

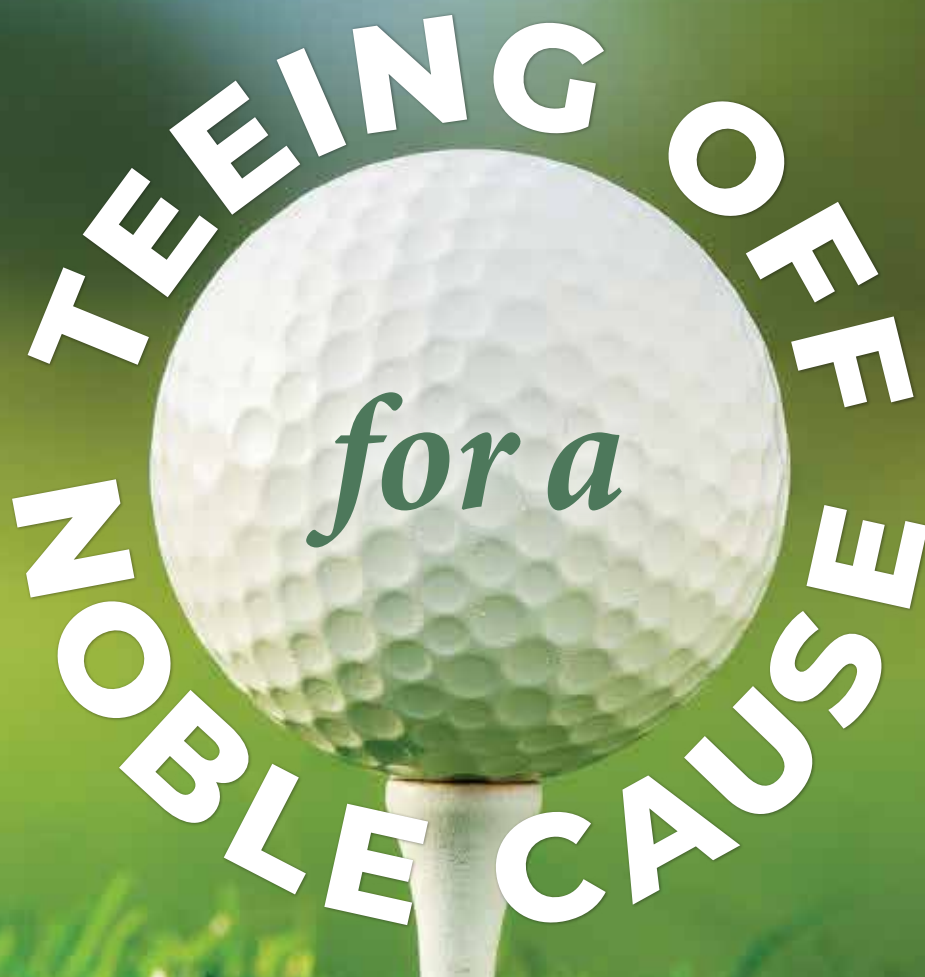


Los Angeles County Professional
Peace Officers Association

Volume 49
Issue 4

May/June 2022

STAR & SHIELD



14TH ANNUAL
**Peace Officer Memorial
Golf Tournament**
JUNE 6

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THE NOISE**
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PUBLIC SAFETY?**
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VACCINE POLICY**
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Star & Shield is the official publication of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA). Opinions expressed by individual Board members or contributing authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the entire Board.

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Too Much **NOISE** ...

When did the world go crazy? When did beeping text messages, dingling phone notifications, blogs and social media replace conversations, meetings, dates and relationships? This **NOISE** has left society fragmented, isolated and more polarized than ever.

And what do we really have to complain about? If you are reading this article, you are more than likely not experiencing third-world problems as the result of war or famine. You are more than likely not homeless, wondering if you are drinking clean water or doubting if you will eat today.

Too much **NOISE** ...

Distractions — the world is full of them now. Inflation is at a 40-year high. Gasoline prices are at \$5.75 a gallon. Contract negotiations stalled while the Board of Supervisors (BOS) determines the priorities (**read** — political agenda) of the next fiscal year. Upcoming primary elections, including two County Supervisor races and the Sheriff (nine candidates, lots of negative press, concerns of a runoff and a daring endorsement). Added to this political landscape is the continued concern of COVID-19 variants and the BOS' continued attempts to gain compliance with the harshest, out-of-date vaccine mandate in the country.

Too much **NOISE** ...

Now is the time to set aside all of the interruptions and get back to focusing on the important aspects of your career and life. Public safety is **still** a noble profession. We are among the few selected to be hired by the best law enforcement agency in the world. We should behave accordingly.

Our units should be a place of optimism, not complaint. We do not do this thankless job strictly for the salary or benefits (although we deserve our fair share), but to fulfill that inner, burning desire to serve. Those in this profession should embrace this calling **every day**, filling our hearts with the satisfaction of protecting the communities and its citizens.

During these distracting times, it is important to stand together in our profession and in our Association (PPOA),



Tab Rhodes
PPOA President
Lieutenant, LASD
trhodes@ppoa.com

even though our opinions may differ and especially when others are trying to divide us. Standing shoulder to shoulder against the adversity, false narratives and **NOISE** is paramount.

The negativity of the world should be shut from our minds. We should not give our critics any ammunition in their arguments; instead, we should show them why we do this job. We cannot allow the **NOISE** to exacerbate the us-versus-them mentality. To avoid the criticism, community members tell me that involvement and collaboration are key ... that requires someone to be the bigger person, and I say it is us.

Step up to the plate. Stop complaining.

Control what you can control. Be the leader you demonstrated to yourself and this profession when you were hired. Remember the pride and desire to improve you had as a new hire. Use your **positive** (not destructive) influence on those around you. Do your best. Defend what is true. Stand by your decisions.

... BE BOLD. COURAGE IS NOT BEING LOUD BUT BRAVE WHEN FACED WITH ADVERSITY.

That being said, **be bold**. Courage is not being loud but brave when faced with adversity. Ambition is good. PPOA has your back when making these decisions. Standing up for values is **great**. Overreaching efforts and trying to do the right thing should be applauded as it raises the bar of professionalism for others to witness and follow.

Most importantly, do a personal evaluation of your priorities. Complaining itself is a harmful behavior that leads to a negative mindset. Stay balanced. Time is the **most** valuable asset in any lifetime. Use your time wisely to stay healthy, focused on family and meeting your spiritual and emotional needs.

In other words, work hard, enjoy your life and block the **NOISE**. 🛡️





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Recommended Budget ... Public Safety *Not* a Priority

On April 19, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors received the 2022–23 recommended budget from the County Chief Executive Office. This is the first step in the County’s multistep budget process, which includes public hearings in May, deliberations leading to the approval of the adopted budget in June and the supplemental budget concluding with the approval of the final adopted budget in October. A 20-slide recommended budget PowerPoint overview was presented to the Board by Fesia Davenport, the County’s chief executive officer.

One merely needs to read the subhead underneath the first slide’s title, *2022–23 Recommended Budget*, to quickly realize that the priorities of this \$38.5 billion budget recommendation will continue to focus on a majority of board members’ policy agendas that do not include properly funding public safety, specifically the Sheriff’s Department. The subhead reads, “Turning the Corner to an Equity-Focused Recovery,” and what this new political buzz phrase exactly means is unfortunately not clearly defined in the recommended budget. What is clearly defined is the startling absence of any meaningful funding recommendations targeted to address the historic rising crime rates, as well as the surge of violent crime in Los Angeles County.

According to a 2022 poll by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, Los Angeles residents have the bleakest view of any region in California about rising crime rates. The poll reported that 41% of respondents in L.A. view crime as a major worry, the highest in any region of the state. A record 34% of Californians responded that violence and street crime in their community was a “big problem,” which is up 10% from a year ago.

County employees, department heads and taxpayers, beware of the third slide — *A Preview of Ambitious Changes Ahead*, with another catchy subhead: “The Board’s priorities will include innovations that will take multiple budget phases to accomplish.” The slide concludes with what is to be launched this year:

- Four new County departments (Youth Development; Aging and Disabilities; Economic Opportunity; and Justice, Care and Opportunity)
- A new 988 Alternative Crisis Response system
- Groundbreaking three-year guaranteed income program
- A new prevention services model
- A heightened focus on equity in *all* programs and services



Wayne Quint Jr.
PPOA Executive Director
wquint@ppoa.com

Other notable budget recommendations include the eighth slide, *Resourcing the Care First, Jails Last Vision*, by committing another \$100 million to the Care First, Community Investment (CFCI) plan. The CFCI was created after Measure J was determined to be unconstitutional, but the County will continue to move toward the full set aside that was specified in Measure J by June 2024.

The CFCI addresses racial disparities in the justice system, providing a total of \$200 million in year two of a three-year ramp-up to allocate 10% of locally generated unrestricted revenues (net County cost) in the general fund to CFCI programs. Additionally, \$30 million to address the structural deficit in the Office

of Diversion and Reentry, increase the number of public defenders and alternate public defenders, as well as the launch of a new Justice, Care and Opportunities Department.

Amazingly, the only budget recommendations addressing public safety are found on the 14th slide, *Balancing Public Safety With Reforms*, with the ominous subhead, “This is not a

IT CERTAINLY APPEARS THAT THE \$12.3 MILLION FUNDING WILL NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY DIRECTED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT.

zero-sum game.” The slide continues with the advisement that the budget reflects a commitment to closing Men’s Central Jail and protecting the rights of those who are incarcerated by recommending \$15.3 million be used to support compliance with a federal consent decree regarding the treatment of individuals with mental illness in County jails.

Additionally, the second budget recommendation states that also reflecting the Board’s commitment to public safety is \$12.3 million in new funding for additional LASD Academy classes, which would support the recruitment and training of a new generation of deputies. It would also *complement existing investments* in CFCI, the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) and Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST), and a new Justice,

Care and Opportunities Department. It certainly appears that the \$12.3 million funding will not be exclusively directed for public safety services provided by the Sheriff's Department.

It is a sad statement that the County's 10 priorities and initiatives — (1) Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion; (2) Alternatives to Incarceration; (3) Chief Sustainability Office; (4) Digital Divide Regional Strategy; (5) Alliance for Health Integration; (6) Homeless Initiative; (7) Office of Child Protection; (8) Poverty Alleviation Initiative; (9) Justice Reform; and (10) Women and Girls Initiative — do not include, what most believe is the fundamental duty of government, the safety of its citizenry. The need for making public safety the highest priority for Los Angeles County needs to be immediately addressed in the 2022–23 recommended budget. 🍷



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Despite Mounting Challenges and Uncertainties, Custody Assistants Get It Done

As this writing reaches you, we (Unit 621) should have had our initial meeting with the County for a new salary contract. The circumstances surrounding these negotiations include staffing shortages, CARP, a global pandemic, fighting off curtailments, political infighting, the potential loss of contracts and jobs, and now inflation at historic levels.

The process is potentially lengthy and uncertain. However, given the fact that *all* contracts for County bargaining units are up and are being negotiated simultaneously, the County may feel the need to alleviate the logjam. That would be optimal but likely not practical.

Bonuses, inequities, a timely manner to conclude investigations, legislative protections, tenor and addressing documented concerns of station jailer staffing will be among the items specific to our bargaining unit.

Once negotiations begin, both parties will enter into a non-disclosure agreement. This is to protect the integrity of the process, and I ask that members exercise patience and understanding with team members, as they will be limited on what they can disclose. This is routine and has been a long-standing practice during negotiations.

On April 5, the Board of Supervisors voted to proceed to give DHR discipline authority over LASD employees. On April 6, PPOA Attorney Jim Cunningham was in court on behalf of PPOA members seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO), arguing that it posed an immediate hardship to our members. Through this process, the County is now on record stating they will not immediately seek to terminate employees, leading to the TRO not being granted. However, the judge has set a hearing for July for a preliminary injunction. Until then, there should be no notice of discipline issued to employees prior to this hearing. If any member is presented with disciplinary paperwork, they should contact PPOA or me as soon as possible.

Organizationally, these have been tough times. The act of meeting with the Department to deal with policies, messaging, discipline and being on the same page so that employees understand what is being asked of them and where they stand is all that we ask. Understanding why employees would face discipline if a mandate is not being enforced, companies asking employees for insurance information with no agreement and a testing mandate with no policy are all current events.



Rosario "Tony" Coleman
PPOA Second Vice President
Custody Assistant, LASD
tcoleman@ppoa.com

Members have lost spots, colleagues have questioned each other's choices, employee gyms have been segregated based on individual choices and misinformation has run rampant, and the lack of information is equally as troubling.

Media scrutiny, investigations, the loss of over 1,200 items and now the exodus of employees simply tired of the uncertainty is starting to strangle this Department, with Custody bearing the brunt of it with CARP, overtime and drafting.

And all of this is with the expectation that we show up and be professional and prepared to react to violence, medical or any situational emergency that arises.

TIME TO REINVEST

When I was fortunate enough to obtain this position on the PPOA Board, one of the goals was to have the Custody Assistant position seen and utilized as an avenue toward a career as a Deputy for those who desired that path. In other words, to have your service matter.

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF INQUIRIES, RETIREMENTS AND LATERALS, A NEW CLASS OF 40 WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THEIR ORIENTATION ON APRIL 18.

One of the major complaints at the time was that new hires were valued more than C/As currently working for the Department. My stance was and remains that a current Custody Assistant's background was easier to do, with work history, evals and personnel files.

There was also the polygraph question. Why take another when you took one to get hired? That was eventually agreed upon that someone with three years of service or less applying for a sworn position would not have to take it again.

With multiple meetings between PPOA and the Department, a mutual understanding was reached to

acknowledge that pulling from the natural resource that is a Custody Assistant was beneficial to LASD. Since then, C/A's have gone on to DST academies at a quicker rate and in larger numbers.

But there is also a ripple effect. As our colleagues went to tan and green, our numbers began to dwindle. Overtime, drafting and CARP became increasingly more common as the Department had only hired 29 Custody Assistants over the last two years, while the last two sworn academies alone had taken 55.

However, reinforcements are on the way. After several months of inquiries, retirements and laterals, a new class of 40 was scheduled to begin their orientation on April 18. This was a long time coming and well needed.

It is far too soon to tell where this workforce will be deployed. Vacancies will be reviewed as this class nears graduation. For now, we wish them well and pray that all the recruits complete the Academy and get sworn in as Correctional Officers.

Remember when you were wide-eyed and inexperienced? Make yourselves available to impart your knowledge to them and help develop the next generation.

We are in frustrating and, at moments, uncertain times. With that being said, the job is getting done, and that is a testament to you all.

For those who may not often hear it: *Thank you.* 🍀



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

(April issue — the hidden word appeared on page 11)

Andrew Guerrero, Criminalist
Susan O'Leary-Brown, Law Enforcement Technician
Carolyn Rhone, Custody Assistant

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Contracts, Uniforms and Other Updates for Sheriff's Security Personnel

Good afternoon, troops. It's been a busy few months, to say the least. Our Bargaining Unit (621) is now immersed in salary contract negotiations with the County. As I can, I will share information with you. But just know that as a Unit 621 Director on the PPOA Board, I will always fight for you and what is fair for all of us. You elected me to this seat, and I handle that responsibility to the best of my knowledge and experience.

UNIFORMS

On to the important news ... We are currently working on the proposal for the Sheriff's Security Officer and Security Assistant uniforms. I will advise you once the proposal has been completed. Stay tuned for the next article for news of any progress on that front. For those of you who didn't read the prior article, the majority of members who completed the survey requested to proceed with the Department's green uniform shirt and green pants.

COLLEGE BUREAU

We are still looking good for the renewal of the College Bureau contract. I will share developments with you as soon as they occur.

YOU ELECTED ME TO THIS SEAT, AND I HANDLE THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

TRAINING AND GEAR

How is everyone doing with the Multiple Interaction Learning Objectives (MILO) training? Also, how is everybody doing on your gear exchange? I know some have had expired pepper spray, so make sure to request the new one. You never know when you might need it! For any other gear needing to be exchanged, make sure to fill out Form 558 (equipment exchange).

COUNTY SERVICES BUREAU

We are closer to reaching an agreement with the job reassignment fair. I totally understand the frustration and exhaustion of getting told one day you're working in one location and the next day another location. The rising cost of fuel has



Gerry Garcia
PPOA Board Member
Security Officer, LASD
ggarcia@ppoa.com

compounded the problem. I feel for each and every one of you.

I spoke to training and scheduling personnel, and I saw the email regarding gear exchange (pepper spray). In regards to other gear needing replacement, make sure to fill out Form 558. On a follow up regarding Tasers, please know that the cost and feasibility are being addressed. Once I get more information, I will pass it along.

HOMICIDE BUREAU

I was happy to get an opportunity to speak to those of you at Homicide Bureau — please keep me posted if there's anything you need.

COURT SERVICES

I was able to visit your training location recently — hopefully, the information I shared was helpful. I know some of you work in the DTLA area and

asked about the parking cost that was increased. I listened, and we have brought it up at Fringe Benefits, so as I get more info, I will pass it along.

PARKS BUREAU

The hot weather is kicking in — make sure to have your gear ready and be safe. It may sound obvious, but you need to stay hydrated all day! Some people have asked about the Parks Bureau contract, and as I get more information, I will pass it along.

For those of you who haven't read the PPOA Week in Review, make sure PPOA has your personal (non-LASD) email address. Stay informed by checking out that email every Saturday morning.

Congrats to all Sheriff's Security Officers and Assistants who have reached retirement this year. Best wishes to each and every one of you. Make sure to enjoy it and keep us posted on how it's going.

As a member of the PPOA Legislative Committee, I want you to know we are monitoring Assembly and Senate bills that are beneficial to our classifications, as well as those that may be negative in any way. Also, please keep me posted if you are on IOD. Not for the purpose of status, but if there is anything I can do (or PPOA can do) to assist you, that is what we are here for.

PPOA is continuously monitoring what the County is doing with COVID-19-related mandates. We have PPOA attorneys handling this matter, and we make every effort to keep members informed with email updates. Again, please monitor your personal email account for news affecting your career.

Thank you for your time. Stay safe, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Also, if it's your time to qualify with your firearm, please do so. 🍷

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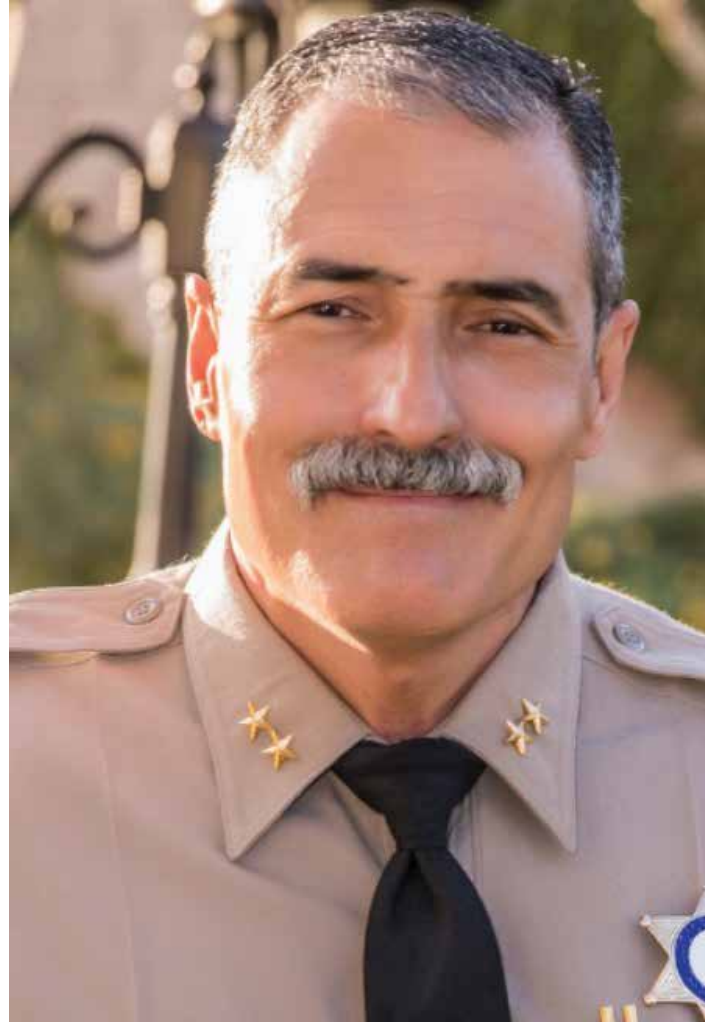
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PPOA Endorses Eli Vera for Sheriff

The Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA) announced on April 13 that it is officially endorsing retired LASD Commander Eli Vera in his bid to be the next Sheriff of Los Angeles County. PPOA went through an exhaustive process to come to this decision, including:

- Establishing a Sheriff Election Committee consisting of 12 PPOA Board members and delegates
- Co-hosting a candidates forum with ALADS on January 26
- Hosting candidate interviews on February 4–7
- Conducting a survey of membership in March 2022
- Conducting an extensive vetting of the candidates by the Sheriff Election Committee

The PPOA Board of Directors reviewed the work and efforts of the Sheriff Election Committee and had lengthy discussions about the leadership qualities of all seven candidates who sought the endorsement of PPOA. All Board members participated in the dialogue, which allowed an



exchange on topics including the positives and negatives of each candidate, endorsements, election scenarios and impacts on PPOA membership.

After considering all the criteria above, the Board came to a collective decision. “I want to thank all seven candidates for participating in PPOA’s endorsement process, as well as the Sheriff Election Committee for their objective analysis,” PPOA President Tab Rhodes said. “Ultimately, the Board of Directors decided to endorse retired Commander Eli Vera, who represents the experience, temperament and skills needed to lead the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.” 🛡️

Welcoming New Members

WELCOMING NEW SERGEANTS

PPOA proudly welcomed 35 newly promoted LASD Sergeants to this Association in April. The Department's newest supervisors reported to the Sherman Block Building in Monterey Park to pick up their new badges and were joined by PPOA staff members in order to answer questions and ensure the Sergeants would be protected by union representation. President Rhodes and PPOA staff also joined the group a few weeks later for further discussions at Sergeant Supervisory School.

WELCOMING NEW CUSTODY ASSISTANTS

PPOA was proud to meet with approximately 40 new Custody Assistants during their orientation last month. Second Vice President and C/A Tony Coleman joined President Rhodes and Executive Director Wayne Quint Jr. in speaking with the class, congratulating them on their new careers and welcoming them to PPOA. C/A Class #105 is comprised of 26 new hires and 14 members promoted from other LASD classifications. 🍷



Heroes Ride: Hundreds Help PPOA Honor Fallen Officers and Military Veterans

More than 400 motorcyclists, supporters and volunteers made PPOA's 8th Annual Heroes Ride a memorable and meaningful tribute to fallen officers and military veterans. Riders staged at the Hollywood Bowl, where we held a ceremony to acknowledge California officers who died in the line of duty. The escorted ride then rolled to the L.A. National Cemetery for a poignant tribute to military veterans. Riders then headed east to Biscailuz Center for a festive finish line party. Special thanks to our guest speakers, including Sheriff Alex Villanueva, Senator Tom Umberg and retired Army Brigadier General Robin Umberg. We're also very grateful to the Sheriff's Department for their assistance and our many volunteers, sponsors and vendors for making this incredible day possible. Most importantly, we are eternally grateful for the service and sacrifice of America's fallen heroes. 🇺🇸





PPOA Files Temporary Restraining Order Regarding County's Vaccine Policy

On April 5, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, over PPOA's verbal and written objections, enacted an ordinance that, in essence, stripped the Sheriff of his disciplinary authority over his personnel who have not complied with the County's vaccination policy. The ordinance was to take effect immediately, which would subject PPOA members to being issued notices of discipline, up to termination, the day after the ordinance was passed.

In order to stop the immediate implementation of this ordinance, attorneys for PPOA went to court on April 6 and filed for a temporary restraining order (TRO) and for an order to show cause regarding a preliminary injunction. The County filed an opposition to the TRO, and the matter was heard in front of L.A. County Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff in Department 86 on April 7 at 8:30 a.m.

During the oral argument in this matter, PPOA's attorneys argued that the ordinance would result in imminent harm to its members since the language contained in the ordinance noted that it would be effective immediately, subjecting PPOA members to immediate discipline leading up to termination if they did not have proof of vaccination and/or a valid religious or medical exemption.

Judge Beckloff indicated that if the County was indeed implementing this policy immediately, then PPOA's argument that there was an immediate harm to its members would be sustained, and an injunction would likely be issued and be appropriate. However, upon the judge's questioning of counsel for the County, faced with the likely



issuing of a TRO, the County, on the record for the first time, revealed that it was not the intention of the County to immediately implement this ordinance and that they intend to continue to discuss the policy and procedures that would be put in place and when this ordinance will be rolled out to Sheriff personnel.

The judge took particular note of the County's binding assertion that they would comply with the DHR COVID vaccine policy, which provides for a written notice of noncompliance and a 45-day period of compliance, followed by a series of potential discipline starting with a five-day suspension. By taking judicial note, the County is now bound by its assertions made in front of the judge that were used to prevent the judge from issuing a TRO.

Although the TRO was not issued, PPOA accomplished stopping the immediate implementation of the ordinance. The court encouraged all parties to meet and confer over the ordinance and advance further legal challenges if necessary. If and when the DHR policies are rolled out, and our members receive the 45-day notice, the court made it clear that PPOA may immediately request an expedited date for a preliminary injunction on the implementation of the ordinance until litigation on the validity of the ordinance is determined. PPOA has secured an initial date for the preliminary injunction, which is set for Friday, July 22, at 9:30 a.m. *If any member receives a 45-day notice prior to the date of our preliminary injunction hearing, please contact PPOA, as we will expedite the arguments to take further legal action.* 🇺🇸

L.A. County Deserves Better — Help Recall DA George Gascón

In March, the PPOA Board of Directors committed to joining the campaign to recall L.A. County District Attorney George Gascón. Following a presentation by a principal of the campaign at the March 9 Board meeting, PPOA joined a rapidly growing list of organizations and law enforcement associations that support the recall, including the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, the L.A. Police Protective League, ALADS and more.



TIME'S UP:
RECALL DA GASCÓN

The bipartisan recall effort is led by co-chairs Tania Owen (retired LASD deputy and wife of fallen Sergeant Steve Owen), Desiree Andrade (mother of Julian Andrade, whose killers face drastically reduced sentences due to Gascón's policies), former L.A. County DA Steve Cooley, former Deputy DA Sam Dordulian, former Deputy DA Kathy Cady and former L.A. City Councilmember Dennis Zine. In addition, *more than 30 city councils* in L.A. County have issued votes of "no confidence" in Gascón's leadership.

WHY THE RECALL IS CRUCIAL

Crime is skyrocketing in Los Angeles County due to Gascón's soft-on-crime approach. His "special directives" and policy changes include no longer seeking death sentences and abandoning sentencing enhancements. This reckless social experiment to overhaul the County's criminal justice system has even drawn fire and legal challenges from Gascón's own prosecutors.

Enough is enough. Residents and public safety employees in L.A. County need and deserve a prosecutor who enforces the law, protects the public and honors victims' rights.

HOW YOU CAN HELP RIGHT NOW

If you are registered to vote in Los Angeles County, PPOA strongly encourages you to sign the petition today to recall Gascón. To do so, please visit RecallDAGeorgeGascon.com.

To qualify, the recall must collect 566,857 signatures from registered L.A. County voters (10% of current registered voters). The deadline for submission to the Registrar is July 6. If successful, the recall would likely appear on the November 2022 ballot. 🗳️

Negotiations Ongoing for PPOA Bargaining Units

PPOA members who serve on the Unit 612 and Unit 621 contract negotiation teams have been immersed in bargaining with County executives as of late.

The current Unit 612 contract for Sergeants and Lieutenants from both the Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office expired on January 31. As of late April, both sides have met for 10 rounds of negotiations. The PPOA team gathers in the union conference center for each session and is joined by County executives via videoconference.

The Unit 621 negotiations team officially opened contract talks with the County on April 27. Unit 621 follows the same procedure as its counterparts in Unit 612, with the PPOA team assembling in person and County representatives taking part via videoconference. Unit 621 is the official bargaining unit for the following LASD classifications: Custody Assistant, Civilian Investigator, Crime Analyst, Public Response Dispatcher, Court Services Specialist, Law Enforcement Technician, Security Assistant and Security Officer. 🗳️



Unit 621 team

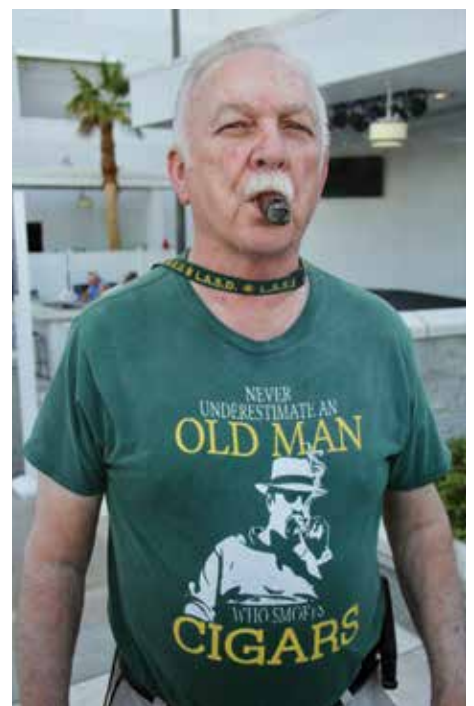


Unit 612 team

2022 LASD Retiree Roundup

The sheer size and scale of the annual LASD Retiree Roundup in Laughlin always makes it feel like a special occasion, and the four-day event last month was even more meaningful as it arrived on the heels of a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus.

The smiles were wider, the embraces were tighter, and all in attendance (nearly 1,000!) seemed to be intentional about making up for lost time. We are grateful to Moon and Robyn Mullen and their remarkable team for coordinating another memorable Roundup. And special thanks to everyone who joined us poolside for PPOA's third annual Cigar Night. 🍷





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 PAYMENT EXAMPLE: FOR EVERY \$1,000 BORROWED FOR A TERM OF 48 MONTHS WITH A 1.99% APR, THE MONTHLY PAYMENT WILL BE \$21.69. 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.

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L.A. County Unions United

President Tab Rhodes joined ALADS President James Wheeler and thousands of fellow County union members in downtown L.A. on March 31 to send a forceful and unified message to the Board of Supervisors: *Essential workers deserve essential pay.*

Members from dozens of County unions, including ALADS, County Fire and more, were present for the lively rally and march through the downtown.

In the weeks following this event, President Rhodes and fellow labor leaders met with County Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Hilda Solis, while PPOA First Vice President Nancy Escobedo joined union counterparts for a meeting with the Field Deputy from the office of Supervisor Hahn. Discussions at these meetings were centered on the economic impacts of the highest inflation rate since 1981, the current 8.5% CPI, the skyrocketing price of gasoline and more. 🇺🇸



ALADS President Jim Wheeler and PPOA President Tab Rhodes



PPOA First Vice President Nancy Escobedo participates in Unions United meeting with the Field Deputy for County Supervisor Janice Hahn

Baker to Vegas Hospitality Suite

PPOA members were among thousands of peace officers spotted running through the Mojave Desert on April 9–10. The Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay brought together 216 teams from agencies across the nation and a few from around the globe. The 120-mile relay

race kicked off in Baker, California, and finished at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, where PPOA was proud to host a hospitality suite. We want to congratulate all who competed and the invaluable support teams. We're also grateful to everyone who joined PPOA after the race for hospitality and fun. 🛡️



PPOA Committees and Staff

2022 STANDING COMMITTEES

Associations

› Chairman Rhodes

Bylaws

› Chairman Coleman

Communications

› Chairwoman Escobedo

Delegates

› Chairman Coleman

Elections

› Chairman Barnett

Finance

› Chairwoman Kato

Insurance

› Chairman Lee

Legislative

› Chairman Reddy

Membership

› Chairman Garcia

612 Negotiations

› Chairman Rhodes

614 Negotiations

› Chairman Lee

621 Negotiations

› Chairman Coleman

631 Negotiations

› Chairwoman Kato

632 Negotiations

› Chairwoman Kato

Retiree Liaison

› Chairman Schallert

Scholarship

› Chairwoman Kato

STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Quint Jr.

Executive Director

Richard Escalante

Field Representative

Clare Franco

Administrative Assistant

Lang, Hansen, Giroux and Kidane

Legislative Representatives

Teresa M. O'Neil

Labor Representative

Violet P. Moreno

Administrative Assistant

Art Reddy

Legislative Consultant

Shannon Schreck

Administrative Assistant

Kevin F. Thompson

Intake Representative

Greg Torres

Public Relations Coordinator

Maricela Villegas

Executive Administrative Assistant

Venise Wallace

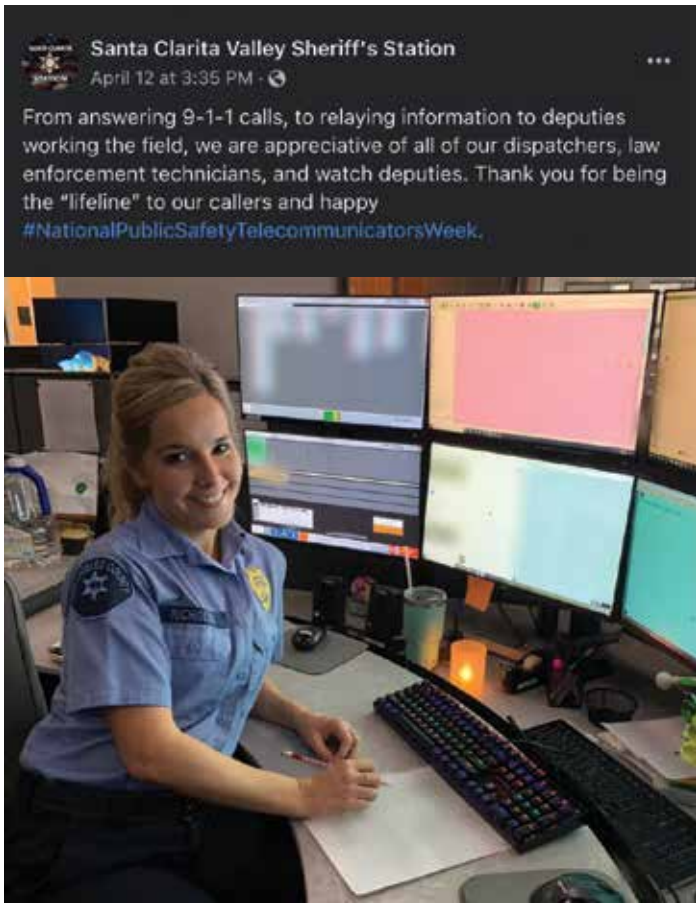
Sr. Labor Representative

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

P POA proudly acknowledges the many dedicated dispatchers and Law Enforcement Technicians behind the radio who represent the “calm in the chaos.” Thank you for your

tireless efforts to ensure the safety of our communities and first responders. We’re also grateful to all who took the time to post tributes to dispatchers online, including these on social media! 🇺🇸






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6-FOOT-TALL GUN SAFE RAFFLE

Proceeds benefit the Star & Shield Foundation

Raffle Tickets:
5 for \$20
15 for \$50
35 for \$100

Winning ticket will be drawn on June 6 at the PPOA Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament.
Winner need not be present.

Contact PPOA to purchase your tickets today:
(323) 261-3010.

72" H / 42" W / 28" D

The Star & Shield Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. Tax ID #95-4752410.

PPOA Members Spotted on the Socials

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

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department March 31 at 3:34 PM · 🌐

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Completes Master's Degree Program at Naval Postgraduate School MONTEREY, Calif. – Marco Antonio Soto Sr., Lieutenant of with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, completed the master's degree program at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) on March 25th. Marco has held numerous positions within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, with responsibilities including patrol field training officer, child abuse investigator, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, and various other assignments.

He currently serves as a Watch Commander at the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station in which he oversees patrol activities. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies from California State University Long Beach.

During the 18-month program, Marco collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges.



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department March 30 at 2:54 PM · 🌐

Meet Lt. Sue Burakowski who is the first female Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operator of the elite LASD Special Enforcement Bureau and the first female Emergency Services Detail (ESD) SWAT paramedic. Thank you Fox 11 Los Angeles . #WomensHistoryMonth #lasdseb #LASD

 A photograph of Lt. Sue Burakowski, a female SWAT operator, in a green tactical uniform, aiming a rifle in a field setting.

San Dimas Sheriff's Station 15m · 🌐

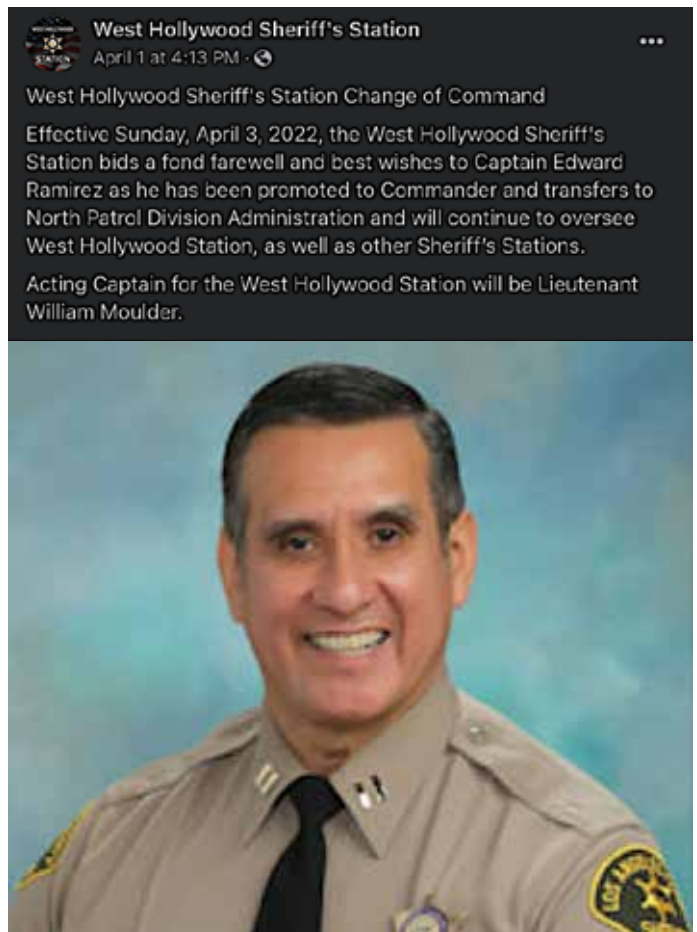
Bitter-Sweet Type of moment 🥲

Congratulations to our 4 newly promoted Sergeants. San Dimas Station will definitely miss you all! This promotion is highly earned and well deserved.

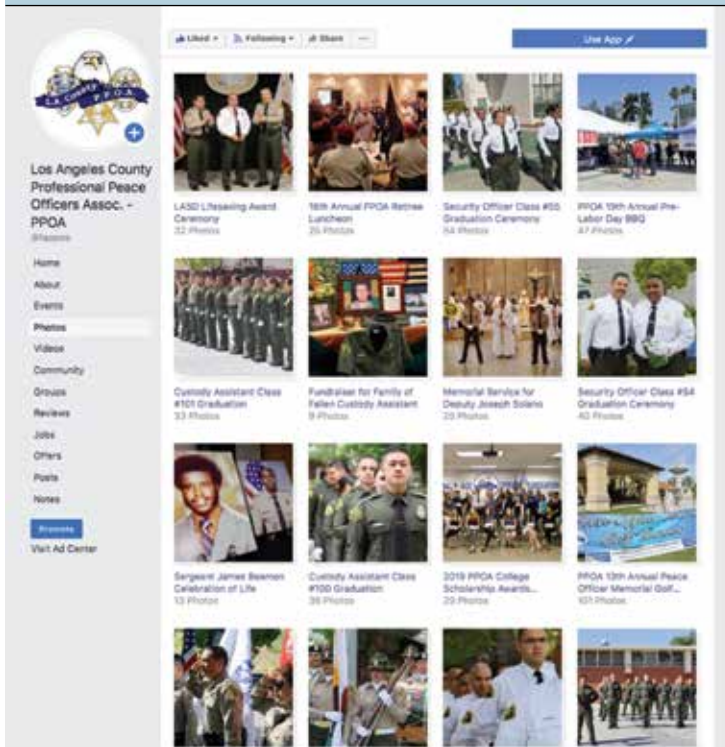
Best wishes on your new position. We wish you all success and prosperity where ever you go!

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS 🎉 on your well-deserved success and best of luck!

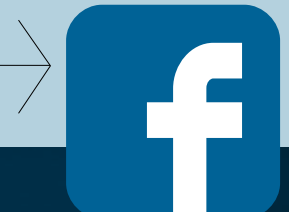
 A collage of four photographs showing the celebration at the San Dimas Sheriff's Station. The photos show four newly promoted sergeants in uniform standing in front of a station decorated with green and gold balloons and a banner that reads 'CONGRATULATIONS'.



FOLLOW **LAPPOA** ON **FACEBOOK**



In addition to breaking news and announcements, the "LAPPOA" Facebook page features more than 2,000 photos and videos from events, graduations, memorials, dedications, ceremonies and other noteworthy occasions. We're honored to document the diligent work of PPOA members and meaningful moments for our law enforcement family.



www.facebook.com/LAPPOA

Providing Support to Sheriff's Security Officers

PPOA was proud to support Sheriff's Security Officers (SSOs) from Court Services Bureau (CSB) during training at the Industry Hills Expo Center on March 31. Board Member/SSO Gerry Garcia was on hand as PPOA deployed the mobile barbecue to ensure the SSOs and Courts staff were treated to a freshly grilled lunch. CSB also conducted training at this location in February, and PPOA proudly supported members at that event as well. 🛡️



SUPPORT YOUR FOUNDATION

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, a portion of what you spend could benefit the Star & Shield Foundation? Visit smile.amazon.com and select the Star & Shield Foundation as your charity. Each time you place an order, 0.5% of the purchase proceeds will help support families of fallen officers as well as those truly in need.



Go to www.ppoa.com and click on the Amazon Smile link to help the Star & Shield Foundation make an even bigger difference.

MEMBERS CAN WIN!



IT PAYS TO READ

STAR & SHIELD

THREE \$100 PRIZES

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) by the end of this month will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 prizes. Contest ends June 30, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

This month's hidden word is:

Poignant

Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret

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

END OF WATCH

PPOA extends sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following members who passed away in February 2022:

Retired Lieutenant

Richard Didion

EOW: February 1, 2022

LASD retired 2019

Academy Class #160

U.S. National Guard veteran

Retired Sergeant

Henry Aldana

EOW: February 8, 2022

LASD retired 2002

U.S. Army veteran

Condolences may be emailed to his family: garagemaniacs@mail.com

Sergeant

Frank Murillo

EOW: February 8, 2022

LASD active member

Retired Captain

John Thurman

EOW: February 8, 2022

LASD retired 1992

Academy Class #85

U.S. Army veteran

Condolences may be emailed to his family:

john.l.thurman@gmail.com

Retired Lieutenant

John Capitano

EOW: February 11, 2022

LADA retired 1983

Former LASD deputy

Academy Class #59

Condolences may be emailed to his family: jcapitano@pattensystems.com

Retired Deputy

Frank Rezac Jr.

EOW: February 16, 2022

LASD retired 2006

Academy Class #283

Condolences may be emailed to his family: kimrezac@gmail.com

Retired Supervising Investigator

Rodney Chapman

EOW: February 24, 2022

LADA retired 2004

Former L.A. County deputy marshal

U.S. Air Force veteran

Father of PPOA Board member Jay Chapman

Condolences may be emailed to his family: jchapman@ppoa.com



Retired Lieutenant
Richard Didion
(EOW: 2/1/22)



Retired Sergeant
Henry Aldana
(EOW: 2/8/22)



Sergeant
Frank Murillo
(EOW: 2/8/22)



Retired Captain
John Thurman
(EOW: 2/8/22)



Retired Deputy
Frank Rezac Jr.
(EOW: 2/16/22)



Retired Supervising
Investigator
Rodney Chapman
(EOW: 2/24/22)

Pre-Retirees: Avoid These Five Real Estate Mistakes



When heading into retirement, many people make the decision to downsize, relocate to a different community or renovate an existing home. The thought of moving or making major home improvements often carries a lot of emotional attachment that can make these processes overwhelming. Here are five common mistakes to avoid:

- **Waiting to downsize.** You can miss out on a lot of savings by waiting for your last child to get out of college before you downsize. Lots of people wait until the kids graduate and then discover that the kids are already back, and sometimes, with children of their own. It could be an eight- to 10-year extension on your time in a larger house.
- **Spending the windfall.** If you're able to downsize and get cash out at the same time, don't spend it quickly. Carefully consider what you will do with it. For some people, it will be best to live on the equity and leave retirement funds alone for a while, allowing Social Security benefits to increase.
- **Moving sight unseen.** Before you move, research the locale. Find out about taxes, the cost of living, access to the activities you enjoy and health care options for the future. Make sure the community you're considering moving to is what you have imagined it to be.
- **Maintaining two households.** Maybe your plan is to live part time in two locations. Make sure you can afford the time and cost of payments, taxes, maintenance and so forth for two homes. Maybe you think you'll save money by buying a house at today's prices and moving when you retire. Factor in the cost of running two homes to see exactly how much you'll gain — or lose.
- **Holding a mortgage in retirement.** Weigh the advantages and disadvantages of paying off your mortgage before retirement. You might be able to use that freed-up money to delay taking Social Security. Keep in mind that your tax deduction will not be significant like it was at the start of the mortgage. If you're thinking of taking on a new mortgage just before retiring because of today's low rates, consider a short-term mortgage such as a 10-year mortgage. You probably don't want to be paying a mortgage when you're in your 80s. ♥



RETIREE EVENTS



LASD McARTHUR REUNION

June 19-23 at Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds, McArthur, CA

LASD Homicide Bureau 100th Anniversary

June 2 at Pacific Palms
Resort, Industry, 5 p.m.
Info: (323) 890-5500

Annual LASD McArthur Reunion

June 19-23 at Inter-Mountain
Fairgrounds, McArthur, CA
Info: charlie.engelbart@gmail.com

Retired Guys & Gals Breakfast Club

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
Mr. D's Diner, Placentia
Info: kamohagen@aol.com

Rogue Valley Retiree Lunch

Last Wednesday of each
month at 11 a.m.
Grants Pass Golf Club,
Grants Pass, OR
Info: michaelbuschke@charter.net



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.



PPOA

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Monday, June 6, 2022

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

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) 326-8441. (0521)

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)

1958 CORVETTE FOR SALE

Stock-looking driver with '78 350 and 4-speed, freeway gears. Gray with burnt orange interior. Rebuilt trans, rear end, clutch, carburetor, radiator, electronic ignition, power front disk brakes added. \$65,000 includes hard top. Call Tom: (562) 233-4321. (0422)

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)

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)

SHOW CARS FOR SALE

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

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)

FRANCISCAN DINNERWARE

"Desert Rose" pattern. Service for 12 w/ many additional serving pieces, plus wine and water glasses. For photos, contact Rick (562) 201-1661. (0622)

ORLANDO, FLORIDA, VACATION RENTAL

6 BR/3.5 BA. 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)

2002 HARLEY-DAVIDSON DYNA LOW RIDER

\$9,150. Purple tank, HD hard-sided saddlebags, 19K miles, windshield, Corbin seat, backrest. Excellent garaged condition. Contact Max: (818) 399-1535. (0821)

2022 TOYOTA COROLLA HYBRID

"Ruby Flare" — \$29K, like new with 3,500 miles. Contact Sammy: (909) 437-7737. (0122)

ROSEMEAD HOUSE FOR LEASE

Newly remodeled, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, bonus office, large laundry room. Between 10 and 60 freeways. Call or text: (626) 280-7766. (0122)



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.

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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We have successfully represented over 35,000 safety members. *Our representation continues long after your case is concluded since your right to lifetime medical care may always be challenged.*

DISABILITY RETIREMENT FOR SAFETY MEMBERS

We have a pension department that specializes in this area and have successfully obtained 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 and other negligence areas.

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