 a.m. November 20, 2020 at the LA County Peace Officers Assn. 188 E. Arrow Highway San Dimas, CA 91773	
VOTING INSTRUCTIONS	
Punch out hole to the right of your choice.	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Vote for (1)
UNIT 621	
Tony Coleman - Custody Assistant	→ +
Jeffrey Ramirez - Custody Assistant	→ +



### PPOA Begins Curtailment Negotiations With LASD Regarding Parks Bureau and PDC-South

➔ In October, representatives from PPOA, ALADS and the Sheriff's Department began a series of joint negotiations to address the potential job fair due to expected staffing curtailments at Pitchess Detention Center South and Parks Bureau.

## November



### Voters Deal Significant Setbacks to Public Safety

➔ Election results were far from favorable for public safety in November. Voters in L.A. County passed Measure J, which will defund law enforcement to the tune of nearly \$500 million, and elected outspoken police reform advocates in District Attorney

George Gascón and County Supervisor Holly Mitchell. California voters also rejected Proposition 20, which sought to fix glaring flaws in recent criminal justice reforms. This means criminals convicted of a number of heinous crimes (rape of an unconscious

person, trafficking a child for sex, and more) will remain eligible for early release from prison. Voters are inexplicably jeopardizing public safety while crime — particularly homicide — is rising significantly in many cities and counties, including Los Angeles.



### New Board Member Sworn in to Represent Unit 621

➔ During the November Board meeting, Security Officer Henry Jimenez was sworn in to the Board seat previously held by recently

retired PPOA Director Jody Clouch. Officer Jimenez is a 20-year LASD veteran who graduated with SO Class #1. He was appointed by the PPOA Board to fill the final year of Clouch's two-year term after she retired in September.

## PPOA Members Re-Elect Vienna, Romo and Coleman

➔ An official ballot count conducted in November confirmed that PPOA members who are Unit 612 LASD Sergeants and Lieutenants re-elected Lieutenant Ryan Vienna and Sergeant Tony Romo to continue serving as

directors of the PPOA Board. The ballot count also confirmed that PPOA members who are Unit 621 LASD Custody Assistants have re-elected Custody Assistant Tony Coleman to continue serving as their Board representative.



## PPOA Launches Steer Clear Holiday Ride Program for Members

➔ The PPOA Steer Clear program offers reimbursements to active members of the Association

who use Uber or Lyft between November 26, 2020, and January 1, 2021. Now in its third year, this benefit is intended to help PPOA members celebrate the holidays responsibly and make it home safely.



union is only as strong as its most active members. Naturally, not all PPOA members are comfortable stepping forward to help this association make a difference, but those who do deserve acknowledgment. Over the years, about 3% of PPOA members have contributed time to important roles, including the Board of Directors, negotiating teams, committees, event volunteers and a crucial network of members known as PPOA delegates.

Approximately 125 PPOA delegates represent their fellow members at facilities throughout Los Angeles County. They are committed to the important role of facilitating effective communication between the union's board, staff and membership. PPOA also helps delegates equip themselves with information about services provided by the union. In fact, delegates are required to complete online training in order to better understand PPOA's mission and priorities.

PPOA delegates gather for quarterly meetings (pending COVID restrictions in 2021) held midweek at locations throughout the county to discuss union-related topics, including contracts, lawsuits, legislation and more.

PPOA also calls upon delegates when input is needed on classification-specific topics or when opportunities arise to serve on a committee or attend union-related events.

If you are an active, dues-paying PPOA member and want to get more actively involved with the issues your union is tackling, please contact [info@ppoa.com](mailto:info@ppoa.com).

## ➔ CURRENT PPOA DELEGATES

Sup. PRD Gregory Aguirre

Lt. Mark Almonte

SSO Christina Andino

SSO Santiago Aolin

Lt. David Auner

LET Ruth Avina

Forensic ID Spec. II Susannah Baker

SSO Angel Becerra

Sgt. Patrick Blanchfield-Gadut

LET James Blankenship

Sgt. Sylvia Calandrino

Sgt. Juan Calderon

Sr. Criminalist Cassandra Carlos

SSO Roberto Cerna

LET Melecia Chaidez

SSO Raquel Chambers McKuen

SSO Bryan Chavez

SSO Waylup Choy

C/A Rosario Coleman

Forensic ID Spec. I Diamond Cook

Sgt. Rodolfo Cortez

SSO Juan Cozzarelli

C/A Jason Eldridge

LET Richard Engersbach

SSO Jose Escobar Jr.

Lt. Nancy Escobedo

LET Maria Fennell

SSO Bernon Fenton

Sr. Criminalist Gregory Forte

Sgt. Harold Frayer

Sr. Criminalist Eucen Fu  
 SSO Mark Fuentes  
 SSO Sireni Galindo  
 Civilian Inv. Benjamin Garcia  
 SSO Gerardo Garcia  
 C/A Maria Garcia  
 Crime Analyst Henry Gill IV  
 SSO Lee Goldman  
 LET Jillian Gonzalez  
 SSO Shawn Gordon  
 C/A Scott Gurnett  
 C/A Betty Hatley  
 LET Patricia Helfend  
 SSO Alfonso Hernandez  
 Sgt. David Hernandez  
 SSO Julian Hernandez  
 SSO Tay Ho  
 SSA Stacy Houston  
 SSO Joanna Hovsepyan  
 C/A Patricia Howard  
 SSO Justin Jaime  
 SSO Henry Jimenez  
 SSA Robert Jimenez  
 C/A Janelle Johnson  
 Chief Patrick Jordan  
 Coroner Inv. Joyce Kato  
 Lt. Shawn Kehoe  
 Sup. Coroner Inv. I Brian Kim  
 C/A Lydia Knight  
 SSO Teresa Lafarge  
 SSO Tida Lambert  
 Sr. Criminalist Christopher Lee  
 Coroner Inv. Anthony Lopez  
 C/A Antonio Lopez  
 C/A Kristina Lopez  
 Court Svcs. Spec. Luz Loy  
 C/A Victor Luna  
 Forensic ID Spec. I Jenny Mak  
 Capt. Rogelio Maldonado  
 Cmdr. Carlos Marquez  
 Sgt. Oscar Martinez  
 Lt. Robert Maus  
 LET Vonetta Mays  
 SSO Jeffrey McKuen  
 C/A Brian Miller  
 LET Latonya Mills

Sr. Criminalist Cristina Montes  
 Lt. Frank Montez  
 C/A Erik Montoya  
 C/A Sally Moore  
 LET Shane Morin  
 Lt. William Moulder  
 Sr. Criminalist Manuel Munoz  
 C/A Cynthia Murphy  
 LET Tanisha Murry  
 Sup. PRD Michael Ortiz  
 Court Svcs. Spec. Jesus Peralta  
 Sgt. Karen Pewitt  
 LET Nathan Phillips  
 SSO Pedro Pineda  
 SSO Angela Quiroga  
 SSO Estefany Quiroga  
 C/A Peter Ramirez  
 Lt. Tab Rhodes  
 Sgt. Jose Rios  
 Sgt. Sean Robinson  
 SSO Jose Rojas Jr.  
 Sgt. Anthony Romo  
 C/A Christine Rosborough  
 SSO Jose Sagastume  
 PRD II Michael Salazar  
 Lt. John Satterfield Jr.  
 Sgt. Jeffrey Savarese  
 C/A Michelle Shields

C/A Eddie Smith  
 C/A Tiffany Smith  
 C/A Alexander Spieler  
 SSO Alejandra Stuart  
 LET Julia Tafoya  
 Court Svcs. Spec. Eric Taylor  
 Forensic ID Spec. II Donna Thomas  
 C/A Makeba Thomas  
 C/A Susan Tupper  
 Sr. Criminalist Bryon Turner  
 C/A Luis Vasquez  
 Lt. Ryan Vienna  
 C/A Renee Vital  
 Sr. Criminalist Wilson Vong  
 Lt. Robert Weber  
 SSA John Wells  
 LET Ursula White  
 Sr. Criminalist April Whitehead  
 Sr. Criminalist Gregory Wong  
 C/A Brice Zipser





he long-held mission to “take care of our own” prompted PPOA members to commit to the development of a nonprofit charitable organization more than 20 years ago. Their dedication resulted in the establishment of the Star & Shield Foundation in 1999.

The Foundation began to have an immediate impact on the families of fallen officers and the communities served by PPOA members. Between fundraising events and the generosity of PPOA members, supporters and associates, the Star & Shield Foundation has proudly raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support worthy organizations and programs.

As you can imagine, the challenges — emotional, financial and otherwise — facing family members of a peace officer killed in the line of duty can be completely overwhelming. In addition to delivering immediate funds to the survivors, the Star & Shield Foundation regularly helps family members navigate the pressing schedule of events held to honor fallen officers.

The Foundation’s most significant fundraiser is our annual Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament held each June. The first 13 annual tournaments have netted more than \$600,000 for families of fallen officers. More information about our 2021 Foundation fundraising events will be available via *Star & Shield* magazine, *PPOA.com*, social media and email blasts.

All Foundation proceeds stem directly from fundraising, merchandise sales and the generosity of donors. The mission of your Foundation would not be possible without the generosity of countless PPOA members and the extended law enforcement community. Please consider a one-time tax-deductible donation or setting up a monthly payroll deduction to help the Star & Shield Foundation continue its dedication to families of the fallen. Call (800) 747-PPOA or email [info@ppoa.com](mailto:info@ppoa.com) for more information.

The Star & Shield Foundation is governed by the following individuals:

#### STAR & SHIELD FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

- » Tab Rhodes (Sheriff’s Department)
- » Jim Blankenship (Sheriff’s Department)
- » Rosario “Tony” Coleman (Sheriff’s Department)
- » Robert Maus (District Attorney’s Office)
- » Kevin Thompson (PPOA)



#### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- » Gold Lee (Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin & Lee)
- » Julie Sherman (Straussner & Sherman)
- » Aaron Straussner (Straussner & Sherman)
- » Mark Deitch (911MEDIA)
- » Cary Fletcher (RaSport Inc.)
- » Suzy Campeau (Lavi Spine & Ortho)

#### PARTIAL LIST OF RECIPIENTS/ CAUSES SUPPORTED BY PPOA AND THE STAR & SHIELD FOUNDATION IN 2020:

- » Family of fallen Deputy Amber Leist
- » Help for Heroes

- » United Peace Officers Against Crime
- » Children’s Advocacy Center
- » California Community Foundation
- » Police Unity Tour
- » Crime Survivors
- » National Police Memorial luncheon for LASD personnel
- » California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation monument
- » AOCDS Memorial Fund
- » SAPOA Widows & Orphans Fund
- » Deputy Jack Williams Highway memorial sign
- » STAR 6 Foundation

**Y**ear after year, PPOA — via our Star & Shield Foundation — commits to the solemn task of supporting families who are suddenly faced with the tragic loss of an officer killed in the line of duty. From straight donations to assisting family members with the logistics of traveling to state and national memorial ceremonies, the Star & Shield Foundation is a prime example of PPOA's dedication to honoring the legacies of our fallen brothers and sisters.

This association extends sincere condolences to the families of the following peace officers who died in the line of duty in California in 2020\*:



\*\*\*\*\*

**Detective  
Mary Lou Armer**

Santa Rosa Police Department  
EOW: March 31, 2020



\*\*\*\*\*

**Deputy  
Terrell D. Young**

Riverside County Sheriff's  
Department  
EOW: April 2, 2020



\*\*\*\*\*

**Sergeant  
Damon Gutzwiller**

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's  
Office  
EOW: June 6, 2020



\*\*\*\*\*

**Officer  
Andy Ornelas**

California Highway Patrol  
EOW: December 2, 2020

*\*As of December 2.  
List of fallen officers  
from California Peace  
Officers' Memorial  
Foundation.*





## **Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association**

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**188 E. Arrow Highway, San Dimas, CA 91773**

**(323) 261-3010 or (800) 747-PPOA | *[www.ppoa.com](http://www.ppoa.com)***