

# STAR & SHIELD

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Defunding and Anti-Police Legislation**

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**May 5:** Retired Assistant Sheriff Raymon Morris (left) passed away peacefully at his home on April 29.



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## Members Under Attack

**W**hile the public safety pendulum is always in motion, nowhere in my 32-plus years of experience has it swung so far against law enforcement. PPOA continues to protect members as an organization to the best of our abilities, but the attacks against membership are no longer numerous and political, but voluminous and bloody.

Take for example the violent attack on a Custody Assistant working the Inmate Reception Center in early May. While providing to the needs of a mentally ill inmate, she became the victim of an unprovoked, brutal assault. While I would like to say this encounter was an anomaly, our membership knows well that it is not.

Many members working in the Custody Divisions of the Sheriff's Department face verbal abuse, exposure to cowardly "gassings" and increased physical aggression, *daily*! This particular assault was captured by the Department's CCTV system, and subsequently released to the media as an example of the difficulties members experience. All of this while our Board of Supervisors (BOS) continues their rhetoric of "Care First, Jails Last."



**Tab Rhodes**  
PPOA President  
Lieutenant, LASD  
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now play out in the political world involving the L.A. County Federation of Labor, which has voiced support for PPOA's position to the BOS, as well as in the legal arena following PPOA's filing of an unfair labor charge against the County.

While we are on the topic of legal action, PPOA members do have one victory to celebrate. Back in August of last year, the BOS, in an unprecedented move, supported the placement of Measure J on the November 2020 ballot, bypassing required processes and the signature procedure. Measure J, if you are not familiar, was a ballot initiative amending the County's charter to require that no less than 10% of the County's general fund be appropriated to community programs and alternatives to incarceration, such as health services and

pre-trial non-custody services. PPOA, ALADS and the CCU all rallied together to object to this action, and when shunned by the BOS, jointly filed legal action against the County. Voters passed Measure J in November 2020, but a recent Superior Court decision on June 17 overturned Measure J, citing "The only question presented is whether the ballot process can be used to take this budgeting choice out of the hands of the current and future elected boards, the court concludes it cannot." This victory is important, but is only one battle in the war against the social justice reformists who look to allegedly improve public safety through the defunding of law enforcement and the criminal justice system in the name of equity and constitutionality.

"Constitutionality" ... funny how that only works one way these days. The placement of Measure J on the ballot was found to be flawed in its adherence to the County Charter and the responsibilities of elected officials. Now, our Sheriff, the self-proclaimed supporter of Department members, is attempting to discipline PPOA members for invoking their

**SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS REQUIRE PLANS, RESOURCES AND TIME TO DEVELOP. RIGHT NOW, ACTIVISTS ARE SCREAMING ONLY FOR THE SOLUTION WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE LACK OF RESOURCES TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOALS.**



→ continued on page 12

Speaking of the BOS, let's take a moment to thank them personally for yet another kick in the teeth to the labor movement and the past practice of caring for County employees. As of July 1, the Executive Office of the BOS has decided to replace 30 of our Security Officer members with private security. In the short term, this will displace our members into unfunded positions within the Sheriff's Department, furthering the LASD budget woes, effectively wasting twice the taxpayers' dollars and providing a lesser quality of security. The long-term effects of this decision will



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# Next Defunding Law Enforcement Effort: L.A. Metro

**O**n October 19, 2020, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, commonly known as “Metro” ([tinyurl.com/4erces9r](https://tinyurl.com/4erces9r)), commenced establishing a 15-member transit Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). This committee will be tasked to review, comment and provide input on how Metro can *reimagine* (code for *defunding*) public safety on the transit system.

On the week of February 22, 2021, the selection of PSAC members was finalized ([tinyurl.com/k7jxdef5](https://tinyurl.com/k7jxdef5)). If you did not activate the link, stop. Please “Ctrl+Click” to follow the link or type in the link in your search bar. You must do so to truly understand the magnitude and false narrative of reimagining public safety on the Metro system. “We are committed to ensuring that we are using safety and law enforcement practices that keep Metro safe for everyone,” writes the PSAC, and yet not one of the 15 members has any law enforcement or public safety experience. Not one!

The PSAC held its first meeting on Wednesday, April 7. That same week, the Metro hired a new Security Chief, Judy Gerhardt (yes, that Judy Gerhardt), who retired in 2020 from the LASD after 40 years of honorable service to the residents of L.A. County. One of Chief Gerhardt’s direct reports is to the Metro’s Safety Committee Chair, Supervisor Holly Mitchell ([tinyurl.com/6e6vw4jn](https://tinyurl.com/6e6vw4jn)).

Through a motion by the Metro Board, the PSAC was given the responsibility of reviewing the current and future Metro law enforcement contracts. Additionally, the PSAC was directed to:

- Develop a mission and values statement for transit policing
- Develop a transit ambassador program that provides staff presence at Metro facilities and on Metro vehicles
- *Identify alternatives to armed law enforcement response to nonviolent crimes and code of conduct violations*
- Enhance greater community stewardship of transit spaces
- The Universal Blue Light program proposed in Metro’s June 2018 ridership initiatives
- Education about and expansion of Metro fare discount programs
- Outreach and services for unhoused individuals
- *Provide input on the new scope of services, budget and other provisions of the multiagency police contract renewal*
- Review Metro’s Customer Code of Conduct
- *A shift of resources from armed law enforcement to the above strategies*

It must be noted that one of the members on the Metro PSAC is an organizing campaign manager at the Alliance for Community Transit (ACT-LA) that has authored a 60-page report titled “Metro as a Sanctuary: Reimagining Safety on Public



**Wayne Quint Jr.**

PPOA Executive Director  
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Transit” ([tinyurl.com/nf8d65ts](https://tinyurl.com/nf8d65ts)). Members of the ACT-LA Transit Justice Committee and Public Safety Committee include ACLU SoCal. It must once again be noted that another one of the members on the Metro PSAC, according to the PSAC member biographies, is “senior staff attorney at the ACLU Southern California who works on police misconduct, government surveillance and protecting individuals’ and organizations’ rights in the digital domain.”

Make no mistake, the ACT-LA report is the blueprint for the Metro PSAC to recommend to the Metro Board of Directors to defund the multiagency Metro law enforcement contract. Page 7 of the ACT-LA report says, “*Now is the time for Metro’s Board of Directors to take action. Metro’s five-year, multiagency, \$786 million system safety*

*security and law enforcement contract with LA Police, LA County Sheriff, Long Beach Police Departments expires in June 2022. With this contract sunset approaching, Metro has an opportunity to reconstitute public safety with and for the benefits of its riders and the people of LA County by prospectively investing the \$786 million in savings to community-led alternatives.*”

The LASD Transit Services Bureau has an annual \$65 million contract with Metro that funds 313 employees: one Captain, eight Lieutenants, 33 Sergeants, 39 Bonus 1’s, 198 Deputies and 34 Professional Staff (18 LETs and one Crime Analyst). This team is grossly understaffed but continues to excel in providing constitutional public safety services for Metro commuters and Metro operators because they are trained specifically for the many safety nuances that are unique to community transit systems. If you know someone who uses the Metro (trains and busses) or works there, please ask them if more law enforcement is needed. We all know the answer!

The Metro Board needs to hear from the “silent majority” regarding this unconscionable effort to defund law enforcement at the Metro. *All five* of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors are Metro Board members, with Supervisor Solis being the Metro Board’s 1st vice chair. Please contact each supervisor via email and call their offices with a very simple message: ***No defunding law enforcement at the Metro.***

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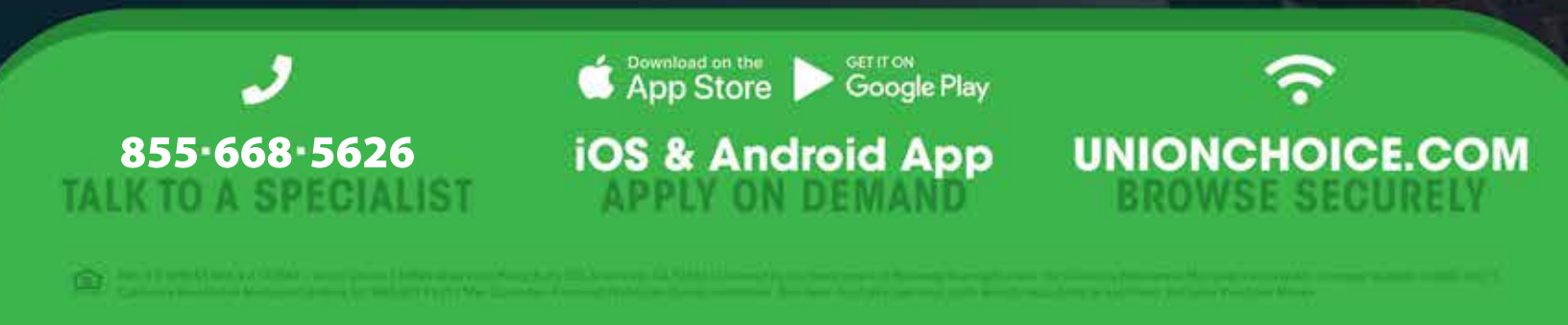
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# Brutal Assault at IRC Provides Rare Glimpse at Dangers Faced by Custody Assistants

**W**hat we do is not a “regular” career. It’s performed by a select group of people who have the character and internal strength that has allowed them to stand out above the average individual to deal with and thrive under adverse conditions.

This was never more so on display than during the previous 16 months. While the noise generally revolves around our sworn partners, the grind that is the life of a Custody Assistant goes relatively unnoticed. But on May 7, the spotlight shifted when a video released by the Department showed the public the potential violence we face at any given moment.

That incident underscores the potential risk we face on a daily basis. While cries from the outside call for less, it seems we have been working with *less* for some time: *less* pay, *less* equipment, *less* staffing, *less* acknowledgement and *less* understanding. But the expectations to react, respond, report and render aid are there, as well as the discipline if you’re found lacking in any of these areas.

This ideology facilitates the push for what I see as “basic” standards for those aforementioned expectations. Gas masks and Taser training are tools and skill sets that should be incorporated into the position. Discussions continue with the Department to come to a resolution.

Several of you have asked about movement. Several items have been frozen by the Department as a cost-cutting measure in preparation for Measure J. But the lack of staffing at stations is becoming increasingly evident. PPOA has been working with the Department not only in regards to jailer positions at the new Santa Clarita Valley Station, but to improve staffing and station jailer budgets overall.



**Rosario “Tony” Coleman**  
PPOA Board Secretary  
Custody Assistant, LASD  
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The current staffing models and allocation of funds for the jailers are outdated, and we continue to discuss options to correct a broken model. Hiring deputies to work the jail or pulling from the field then hiring behind that item are common practices, yet not practical.

Improvements in this area will not only help our jailers but also the station operations. Having a jail close periodically because you cannot/will not hire overtime and passing those bookings onto another station jail that also cannot hire overtime to deal with the added traffic is not acceptable.

We hope to finally be making headway in this long-standing practice that no longer makes operational or financial sense.

**WHILE CRIES FROM THE OUTSIDE CALL FOR LESS, IT SEEMS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH LESS FOR SOME TIME: LESS PAY, LESS EQUIPMENT, LESS STAFFING, LESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND LESS UNDERSTANDING.**

## CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

PPOA has sent a formal letter to the County CEO’s office requesting to open contract negotiations. As the County’s financial picture comes into shape along with Measure J funding looming, the negotiation schedule will look different than in years past.

I will update you further as details and plans become available, as well as through emails to members and meeting with your PPOA delegates. I hope to see you in the months to come. As always, your work ethic and professionalism are appreciated. Take care and stay safe. 🍷

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# Breaking Down the Law Enforcement Technician Job Study

**B**y the time you read this, we will be into July, and hopefully, the state will be reopened, and you will be enjoying your summer. However, I wanted to update you on the Law Enforcement Technician (LET) job study since there were many questions regarding the job survey questionnaire from June.

The job study has been proceeding at a slow but steady pace involving PPOA, personnel and the CEO's Classification and Compensation office. If it were not for the fact that this job study completion is part of our Unit 621 MOU, we would be further behind than where we are now.

So, where are we at? First, the job study is being done in two phases. The first phase deals only with the Desk Operations job. This part of the study has been a long time in the making. I will tell you that the Department wants to move toward the goal of reclassifying the Station Dispatch Centers. From Chief Glatt to now Chief Vera, there is an understanding that Desk Operations has been ignored as far as operating procedures, training, recurrent training and most of all, proper compensation. There will be a reorganization of how dispatch centers operate. There will be a career path, and a new training program will be established. Operating procedures



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PPOA Board Member

**Law Enforcement Technician, LASD**

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will no longer be changed based on who is in charge of the station.

Untrained deputies will no longer be allowed to work in the dispatch center (in principle). The details have not been finalized, but when the CEO and the Department agree on how the reclassification will occur, PPOA will then enter into negotiations with the Department and CEO regarding compensation. Once an agreement is reached, there will still be another hurdle to jump. The Board of Supervisors will need to approve the new classification and provide the Sheriff with the additional funding for the new classification.

Phase two of the job study will determine the LET classification's future and the 20-plus jobs being performed. Everyone agrees there are many jobs LETs are doing throughout the Department. The question is, what jobs should a LET continue to perform? We have the basic jobs; fleet maintenance, supervising an inmate work crew, mail runner, community relations, etc. This phase has yet to play out. The survey sent in June was at the request of the CEO's office. The CEO wanted to have an accurate picture of all the jobs being performed currently. PPOA agreed with the recommendation. However, PPOA did request that a survey be sent to all Captains





and Directors. PPOA wants to know from the Captains and Directors what jobs they feel are essential and crucial to the operation of their unit.

The LET job classification is beneficial to both the Department and the LETs. However, we can't continue to have a classification that treats LETs like Deputy Sheriffs when LETs are qualified to perform any job that management sees fit to assign.



**EVERYONE AGREES THERE ARE MANY JOBS  
LETs ARE DOING THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT.  
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT JOBS SHOULD A LET  
CONTINUE TO PERFORM?**

The responsibility level is so broad, and in some cases, the pay is not equitable. The biggest issue, in my opinion, is the fact that some LETs are performing higher-level jobs. The biggest problem over the years is that when the member submits an application to test for the higher-level job, meeting the qualifications, the Civilian Exams Unit denies the application. They claim the experience does not count simply because the employee is a LET or the LET is working within their class by supporting the unit's operation. This practice needs to stop. Recently, this bias became



unquestionably clear with a LET applying for a higher-level position. This bias came directly from a Department manager. I am hopeful that a resolution can be achieved with the Personnel Captain and a formal complaint with the Employee Relations Commission can be avoided.

So, while a job study is a long process, PPOA wants to ensure that it is appropriately done with the best possible results for all LETs. You have been patient, and I thank you for that. As more information becomes available, updates will follow.

Until next time, stay safe, my friends. 🛡️



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## Tab Rhodes → continued from page 4

Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination during an Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau interview. Yes, you are reading this correctly, a PPOA member was subjected to intimidation and threats when he adhered to his attorney's advice to invoke his constitutional rights not to give a voluntary statement. Within days, this member was *relieved of duty* with the following description of the nature of the investigation, "It is alleged you refused to answer questions regarding your knowledge and activities related to the traffic collision and invoked your Fifth Amendment privilege."

Unfortunately, two other PPOA members were coerced into providing statements under fear of the same treatment. PPOA followed up on this trampling of our members' rights with conversations through the Department's chain of command, from Division Chief to the Undersheriff and finally *the* Sheriff. When that failed, three Peace Officers' Bill of Rights violations were filed on behalf of our members. This topsy-turvy world we live in where criminals are given more rights than our members exercising *their* constitutional rights has got to *stop*!

All of this going on while the California State Legislature has 15-plus pieces of legislation that attack the very core of the future of law enforcement within this state. These proposed bills look to define "use of force" yet again (AB 26), limit our resources in dynamic "protest" situations (AB 48) and even decertify our POST certificates (SB 2).

Why is all of this happening? I personally and professionally believe *everyone* must learn, change and evolve. The day we stop



learning is the day we stop living. However, this "cancel culture" group of activists are a demographic of people who demand change without proposing sustainable solutions. Homelessness, mental illness and social equity have taken decades, if not hundreds of years, to be created. These problems cannot be solved in a matter of weeks, months or even years. Sustainable solutions require plans, resources and time to develop. Right now, activists are screaming only for the solution without considering the lack of resources to accomplish their goals. "We want it, and we want in *now*!" Unfortunately, many of our elected officials are abandoning their governing responsibilities to the silent majority only to placate the very vocal and loud minority of citizens.

The most recent example of this is the BOS' recent motion and actions toward the closing of Men's Central Jail (MCJ). PPOA has made our subject-matter experts available for the last 10 years, communicating concerns about our members' working conditions and need for improvement, as well as support in closing MCJ, but *only* in exchange for a viable alternative in housing the legally required inmate population. Mental health group homes, the creation of a secure mental health facility and/or the re-opening of PDC-East and Mira Loma have all been discussed, but no BOS' motions made. Instead, the "Care First, Jails Last" movement seems to be hellbent on releasing more criminals into the community with *no* more community transition resources available than in the past. PPOA advocates for "additional" (not re-allocated from public safety agencies) resources to be placed into these community opportunities. In the future, as these opportunities come to fruition, then and only then should public safety funding be diverted.

PPOA continues to and *wants* to meet with the few elected officials and other labor organizations to work in partnership on proposed reform efforts that are reasonable and attainable with the specific anticipated goals to be achieved over *time*. This organization is a proud member of the CCU, L.A. Fed and national AFL-CIO, which gives us many opportunities to work collaboratively across the labor spectrum. Unfortunately, here in Los Angeles County and California, we see significant, continuing and future problems with pie-in-the sky solutions from activists, the eroding of public safety and the citizens being forced to deal with the inevitable tragic and violent events that result from the knee-jerk solutions of the activists who are adopted and embraced by our elected officials.

Oh, and did I mention the Olympics are scheduled to be in Los Angeles in about seven years ... *go* SoCal! 🇺🇸

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# Honoring the Service and Sacrifice of Deputy Jack Williams (EOW: 5/29/79)



Photos by Greg Torres/PPOA

**O**n May 29, PPOA was honored to help facilitate a tribute to Deputy Jack Williams, who was killed in the line of duty on May 29, 1979. It was also our honor to be joined by the Williams family at the ceremony as we unveiled a replica of the memorial highway sign that now stands as a reminder of the sacrifice of our fallen PPOA member. We are thankful to everyone who helped make this significant event a success, including Senator Bob Archuleta, Undersheriff Tim Murakami and Captain Rick Rector. Most importantly, we are indebted to Deputy Williams for his service and legacy.

Background: Deputy Williams and members of the LASD Narcotics Bureau were serving a search warrant at a residence when a suspect opened fire, fatally wounding the nine-year Department veteran. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Ultimately, Deputy Williams' partner, Bobby Esquivel, and PPOA were successful in petitioning the State Legislature to dedicate a section of Interstate Highway 605 to be recognized as the L.A. County Sheriff's Deputy Jack Williams Memorial Highway. 🇺🇸









# PPOA Members Spotted on the Socials

**W**e are proud to see PPOA members and their partners being recognized for their dedication to the communities they serve. Images courtesy of social media. 🇺🇸







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\*APR=ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE. RATES EFFECTIVE AS OF 07/01/2021 AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. THE RATE SHOWN REFLECTS OUR LOWEST ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATES (APR). AVAILABLE ON TERMS UP TO 48 MONTHS AND INCLUDE RELATIONSHIP BENEFIT DISCOUNTS OF 0.50%. PLEASE CONTACT THE CREDIT UNION FOR DETAILS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP BENEFIT DISCOUNTS. ALL LOANS AND COLLATERAL ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL. RATES VARY BASED ON APPROVED CREDIT AND LOAN TERM. SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY.

PAYMENT EXAMPLE: FOR EVERY \$1,000 BORROWED FOR A TERM OF 48 MONTHS WITH A 1.99% APR, THE MONTHLY PAYMENT WILL BE \$21.89. LONGER TERMS ARE AVAILABLE (UP TO 84 MONTHS) AT HIGHER RATES. APPLIES TO NEW, USED, AND REFINANCED VEHICLES ONLY. MAXIMUM FINANCING IS UP TO 125% MSRP/KELLEY BLUE BOOK® VALUE. \*FOR CASH-BACK AUTO REFINANCES, THE MAXIMUM FINANCING IS UP TO 100% OF KELLEY BLUE BOOK® VALUE.

## PPOA Board of Directors Update

**T**he PPOA Board meeting in May included the following leadership transitions: Two new Directors were sworn in, one new Director was appointed and another Director was selected to serve as Vice President.

President Tab Rhodes began the Board meeting by swearing in **Lieutenant Nancy Escobedo** and **Sergeant Jose Rios** to serve as Unit 612 representatives. They will fill the remainder of the respective terms vacated by the recent resignations of Captain John Satterfield and Lieutenant Ryan Vienna.

The Board then officially appointed **Commander Joel Barnett** to fill the unexpired term of Commander Carlos Marquez, who resigned due to his pending retirement.

PPOA Directors then selected **Law Enforcement Technician** and current **Board member Jim Blankenship** to serve as Vice President — an executive Board seat that was vacated by Lieutenant Vienna's resignation. Vice President Blankenship is PPOA's longest-serving Board member, having been elected by his fellow Unit 621 members in 1998. He was officially sworn into the VP seat at the June Board meeting. 🍷



### STAR & SHIELD

Every issue of *Star & Shield* will feature a different hidden word. The word will be used only once in the entire magazine — your challenge is to find it! Members who find the hidden word and register through our website ([PPOA.com](http://PPOA.com)) by the end of this month will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 prizes. Contest ends July 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. PST.

**MEMBERS CAN WIN!**

IT PAYS TO READ

THREE **\$100** PRIZES

This month's hidden word is:

**Anomaly**

Something that deviates from what is standard, normal or expected

Online registration only. Please do not call the PPOA office to register for contest.



## PPOA extends sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following members who passed away in April/May:

Retired Deputy  
**Frank Waldron**  
EOW: April 7, 2021  
Academy Class #16  
Email condolences to the family: [lisaasugich@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaasugich@yahoo.com)

Retired Sergeant  
**Billy Malone**  
EOW: April 18, 2021

Retired Sergeant  
**Ralph Mundell**  
EOW: April 27, 2021  
Academy Class #72  
Email condolences to the family: [rlmundell1958@gmail.com](mailto:rlmundell1958@gmail.com)

Retired Lieutenant  
**Jerry Price**  
EOW: April 27, 2021  
Academy Class #116  
Email condolences to the family: [kitty\\_smurffi@yahoo.com](mailto:kitty_smurffi@yahoo.com)

Retired Deputy  
**Gabriel Velasquez**  
EOW: April 28, 2021  
Academy Class #121

Retired Assistant Sheriff  
**Raymon Morris**  
EOW: April 29, 2021  
Academy Class #98  
Email condolences to the family: [dmorris@lasd.org](mailto:dmorris@lasd.org)

Retired Sergeant  
**Richard Radis**  
EOW: April 30, 2021  
U.S. Air Force veteran  
Email condolences to the family: [steve.radis@twc.com](mailto:steve.radis@twc.com)

Retired Deputy  
**Lee Secrist**  
EOW: May 7, 2021

Retired Lieutenant  
**Richard L. Wallace**  
EOW: May 9, 2021  
Academy Class #73  
U.S. Navy veteran

Retired Deputy  
**Patricia Brademeyer**  
EOW: May 19, 2021  
Email condolences to the family: [primpunkin@yahoo.com](mailto:primpunkin@yahoo.com)

Retired Deputy  
**Gilbert Sherwood**  
EOW: May 19, 2021  
U.S. Army veteran  
Email condolences to the family: [cjsnoopy4@gmail.com](mailto:cjsnoopy4@gmail.com)

Retired Reserve Deputy  
/Corrections Officer  
**Pete Ramirez**  
EOW: May 29, 2021  
U.S. Army veteran  
Email condolences to the family: [erinramirez32@gmail.com](mailto:erinramirez32@gmail.com)

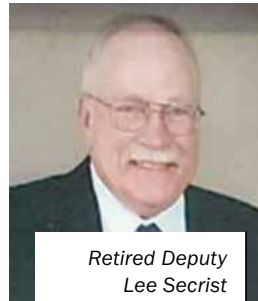
Retired Deputy  
**Albert Verduzco**  
EOW: May 30, 2021  
Email condolences to the family: [will2win224@yahoo.com](mailto:will2win224@yahoo.com)



Retired Deputy  
Frank Waldron  
(EOW: 4/7/21)



Retired Assistant Sheriff  
Raymon Morris  
(EOW: 4/29/21)



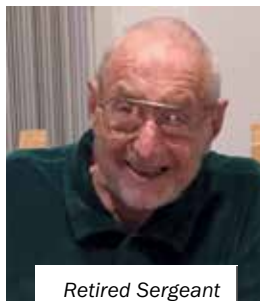
Retired Deputy  
Lee Secrist  
(EOW: 5/7/21)



Retired Reserve Deputy/C.O.  
Pete Ramirez  
(EOW: 5/29/21)



Retired Lieutenant  
Jerry Price  
(EOW: 4/27/21)



Retired Sergeant  
Richard Radis  
(EOW: 4/30/21)



Retired Lieutenant  
Richard Wallace  
(EOW: 5/9/21)

## Supporting Fitness for PPOA Members

**I**n a continuing effort to support members, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation ([starandshieldfoundation.org](http://starandshieldfoundation.org)) teams up with New Life Cardio Equipment (NLCE) each year to secure a limited number of treadmills and ellipticals for employee gyms at units throughout the County. PPOA staff members were proud to deliver treadmills to Santa Clarita Valley Station and East L.A. Station in May, along with an elliptical for Stanley Mosk Courthouse in June. The machines are purchased by the Foundation at discounted pricing and delivered by PPOA to units in need of new exercise equipment. PPOA has also arranged for NLCE to extend special pricing to any PPOA member interested in purchasing cardio equipment for personal use at home. Call New Life Cardio for more info at (323) 345-7216. 🇺🇸



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## ★ STAFF MEMBERS

► Chairman Blankenship

## 21

By Greg Torres,  
PPOA Public Relations Coordinator

# Achievements and Challenges of the 1970s

*As PPOA winds through its 70th year of professional representation, we are dedicating space in Star & Shield to acknowledge generations of PPOA members who have helped move this union forward since its establishment in 1951. This edition chronicles a few of the significant issues impacting members during the 1970s.*

**A**pproximately half of all current active PPOA members were not yet alive in the 1970s. That means half of you did not experience the glory of leisure suits, sideburns and shag carpets. But those who did may remember that America was coming to grips with the changes initiated by the counterculture of the previous decade. Los Angeles County was not at all immune to the challenges of the 1970s, including recessions, double-digit inflation and double-digit unemployment. Between economic upheaval and rising crime rates — the largest 10-year absolute increase (84%) in homicides in Los Angeles occurred from 1970 to 1979 — that generation of PPOA members had their hands full. Meanwhile, the Vietnam War, subsequent protests (culminating with the 1970 East Los Angeles riots) and the 1971 San Fernando earthquake got the decade off to a tumultuous start, with peace officers naturally on the front line.

By 1970, the PPOA office had moved from downtown L.A. to a suite on Atlantic Boulevard in Monterey Park. The union entered the new decade under the stellar leadership of President **Camie Jarvis** and Vice President **John Fleming**, two men who would go on to dedicate decades of service to fellow PPOA members well into retirement for each of them. Their arrival to the Board would eventually be followed by two more lifelong PPOA leaders in **Jim Vogts** (elected to the Board in 1974) and **Art Reddy** (elected in 1979).

In 1974, PPOA moved its headquarters back to L.A. and settled into the California Federal Building on West Sunset Boulevard. The first major accomplishment for PPOA members came less than two weeks into the new decade. On January 12, 1970, supervising members of the Sheriff's Department (Lieutenant and Sergeant), District Attorney's Office (grade IV and Lieutenant) and Criminalists succeeded in establishing PPOA as their certified bargaining agent under a new L.A. County ordinance that opened the doors for collective bargaining. "This certification comes after our Board members spent many hours studying and analyzing the new ordinance, conferring with several legal sources as to its application, convincing the Employee Relations Commission to establish a pure law enforcement unit." Three years after that, PPOA became the certified bargaining agent for Sheriff's Department Corrections Officers. As this new unit came to fruition, the Corrections Officers selected the following members to take the lead for their first experience with contract negotiations in 1973: **William Reid**, **Fred Simpson**, **Leonard Young** and **Santos Perniciaro**.



The proud peace officers who made up PPOA's Executive Board in 1970

Another first for PPOA took place in 1973. At the direction of the Board of Directors, a delegate network was formed in order to help improve communication with members in the field. The initial meeting drew 80 members for a noontime affair, with Assistant Sheriff **Howard Earle** serving as guest speaker. Fast forward 48 years, and PPOA delegates continue to gather for quarterly meetings each year. Imagine trying to explain to the 1973 delegates that a pandemic would force their 2021 counterparts to conduct meetings from home, using phones and other devices, via Zoom videoconference.

One of the most significant developments for public safety employees in California was the establishment of the Peace Officers' Bill of Rights. The Assembly Bill was signed into law by Governor Ronald Reagan and went into effect on January 1, 1974. This new law was an absolute game-changer for law enforcement unions on a mission to protect the rights of members, and the bill's definition speaks to that: "*The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the rights and protections provided to peace officers under this chapter constitute a matter of statewide concern. The Legislature further finds and declares that effective law enforcement depends upon the maintenance of stable employer-employee relations, between public safety employees and their employers.*"

Less than a year after the Peace Officers' Bill of Rights went into effect, PPOA was proud to report a legislative victory that would go on to help countless members enjoy a well-earned retirement. "After a lot of blood, sweat and tears,



Governor Reagan has signed AB 3055 into law. This permits safety members to retire upon completion of 20, rather than 30, years, regardless of age, and prescribes the formula for computing allowances between ages 41 and 50.”

In April 1975, PPOA scored an important legal victory when the Appellate Court ruled favorably on the union’s military buy-back suit. The successful result ensured that safety members would be entitled to receive safety member retirement allowances for their prior military time.

The following month (May 1975), PPOA featured an emerging Sheriff’s Department leader on the cover of *Star & Shield*. **Sherman Block** was a 19-year veteran when he was sworn in as second-in-command under Sheriff **Peter Pitchess**.

If you are a believer that history often repeats itself, you will not be surprised to hear that \$5.4 million budget cuts



**NEW UNDERSHERIFF BLOCK WITH COUNTY CLERK CLARENCE CABELL, SHERIFF PETER J. PITCHESS**

*Sherman Block, County Clerk Clarence Cabell and Sheriff Peter Pitchess featured on the cover of the May 1975 Star & Shield*

imposed by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in 1975 adversely affected the Sheriff’s Department. An editorial in *Star & Shield* stated that Supervisors Ed Edelman and Baxter Ward “have refused to recognize the basic needs of the Sheriff’s Department to provide an adequate level of safety to the citizens of this community. We believe this attitude can only be categorized as anti-law enforcement.”

In May 1977, PPOA announced that its own Federal Credit Union was set to become a reality. While the credit union members would elect their own board of directors, PPOA agreed to provide support until assets were in place for the credit union to be self-sustaining. Fast forward to 2021, and POPA Federal Credit Union now operates at four locations throughout L.A. County (including one in the PPOA building in San Dimas), has assets totaling more than \$329 million and proudly serves more than 20,000 members. ♥

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PPOA BOARD MEMBERS IN THE 1970s

Robert Acosta	Glen Littrell
Thomas Akren	Patrick Maher
James Allen	Cliff Morden
Mike Allen	Timothy Murphy*
Roy Beattie	Ray Nail
Jack Bennett	Joseph Passarelli
Clarence Buckingham	Donald Plum
Rusty Burrell	Arthur Reddy
Gustav Carlton	William Reed*
Richard Castaneda	Alan Ross*
Arthur Chance	William Ruffin
Pat Connolly	Luther Russell
James Cracchiolo	John Scott
Steve Day	Harry Shappell
Seth Easley*	John Shaughnessy
Robert Feliciano	Elizabeth Silcock
George Ferrari	Frederick Simpson
John Fleming	Rex Starrett
Robert Fleming	Irene Stein
William Godfrey	William Stocz
Louis Hall	Bob Stotlemeyer
Warren Hill*	Steve Streaker
Ed Honeywell	Gerald Talbot
Jim Hough	Carlos Valdez
Camie Jarvis*	James Vogts
Lawrence Jenks	J. Roger Wagnon
Bill Johnson	James Walker
Louis Johnston	Stanley White
Phil Katz*	Richard Winter
Lee Kramer	Frank Zellin
Sylvia Lindquist	

\*Served at least one term as Board chairman/president

## Paying Tribute to a Dedicated Veteran

→ PPOA was proud to attend a tree-planting ceremony in May to honor the life and service of the late retired LASD Commander Tom Vetter. The event at Pitchess Detention Center was hosted by the LASD Military and Veteran Affairs Unit and American Legion LASD Star Post 309. Commander Vetter graduated with Class #70 in 1958 and retired from the Sheriff's Department in 1994. The proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran passed away on January 16, 2021, due to complications from COVID-19. 🇺🇸



Lieutenant Ernie Bille (PPOA member/Commander of Star Post 309) pays tribute to Vetter at the ceremony



Tom Vetter photographed by PPOA at the 2019 LASD Retiree Roundup in Laughlin, Nevada



PPOA Executive Director Wayne Quint Jr., President Tab Rhodes, Sheriff Alex Villanueva and Lieutenant Ernie Bille at the ceremony



# SAVE THE DATE

## Law Enforcement Serra Retreat

**October 1–3, 2021**

The weekend of October 1–3, 2021, marks the 75th anniversary of the Sheriff's Department law enforcement retreat at the Serra Retreat house in Malibu. Retired Commander Tom Vetter took great pride in organizing and mentoring the law enforcement Serra Retreat group for over 60 years. On January 16, 2021, sadly, Tom passed away from COVID-19. Tom was excited about planning the big 75th anniversary of our group's attendance at the retreat house. The planning committee is planning a special weekend to honor Tom and a life well lived, both personally and professionally, as well as celebrating all of his contributions to the Serra Retreat and our special group.

The retreat house is open for retreats and following the state and CDC guidelines regarding cleaning protocols, social distancing and mask wearing. All home-cooked meals and voluntary presentations will be conducted in the open air. The retreat house is a 38-acre Franciscan facility located on a hilltop in Malibu. Keep in mind, outside patios are surrounded by immaculately maintained gardens, pathways and trails throughout the property, with breathtaking views overlooking the hills and the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

The retreat staff has made adjustments to the room assignments in order to meet standards set by the state and CDC. Each couple or individual will have a private bedroom and bathroom. Because of safe distancing, there will be fewer rooms available. Attendance will be based on confirmed commitments.

When attending, you have opportunities to go on quiet walks and enjoy the beautiful scenery in the Malibu Hills. You may also choose to quietly reflect and enjoy the beautiful setting by relaxing in the informal environment, or you may just need sleep and great home-cooked meals. Positive, uplifting presentations are also offered to everyone on a voluntary basis. Many retreatants enjoy walking or running down to the beach.

Those of you who are attending the retreat will begin your experience by checking in anytime after 1500 hours on Friday, October 1. Try to avoid traffic by leaving early. Friday's dinner will be served from 1700 to 1900 hours to accommodate late arrivals. Checkout time will be approximately 1200 hours on Sunday, October 3.

The Serra Retreat house is located at 3401 Serra Road, Malibu, 90265. Serra Road is located between Sweetwater Canyon Road and Cross Creek Road, directly off the Pacific Coast Highway. It is south of the old Malibu Sheriff's Station and across from Malibu Lagoon State Park.

All religious denominations are invited. This retreat is open to all members, both sworn and professional staff, active and retired, from all Los Angeles County law enforcement agencies. Spouses, relatives and friends are also welcome to attend.

For further information regarding the cost and reservations, please contact any of the following:

**Patty Norris**  
(818) 381-7698

**Chuck Norris**  
(818) 381-7649

**Michelle Emeneger**  
(714) 293-3891

**Jay Sevoian**  
(661) 992-4369

**Andy Thompson**  
(714) 293-5898

**Chickee and  
Norm Nelson**  
(562) 760-0875

**John Valencia**  
(951) 316-3633

**Leo Bauer**  
(661) 388-9650

**Ingrid Jefferys**  
(909) 234-8151

**Gino Reale**  
(661) 425-1219

**Tony and Shiela  
Martins**  
(562) 753-1963

## Buying a Home in a Seller's Market

**Y**ou have made the decision to buy a new home. Or maybe this is your first time. You are excited and cannot wait to go house hunting. If the market is a “buyer’s market,” one in which supply exceeds demand, you will have plenty of time to get your financing in order and look at as many homes as you like.

But what if demand is high and supply is low? Then you are in a “seller’s market.” During a seller’s market, homes sell almost as soon as they become available, often causing buyers to have bidding wars with each other. They attempt to outbid the other buyers, offering the seller more than the seller asked for.

When you find a home you love, you will need to act fast. Sellers do not want to wait for buyers who are still working on their financing. Before you start looking at homes, take care of two things first:

1. **Get preapproved for a mortgage.** Show the seller you have your mortgage approved, and you are immediately ready to close on the offer. Offers without a mortgage contingency will jump to the head of the line.
2. **Get your down payment ready.** Have paperwork showing you have proof of funds.

By getting preapproved for your mortgage, you will know exactly how much house you can afford, as well as get a head start on most of the other buyers. Also, since you will know the maximum that you can afford, you will be able to save time by searching only for those houses in your price range. Do not even try offering less than the listed price during a seller’s market — that will only get you kicked out of the running.

You might also consider writing an offer letter to the seller, explaining a little about yourself and why you love their house.



Keep it short and simple; strive to make a personal connection to the seller, but not bore them. Your realtor can send this letter to the seller and their realtor with the formal offer.

POPA Federal Credit Union can help you begin this journey. Visit [www.popafcu.org](http://www.popafcu.org) for our most current mortgage rates, or call us at (800) 369-7672 and ask to speak to a loan officer. 🏡



## STAR & SHIELD

Congratulations to the following PPOA members for winning the “Find the Hidden Word” contest in *Star & Shield*. If your name is listed, that means your entry was drawn as one of the winners for that month’s issue. Please call Greg Torres at (323) 261-3010 to claim your \$100 check.

## CONTEST WINNERS

### \$100 PRIZE WINNERS

(May/June issue — the hidden word appeared on page 4)

**Gerald Carrigan**, Retired  
**Linda Danheiser**, Retired  
**Robert Reynolds**, Sergeant



**2006 JAMBOREE RV FOR SALE**

Jamboree GT, 31 ft. Class C, Ford V10 eng., 1 slide out, Sat. TV, Onan 4.0 Gen, Queen Isl. bed. Low miles, lots of extras. 1 owner. Excellent condition. \$36,000 OBO. Contact Wayne: (909) 593-1982 or (626) 422-0555. (0521)

**WANTED: CLASS C MOTORHOME**

LASD retiree seeks Class C Motorhome with pop out. 2016 or newer. Low mileage and in good condition. Call Sally: (562) 947-4840. (1120)

**SEEKING AR-15 FOR SALE**

Looking to buy an AR-15. If you have one you want to sell, please email me with price and pictures: [amorgaemail@yahoo.com](mailto:amorgaemail@yahoo.com). (0720)

**2007 BOUNDER RV FOR SALE**

Cat diesel engine, electric steps, 3 side outs, sat. dish, auto leveling, power awnings, queen bed, fridge. \$51,000 OBO. Contact Ken: (909) 873-5343. (0720)

**NEW TREADMILL FOR SALE**

Brand-new, heavy-duty treadmill for sale. If interested in purchasing, please contact Oscar at (323) 326-844. (0521)

**CHINO HILLS HOUSE FOR RENT**

Gordon Ranch Community. 4BD/2.5BA, 2-car garage, cul-de-sac street. No pets. Contact Scott for price (213) 357-9172. Email [scottypaik@hotmail.com](mailto:scottypaik@hotmail.com). (0721)

**LASD RET. SEEKS HOME IN BIG BEAR OR ARROWHEAD**

Looking to sell your place in Big Bear or Lake Arrowhead? Private party/LASD retiree is looking to buy. 3-4 bed/2 bath preferred. Please leave message at (562) 321-4122. (1120)

**COMPANION MAUSOLEUM CRYPT FOR SALE**

Located at San Fernando Mission Catholic Cemetery. Companion crypt holds 2 caskets or 2 urns. Includes 1 crypt plate, 1 insert & 1 vase. Prime location height. Approximately 5 ft. high. Asking market price \$20,000. Call Laura: (626) 222-3040. (0720)

**2014 ECLIPSE ATTITUDE TOY HAULER FOR SALE**

Eclipse 19' Toy Hauler. Sleeps 6-8, full bathroom, micro/convection oven. Excellent condition. Loaded with much more! \$14,500. Call (626) 221-4745. (0620)

**2007 CADILLAC DTS FOR SALE**

Iridescent pearl, very low miles (62,000), in excellent condition. Everything works. 4-door, 2 owners, grey leather interior, excellent radio/speakers, kept in covered parking. Drives like a dream, must sell, I have too many cars. \$12,000. Contact Ofelia: (323) 331-6563. (0521)

**LAKE HAVASU VACATION RENTAL**

2BR/2BA. Pull-out Queen in Family room. Lake view from front porch and viewing deck. 64' covered Boat Storage. 1/4 mi. from Windsor Launch Ramp. \$300 nightly. Call Karen: (805) 630-0663. (0521)

**OAK CORNER DESK SECTIONS**

Offering two oak corner desk sections with cabinets for \$330. Must sell as a pair. Perfect for office, family room or bedroom. Contact Elvia at (909) 947-4578. (0721)

**SHOW CARS FOR SALE**

'55 Chevy 210, V8 stick, \$29K; '56 Chevy Corvette, V8, \$70K. All beautiful cars. Call Bill: (909) 594-9805. (0421)

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA, VACATION RENTAL**

6 BR/3.5BA. Sleeps 12 max, private pool and spa. Gated Windsor Palms Resort. Minutes to all attractions. Rates start \$195 nightly. Call Brett at (805) 338-4928. (0721)

**MATCHED SET OF LASD COLT 45s**

Matched set of two (sequential serial numbers) LASD Commemorative circa 1976 Model 1911 Colt 45s. Never fired, oak presentation cases. \$5,200. Email Steve at [rbdca@cox.net](mailto:rbdca@cox.net). (0721)

**RANCH SITTER WANTED**

Looking for a retired person to take care of our small ranch and animals located in South Riverside County. Contact Joe: (562) 743-0772. (0420)



PPOA classified ads are free and available only to PPOA members (one per month, 25 words max). Private party only, no business ads allowed. Send your ad to: *Star & Shield* Editor, 188 E. Arrow Highway, San Dimas, CA 91773 or email to [gtorres@ppoa.com](mailto:gtorres@ppoa.com).

New submissions are added on a first-come, first-served basis each issue. Please send within first week of each month to ensure timely inclusion. Sellers are encouraged to list price of each item listed. No work numbers or County email addresses may be used in ads. Submissions must be made in writing, not over the phone. Ads run for three months. PPOA is not responsible for any claims made in a classified ad.



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disability pensions for *thousands*  
of safety personnel under PERS,  
County 1937 Retirement Act and  
other county and city systems.

### PERSONAL INJURY

Our personal injury department  
has successfully litigated or  
tried over 5000 claims for  
automobile injuries, products  
liability, medical malpractice  
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