



Los Angeles County Professional
Peace Officers Association

Volume 50
Issue 8

October
2023

STAR & SHIELD

Your

VOTE

Matters

PPOA BOARD ELECTIONS

PAGE 12



In Memoriam

DEPUTY

Ryan

Clinkunbroomer

EOW: 9/16/23

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Lahaina Wildfires: PPOA Board Member Helps Exemplify *Laulima* in Action

On August 8, the tranquil and historic town of Lahaina, Hawaii, witnessed a devastating, wind-driven wildfire, marking one of the most tragic events in U.S. history. The voracity of the flames left little time for organized evacuation or emergency sirens, amplifying fears of a massive loss of life. As the ash settled, the Department of Health and Human Services mobilized resources, including a portable morgue, to manage the aftermath.

PPOA Executive Board member/Coroner Investigator Joyce Kato was central to these efforts, a respected member of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) – Region IX and the Victims Identification Team (VIC). Her experience and leadership skills, honed over years of service, positioned her as the ideal VIC team leader for this crisis. She and her dedicated team played a pivotal role in managing disaster operations, from conducting interviews with distressed families to coordinating DNA collections.

By August 14, bolstered by additional members, the Fire Assistance Center (FAC) was relocated from a local recreation center to the more spacious Hyatt ballroom in Lahaina. This strategic move allowed for a multiagency response, bringing representatives from FEMA, SBA, Red Cross and many others. Their collective aim? To offer comprehensive support to those affected, from filing missing persons reports to providing much-needed essentials like eyeglasses.

Yet, amid the grief and tragedy, what stood out the most was the indomitable Hawaiian spirit. Joyce, profoundly moved by her interactions, reported a consistent rise in visitors to the FAC. But it wasn't just the numbers that were impressive. It was the stories of resilience and community support. Residents, even those who had lost everything, rose to the occasion, volunteering at distribution sites



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and aiding their neighbors. The essence of *laulima*, or “cooperation and helping others,” became the embodiment of their response.

This tragic event underscores the importance of emergency preparedness, adaptability and the unparalleled power of community. The recent Lahaina wildfires are a stark reminder of nature’s unpredictable wrath and humanity’s enduring spirit. Joyce and her team have showcased exemplary dedication and skill and highlighted the intrinsic values that make us human — compassion, resilience and unity.

In times of adversity, stories like these reignite hope and faith in our shared humanity.

Joyce and her team have set a precedent for what it truly means to serve a community, and for that, they deserve our utmost admiration and gratitude. ❤️



Choices Open Enrollment: Premium Rates Increasing

On September 13, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the new Choices medical/dental premiums and life insurance rates for next year, beginning January 1, 2024. On September 15 and September 29, PPOA blasted an email notification (conta.cc/46x000f) to all active members, advising of significant increases to the Choices' medical and dental insurance plans.

Hopefully, all our active members followed PPOA's respectful request of thoroughly reviewing the open enrollment packet, which, by now, should be in your possession. As many of you are aware, medical and dental plan rates for employees across the state and nation are increasing. Los Angeles County is no exception. In fact, the new 2024 medical plan rates for County employees will be subject to an average increase of 10.4% more than 2023 rates.

You have the entire month of October (1–31) to make any changes to your current insurance coverages. If you choose not to make insurance changes during open enrollment, your current insurance coverages will roll over into 2024. So, if you don't want to change anything, no action is needed. But if you do want to make changes, you must do so by October 31. If you have not received your Choices packet, log on to mylacountybenefits.com and go to Library > Plan Information > Annual Enrollment Benefits Materials.

Please be advised that the telephone enrollment system is no longer available. Beginning this year, enrollment can only be completed online using a computer, tablet or smartphone. The County has advised that they have made many improvements to their website this year, making it easier to use and enroll. There will be tools like calculators and videos that will help members understand their benefits and how to use them throughout the year. If you have unanswered questions or need additional assistance, the benefits hotline number is (213) 388-9982, and there are extended hours during open enrollment — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The County gives you a monthly benefits allowance to spend on benefits. If the cost of your benefits is less than your allowance, up to \$244 of the unused amount, known as "taxable cash," is added to your monthly paycheck. The 2.5% negotiated County contribution increase for plan year 2024 will result in an increase from \$1,099 to \$1,126 for an employee only; \$2,005 to \$2,055 for an employee plus one; and \$2,369 to \$2,428 for an



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employee plus two or more. Unfortunately, the County contribution increase will not come close to offsetting the majority of medical premium increases. PPOA members will have this additional 2.5% County contribution to use during the October 2023 open enrollment for their plan year 2024, which will become effective January 1, 2024.

Included on the following page are two charts that provide specific information on all Choices medical and dental plans, including current 2023 rates, new 2024 rates and the percentage increases.

DEPUTY RYAN CLINKUNBROOMER
(EOW: 09/16/2023)

In closing, PPOA is grateful to Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger for publicly honoring Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Ryan Clinkunbroomer during adjournments at the September 26 Board of Supervisors meeting. The following is a transcript of her comments:

→ continued on page 7



UNION-SPONSORED MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS

Current 2023 Rates and Proposed 2024 Rates

PLAN	OPTION	COVERAGE CATEGORY*	CURRENT 2023 RATES	PROPOSED 2024 RATES	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ALADS Blue Cross	Prudent Buyer Plan Under Age 50	1	\$1,047.88	\$1,130.84	7.9%
		2	\$2,028.62	\$2,204.51	8.7%
		3	\$2,427.57	\$2,640.97	8.8%
	Prudent Buyer Plan Age 50 and Over	1	\$1,047.88	\$1,130.84	7.9%
		2	\$2,028.62	\$2,204.51	8.7%
		3	\$2,427.57	\$2,640.97	8.8%
	CaliforniaCare Basic Plan (All Ages)	1	\$819.86	\$861.40	5.1%
		2	\$1,700.13	\$1,776.11	4.5%
		3	\$2,042.53	\$2,131.21	4.3%
	Prudent Buyer Plan Premier Plan Under Age 50	1	\$1,067.36	\$1,152.12	7.9%
		2	\$2,061.06	\$2,240.03	8.7%
		3	\$2,475.97	\$2,694.09	8.8%
	Prudent Buyer Plan Premier Plan Age 50 and Over	1	\$1,067.36	\$1,152.12	7.9%
		2	\$2,061.06	\$2,240.03	8.7%
		3	\$2,475.97	\$2,694.09	8.8%
CaliforniaCare Premier Plan (All Ages)	1	\$839.34	\$882.68	5.2%	
	2	\$1,732.57	\$1,811.63	4.6%	
	3	\$2,090.93	\$2,184.33	4.5%	
CAPE (Choices) Blue Shield	Classic	1	\$1,689.03	\$2,024.36	19.9%
		2	\$3,284.11	\$3,918.06	19.3%
		3	\$3,895.65	\$4,649.52	19.4%
	Lite	1	\$725.10	\$881.95	21.6%
		2	\$1,486.56	\$1,758.35	18.3%
		3	\$1,875.94	\$2,183.56	16.4%
	PPO (Out-of-state only)	1	\$1,689.03	\$2,024.36	19.9%
		2	\$3,284.11	\$3,918.06	19.3%
		3	\$3,895.65	\$4,649.52	19.4%

*1 = Employee only; 2 = Employee + 1 dependent; 3 = Employee + 2 or more dependents

COUNTY-SPONSORED MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS FOR REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

Current 2023 Rates and Proposed 2024 Rates

PLAN	OPTION	COVERAGE CATEGORY	CURRENT 2023 RATES	PROPOSED 2024 RATES	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
CIGNA Choices	Select Network HMO	1	\$770.22	\$867.97	12.7%
		2	\$1,543.60	\$1,739.68	12.7%
		3	\$1,778.22	\$2,002.86	12.6%
	Full Network HMO	1	\$1,062.83	\$1,198.12	12.7%
		2	\$2,132.11	\$2,403.70	12.7%
		3	\$2,455.85	\$2,767.43	12.7%
	Network POS	1	\$1,906.59	\$2,151.13	12.8%
		2	\$3,401.15	\$3,838.08	12.8%
		3	\$3,567.88	\$4,026.19	12.8%
KAISER Choices	1	\$823.81	\$941.16	14.2%	
	2	\$1,642.18	\$1,876.88	14.3%	
	3	\$1,905.78	\$2,178.05	14.3%	
DELTA DENTAL Choices	1	\$19.48	\$21.28	9.2%	
	2	\$32.44	\$35.52	9.5%	
	3	\$48.40	\$53.12	9.8%	
DELTACARE USA Choices	1	\$14.84	\$14.50	-2.3%	
	2	\$24.47	\$23.92	-2.2%	
	3	\$36.27	\$35.45	-2.3%	
METLIFE/SAFEGUARD Choices	1	\$10.57	\$10.60	0.3%	
	2	\$20.41	\$20.44	0.1%	
	3	\$26.53	\$26.56	0.1%	

Rates reflect current negotiated County subsidies. CIGNA and Kaiser rates include current mandatory federal health-care reform taxes and fees.

Delta Dental rates reflect negotiated County subsidy. Delta Dental and DeltaCare rates are guaranteed through 12/31/2024. MetLife/SafeGuard rates are guaranteed through 12/31/2024 and the 2023 rates reflect a credit adjustment of 3 cents for 2022 performance guarantee penalty.

Wayne Quint Jr. → *continued from page 5*

“On Saturday, September 16, I was heartbroken to learn of Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer’s murder. The 30-year-old sheriff’s deputy’s life was taken from him as he was sitting in his patrol car just outside the Palmdale Sheriff’s Station.

“Ryan, a Santa Clarita native and fourth-generation law enforcement officer — his great-grandfather, his grandfather, his father and his mother all served the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department — served nobly for eight years, including his assignment at the Palmdale Station since July 2018. He was a field training officer, investing in the next generation of deputies — a position reserved for the most dedicated and caring of our law enforcement officers.

“In the days since his passing, his loved ones, fellow brothers and sisters in uniform and community members have shared stories about Ryan’s selflessness, kindness, commitment to service and pride in his work.

“He was a beloved son, brother, grandson, fiancé and friend. Ryan had a bright future ahead of him, with a long career in law enforcement in store and a beautiful life with his fiancée, Brittany, planned, as he’d just proposed a few days earlier. Ryan’s life was cut too short, and there is no way to ease the pain of his loss. Ryan is survived by his fiancée, Brittany Lindsey, his parents, Michael and Kim Eztel Clinkunbroomer, his two siblings and his grandparents.

“May Deputy Clinkunbroomer rest in peace, and may his legacy of service and sacrifice reaffirm our commitment to support our law enforcement officers and inspire our communities.”



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Custody Assistant Academy Update, CCW Renewals and More

Frustration. It simply resonates through conversations with line personnel who are working 64- or 72-hour weeks. It has not been an easy season to get through, and heads are spinning as to how and when we'll get through this. And at what cost?

At some point, mental fatigue may come into play. The need for personal, family time and overall rest is much needed, yet hard to come by. Factoring in the commutes, for some, it's simply a grind at this point.

The Sheriff's Department has expressed it has plans for hiring — but how wide-ranging or successful it will be has yet to be determined. The fallout from the County's disastrous mandates, such as early retirements and employees leaving for other agencies or requiring vaccinations just to apply, not to mention the poorly conceived AA degree requirement, will have long lingering effects.

So what's good, you ask? There is a Custody Assistant (C/A) academy in progress. All 15 recruits will hopefully



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accomplish their goal and graduate in November. Every bit helps, and good luck to them going through the rigors to receive their certificate.

There is also a meeting scheduled with Custody Division to get answers on how the Department determines to field a C/A academy, the number of recruits in any class and how many classes to schedule. Certainly, they're looking for deputies, but not having C/A to "support" custody's infrastructure is problematic and a burden on those currently working.

There is a point when the Department's process is impeding its progress.

Remember that your open enrollment is coming, and with that comes increases in medical rates. For PPOA members, there is

a 2.5% increase in the County contribution. Increases vary based on your particular plan.

CCWs continue to be issued, and we're in the season of renewals for the first group to receive them. Begin your renewal 90 days before the expiration of your current permit.

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

(September issue — the hidden word appeared on page 5)

Gene Hetzel, Retired Member
Betsy Magdaleno, Coroner Investigator
Russell Sprague, Retired Member

THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAS EXPRESSED IT HAS PLANS FOR HIRING – BUT HOW WIDE-RANGING OR SUCCESSFUL IT WILL BE HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED.

As for now, everything is online, and you will be issued a number to accompany your renewal packet.

Start your renewal as soon as allowable. It is at this time that you can make changes to what you carry. If your permit expires before then, you cannot carry until you receive your new permit.

Make sure that PPOA has your current email address. There will be more information to follow through email.

Thank you for your time and service. And thank you to your families for their support, patience and understanding during this time.

Take care of yourself and your mental health, and be safe. 🇺🇸

If You Don't Prioritize Your Well-Being, Who Will?

Greetings, co-workers. How time flies — we are into October, and the year has flown by. By the time you read this article, you should have received your next pay raise, which was secured during contract negotiations. That increase of 3.25% will come into effect on October 1 and should be seen on your October 30 paycheck.

Also, when you start making your health care decisions, make sure you read about the plans and rates in detail. Also, ensure that any life events are taken care of and get your confirmation of the changes. Speaking of family and life events, I have made it a point in the last few years to encourage fellow PPOA members to think about their “in-case-of-emergency” decisions. For example, if you get injured or become sick and cannot make decisions, what is your plan? Those are just two examples. I would never want any of you to be ill-prepared for emergencies. Have a plan of action with your decisions in writing.

For those of you who contribute to Horizons, it's good to check on it and see how it grows in the future. For those who don't contribute, ask your co-workers to provide their input on Horizons. Some of you may have been hired many moons ago and don't remember what you signed up for. Others weren't sure what all those documents were. But it's never too late to help each other.

As the weather starts changing, we should start prepping for the holidays. Family get-togethers and holiday functions often include adult beverages, so please make it a point to have a designated driver or pre-plan for a ride home. I would hate for any of us to be a statistic on the Department news about incidents.

If you're wondering why I am talking about this, it is because there are times we all need to slow down and prioritize our well-being. In the last few months, our Department and numerous agencies across the state have encountered tragedies. It's never the wrong time to address these important topics.

In the last few months, we have dealt with shortages and drafting personnel. PPOA is aware, and we will address those issues with Department representatives. I know some bureaus are exhausted, and some welcome the new academies for the extra personnel. However, we are still short-handed, and I will not stop requesting more academies. I also don't want to lose any of the Department contracts due to personnel shortages.

I am still waiting for many of you to go to Logistics to exchange your older vest for the newer one. Those are negotiated items for our personnel. In addition, many of you



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have expressed interest in changing from the older Beretta to the Smith and Wesson 2.0. The Department is aware and should start sending out emails to those interested in the change sometime after March 2024. More information to come on this topic.

The uniform topic is important, and the Department has been in conversations about this. As I get more information, I will share it. Stay tuned.

Make sure to look after each other. Even though we may wear different uniforms, it's very important to remember that the uniform is a mere part of who you are. We are all adults and should look out for each other. We all play an important role in this Department and should be treated accordingly.

Stay safe and look out for each other. If you have topics I can bring to the table or share with our co-workers, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. 🙋

An advertisement for POPA Federal Credit Union. The top left features the POPA logo and the text "Peace Officers Professional Associations Federal Credit Union". To the right is a gold star logo with "Member Since 1968" and "Member Since 1968". The main text reads "Fall Special SHARE CERTIFICATE 11-MONTH TERM 4.40%¹ APY* MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$1,000 LIMITED TIME ONLY". Below this is a call to action: "FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT POPAFCU.ORG OR CALL 562.229.9181 TODAY!". At the bottom left, it says "FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA". At the bottom right, there is a small disclaimer: "¹APY - Annual Percentage Yield. The advertised promotional Share Certificate rate is effective as of 10/1/2023. This is a limited time offer. POPA Federal Credit Union reserves the right to revoke or modify this offer at any time. Early withdrawals are subject to penalties and may reduce earnings. All accounts are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Credit Union's Account Agreement and Truth-in-Savings disclosure. The above advertised rate is for an 11-month term with a minimum deposit of \$1,000. Membership is required. Other restrictions may apply. Contact the Credit Union for more details." The background features autumn leaves.

Lady Justice: An Unwavering Symbol More Relevant to Our Profession Than Ever Before

As many of you know, being a part of our profession is more challenging and difficult than ever before.

With so much misguided anger, confusion and misunderstanding on what our profession is and how we all play a vital role, it is very easy to lose sight of what we took an oath and obligation to do. It is easy to forget the work that we do and the impact we have in the communities and public we serve and protect every day.

In these difficult times, I find myself reverting to and thinking about a symbol that reminds me of how important and necessary we all are to do the work we do. A symbol to keep me humbled and not lost in my emotions about the world and our jobs.



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sword, meaning that it can be wielded either for or against each party.

- Scales. They represent the fact that justice must balance the needs of the individual against the needs of society. Justice must also balance the interests of another. They represent fairness.

I find myself remembering the work we all must do and the huge responsibility we carry in this profession. No matter what is being branded of our profession, we still have a duty and obligation to serve and protect the public from evil. This must be done regardless of assignment or tenure. We must hold the line and make sure our mission and objectives are met. We must

ensure the communities

we serve are safe and that we all get to go home to our loved ones.

We must remain professional, impartial, clear-minded and fair to everyone we

encounter — regardless of what is thought of us as individuals and as a profession.

We must continue to hold the line of justice.

If you ever find yourself feeling out of sorts with your work or sometimes feel that our work is not making any sort of difference or impact, I implore you to think of Lady Justice and the symbolism she represents. We all “wear” what she wears and “carry” what she carries. The attitude we bring, the demeanor we show and the professionalism we represent are what make the difference.

I want to personally thank you for all you do. As a partner in this profession, and as many as I can call neighbors as a resident of Los Angeles County, thank you for all you do.

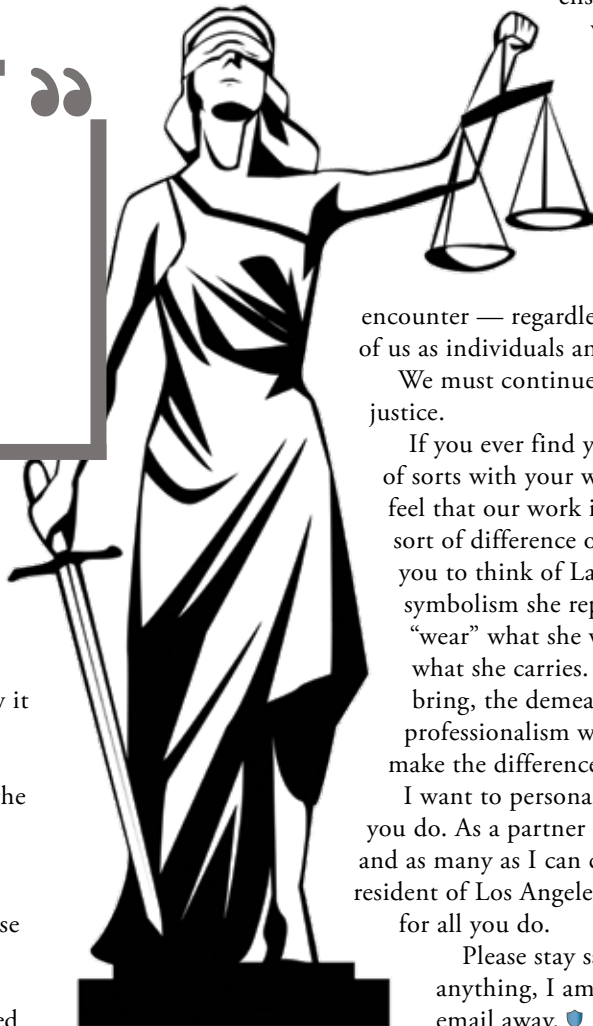
Please stay safe. If you ever need anything, I am a phone call or email away. 🛡️

LADY JUSTICE IS THE SUPPOSED MORAL COMPASS ACROSS ALL JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AND THE ULTIMATE SYMBOL OF IMPARTIALITY AND FAIRNESS.

I am talking about the symbol of Lady Justice and what she comes to represent. One of the most prominent figures and personifications to ever exist, Lady Justice is the supposed moral compass across all judicial systems and the ultimate symbol of impartiality and fairness.

Let’s go over the symbolism she represents and how it relates to our profession:

- The blindfold she wears. It symbolizes being objective, impartial and treating everyone with the equality and fairness everyone deserves.
- The toga she wears. It signifies the mantle of responsibility and a high level of logic and philosophy we all must conduct ourselves as those in the field of law enforcement and justice.
- Double-edged sword. The sword of justice is a symbol of power and authority. It is a double-edged



A Heartbreaking Loss for a Family, a Fiancée and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Readers of this column learned early on that my monthly articles are rarely about specific PPOA or Unit 621 issues. My highly competent fellow 621 board members use their microphones/articles to update our 621 members on issues, and they do a great job. So, I use this resource to talk about issues that may not necessarily directly affect a specific group but have a more general focus.

That said, I had to change my column topic from the extremely dark topic of suicide and law enforcement to one even more tragic. I have never personally known a member of the Sheriff's Department who was killed in the line of duty. This is, in one way, a positive statement. Extremely intense training has drastically changed the way our deputies (and sheriff's security officers) handle themselves in the field. All you need to do is look at the detailed list on the Officer Down Memorial Page to see how many deputies have been killed in the line of duty in the "old days" versus now.

My article on suicide awareness will have to wait. Time seemed to come to a halt a few weeks ago when the news flashed from Palmdale. When you are home over the weekend, and there is a deputy-involved shooting, it always takes a bit of time to get the whole story. Television news is cautious, many times holding back key details when something bad has just happened. So, you have to keep checking online resources and then maybe contacting other Department sources who may know more than you. Oftentimes, the person you reach out to doesn't know anything, which generates its own line of confusion. Getting bad information makes things even worse. Many years ago, I caught a news snip of a deputy being shot, and I called his station and asked a secretary. I knew who the deputy was. She innocently told me the wrong name, which led to even more confusion and anguish.

Hearing the whole story about a Saturday evening in September when Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer went 10-8 for the final time is just too heartbreaking for any of us to contemplate. Seeing his new fiancée and his grief-stricken family accompanied by equally horrified Sheriff Luna reminds everyone, from the sheriff down to the brand-new Department member who just got hired, that this isn't just a job. This is so much more. We are a family, and like most families, we don't all do things the way others want us to. We don't always



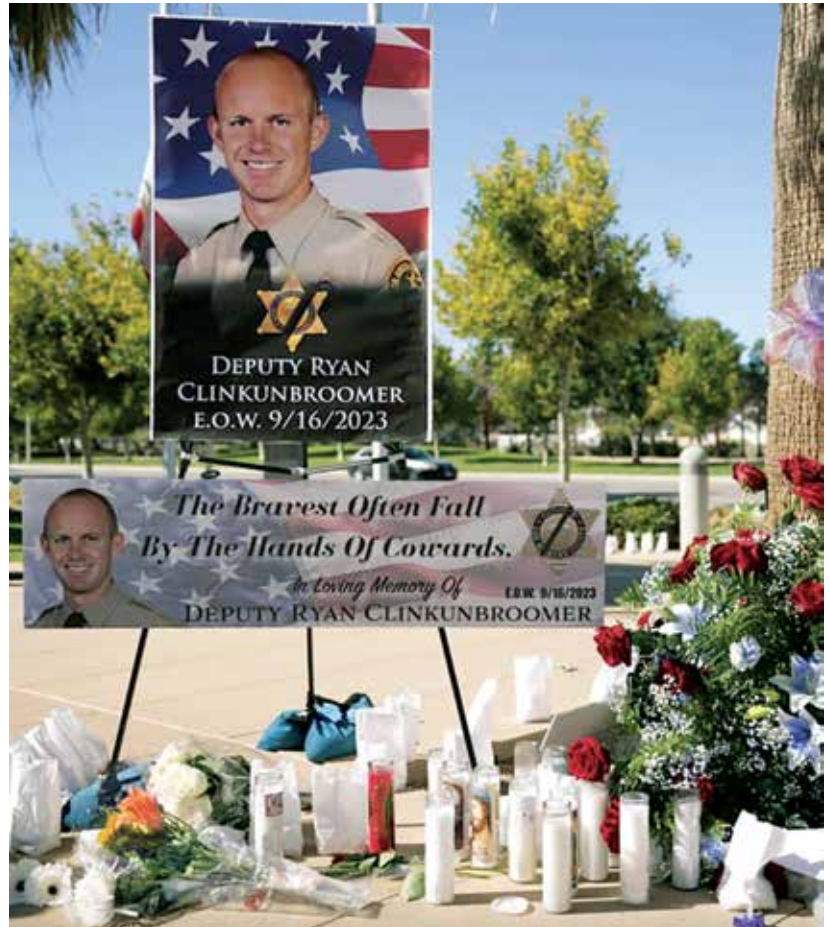
Joe Walker
PPOA Board Member
Crime Analyst, LASD
jwalker@ppoa.com

do things the way other families do. But one thing we all do, and are all doing now, is we cry together. And that is the sound you will hear around our Department for a while.

I have always been a big fan of those sci-fi shows where people can move in time and change history. While writing this, I daydreamed about what I would do if I had those powers. I imagined being on that sunny Palmdale street on that terrible Saturday when an untreated, violent, paranoid schizophrenic saw Deputy Clinkunbroomer and took a shot. How I wish I could have been there to stop the killer, protect the young deputy or even take the bullet myself. This magical thinking might not belong in a police union magazine. It might be better suited for a blog or Instagram post. But we aren't all thinking very clearly now, and if ever there was a

time to be easier on each other, it's now.

Ryan Clinkunbroomer ... we will never forget you. 🇺🇸



PPOA Board Elections

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Unit 612 (three seats)

- Sergeant Kevin Ahsmus
- Sergeant Walter Arcos
- Sergeant Juan Calderon*
- Lieutenant Nancy Escobedo* (not seeking re-election)
- Lieutenant Steve Johnson
- Sergeant Jesse Lucero
- Sergeant Jose Rios*
- Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez

Unit 614 (one seat)

Senior Criminalist Christopher Lee*
No challengers. Lee will be automatically re-elected.

Unit 621 (one seat)**

- Security Officer Gerry Garcia*
- Security Officer Luis Orozco

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Unit 612 (one seat)

Sergeant Jay Chapman*
No challengers. Chapman will be automatically re-elected.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Unit 631/632 (one seat)

Coroner Investigator Joyce Kato*
No challengers. Kato will be automatically re-elected.

**Incumbent*

***This Unit 621 seat is open only to Sheriff's Security Assistants and Security Officers.*

Per PPOA bylaws, ballots and statements will be mailed to eligible members on October 20. Please ensure that PPOA has your correct home mailing address. If any PPOA member in an eligible unit does not receive a ballot by October 30, please call Clare at PPOA: (323) 261-3010. **Completed ballots will be due by November 20, and a ballot count will be conducted in the PPOA conference center on November 21 at 10 a.m.** Members are invited to observe the ballot count.

Candidate Statements

Please note that candidate statements are published as submitted and include no editing from PPOA.



UNIT 612 Kevin Ahsmuhs

SERGEANT

Greetings Fellow Members,
 My name is Kevin Ahsmuhs, I have been on the department for 25 years and a Sergeant for the last ten years. I am currently assigned to

Training Bureau but have worked numerous assignments across the county in my tenure on the department.

I am running for the board because there needs to be a change in leadership. We need a union/board that is dedicated to representing all its members and not just themselves.

→ continued on page 14



UNIT 612 Walter Arcos

SERGEANT

My name is Walter Arcos and I have been on the department for 21 years as a deputy sheriff and now a sergeant. During my time, I have been assigned to NCCF, TTCF, Temple Station, Norwalk Station, San

Dimas Station, Transportation Bureau, and Internal Affairs Bureau.

I believe we need a board that is transparent, holds each other accountable, and dedicated to representing the interests of the union members.

The books should be open to all members who request to see financial records. The board has the privilege to

→ continued on page 14

Candidate Statements

Please note that candidate statements are published as submitted and include no editing from PPOA.



UNIT 612 Juan Carlos Calderon

SERGEANT

To the dedicated and hard working PPOA 612 members,

My name is Juan Carlos Calderon, and I am a Sergeant for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

Department. I have had the opportunity to serve alongside you for over 15 years. I am currently on the PPOA Board of Directors serving not just 612 members, but every single PPOA member who is a part of this great association.

I am running for re-election as a part of the PPOA Board of Directors to work and fight for members of 612.

→ continued on page 14



UNIT 612 Steve Johnson

LIEUTENANT

I am a Lieutenant at East LA Station and I've been on the Department for 15 years. I want to, first of all, highlight the three qualities that set me apart: #1 my experience outside the Department, #2 my experience

within the Department, and #3 my leadership abilities.

I appreciate that we are a collective bargaining entity that aids our personnel in the development of appropriate policies, laws and legislation that protect their rights. Our "Meet and Confer" function coupled with the MMBA are a few of the key ways we do this.

Whether it's SB2, SB16, pre-text stops or K-9

→ continued on page 15



UNIT 612 Jesse Lucero

SERGEANT

My name is Jesse J. Lucero, and I thank you for your time reading this. I seek your support in my candidacy for the position in Unit 612 of the Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA) Board of Directors.

During my 32-year career, I have worked as a Deputy, Field Training Officer, Detective, and Sergeant in the following divisions: Custody, Court Services, Patrol, and Detective Division. I have worked on field assignments that placed me on teams deployed to many of the various stations in the County. This allowed

→ continued on page 15



UNIT 612 Jose Rios

SERGEANT

Transparent, Empowering, Unity: Together, We Thrive
In the heart of our union's vibrant community, I am honored to stand before you as a candidate for a union board seat under the banner of "Transparent

Empowering Unity." Throughout my journey as a dedicated member, I've witnessed the incredible power that comes from working together, shoulder to shoulder, forging a path toward a brighter future.

My commitment to transparency is unwavering. I believe that when information flows freely, and every voice is heard, we become stronger, better informed,

→ continued on page 16



UNIT 612 Oscar Rodriguez

SERGEANT

My name is Oscar Rodriguez and I have been a sworn department member for 16 years. I am currently assigned as a Sergeant at Norwalk Station. During my time, I have been assigned to PDC-

South Facility, Century Station, Marina Del Rey Station, and Norwalk Station.

I'm going to keep this short and simple, I am running for the board because there needs to be a change in leadership. We need a union/board that is dedicated to representing all its members and not just themselves.

→ continued on page 16

Candidate Statements

Please note that candidate statements are published as submitted and include no editing from PPOA.



UNIT 621 Gerardo "Gerry" Garcia

SHERIFF'S SECURITY OFFICER

Hello everyone! Time flies, and it has already been two years since I was elected to the Board of Directors. I take this position responsibly and am grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Thank you!

I have been involved in contract negotiations for the past two years and successfully negotiated a raise and a uniform allowance increase due to our hard work and the presentation of facts. I advocated for increasing the number of saved hours from 180 to 240. I also pushed for the retention of patrol team

→ continued on page 16



UNIT 621 Luis Orozco

SHERIFF'S SECURITY OFFICER

They say "insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results", this seems to be true as it relates to our union representation. The same people are elected and give the same answers when

they're told about our issues: "We'll bring it up at our next meeting", "I'll get back to you on that" or worse - they don't answer at all. It is time this ends and we get the proper representation WE DESERVE.

My name is Luis Orozco, I have been a Sheriff Security Officer for 13 years and have seen our classification decline from a sought-after position

→ continued on page 17

Kevin Ahsmuhs → continued from page 12

The current PPOA Board has ignored the will of most of the members they represent, time and time again, they have failed us.

When other entities like LAPD are seeing significant raises, the PPOA Board refuses to open our contracts, even when told by a Board of Supervisor that an opportunity exists. While other unions fight for their members and get substantial raises, we continue to see contracts that don't even keep up with inflation.

They failed us during the Covid pandemic, leaving us to fend for ourselves when we were threatened with discipline and termination if we didn't follow every order by the board of supervisors, even if we had legitimate reservations about those orders.

They failed a group of our colleagues in the promotional process when a group of Sergeants and Lieutenants were denied their supervisory pay and promotional time when the board of supervisors failed to recognize their promotions.

They have failed us in transparency. The books should be open to all members who request to see financial records, no questions asked. There should not be any closed session meetings that decide how membership dues are to be spent.

I am tired of seeing other unions fight for their members and win, while ours just whimper and bend over for the board of supervisors or the sheriff. If you want to continue seeing more of the same inaction by our union, than vote for the other

candidates, but if you think it's time for change and want to see our union fight for the membership, then vote for me, Sergeant Walter Arcos, and Sergeant Rodriguez. Together we WILL change this union. 🇺🇸

Walter Arcos → continued from page 12

spend our hard earned money. I just ask that the board show where our dues are being spent.

What's right is right and what's wrong is wrong. If a board member is taking advantage of his/her position to benefit themselves then it is incumbent on the other board members to point out the wrong and get it fixed. It doesn't have to be in the bylaws to point out something is wrong.

The Covid pandemic was a challenging time. I did not like the idea of discipline and/or termination if we did not follow every order that was given by the board of supervisors. It felt as though our union voice was not being heard. I hope our current PPOA board learned from that experience and has developed strategies to protect union members moving forward.

I would like to earn your vote to be a part of the change which reflects the concerns and ideas of the current union membership. If you think it's time for change and want to see our union fight for the membership, then vote for Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez, Sergeant Kevin Ahsmuhs and myself. Together we WILL change this union. 🇺🇸

Juan Carlos Calderon → continued from page 13

To quote the late President, John F. Kennedy:
"Ask not what this country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Over the last 4 years, I have dedicated myself and have participated with PPOA to serve our members under a different array of assignments:

- 1) Served as a PPOA Delegate since 2019.

Please note that candidate statements are published as submitted and include no editing from PPOA.

- 2) Served as a member for PPOA's Star & Shield foundation since 2019.
- 3) Served as a member of the contract negotiations team for 612 members during our last contract negotiations with the County of Los Angeles, LASD and LADA.
- 4) Served as a member of the Sheriff's Election Committee in 2022 for the last election for Sheriff of Los Angeles.
- 5) Currently serving on the PPOA Board of Directors.

I bring years of experience, enthusiasm, fresh views and perspectives, and high energy to PPOA and 612 members that is unmatched by others who are seeking election on to the PPOA Board of Directors.

Active participation, constant involvement, and dedication and most importantly, experience is fundamental and paramount for someone to be a part of the PPOA Board of Directors. I feel I bring this to the board and members of 612.

As a member of the Board of Directors, coupled with my previous experiences with PPOA, I have gained firsthand knowledge about the specific issues that affect our membership. I believe I have the ideas and frameworks to improve many of the issues plaguing our membership and profession. Items such as:

- 1) Better pay and benefits
- 2) Membership moral
- 3) Retention of our supervisors
- 4) Fair and equal promotion ability and professional growth opportunities
- 5) Lines of communication between membership, LASD & LADA

All PPOA members DESERVE & DEMAND that they have only the best to represent them. In our profession, these are hard and trying times. Only the most dedicated, cunning, and hardest of working individuals should be representing you on the PPOA Board of Directors.

I will continue to be unwavering in actions and ethics. I will not allow special interests to occupy me. I will not stand for unfairness and preferential treatment of only a select few.

I ask for your vote to allow me to continue the work that I have started to serve 612 members.

Allow me to continue to fight the fight you all deserve.

Thank you so much for your time, and I hope I can count on your vote and support.

Juan Carlos Calderon 🇺🇸

Steve Johnson → *continued from page 13*

deployment issues, I continue to be impressed with our union's current efforts to fight state proposed legislation which seeks to limit our abilities to work safely.

Defunding of police and other trends to offset our abilities will remain until threat levels in society increase to a point where overly progressive agendas are no longer sustainable.

Our new and short-tenured hires will have challenges we did not encounter. And law enforcement has been hard to staff across the board. Morale is low, but the tide will turn. I am very hopeful. Our

union is key in adapting to this new realm of law and policy.

I graduated from the United States Air Force Academy where I majored in Political Science. On active duty during the Gulf War, I served as a C-130 Aircraft Flight Navigator. I served for 8 years, achieving the rank of Captain.

After their service in the military, my grandfather and father obtained jobs which remained viable because they were unionized. From a young age, I intuitively understood the power of union organizing and I have followed in their footsteps, first with ALADS and now with PPOA.

Shortly after obtaining my Master's in Business from USC in 2020, I campaigned for a local city council seat. I truly understand the political process. The most disheartening part of that process was when I witnessed first-hand how politicians receive financial endorsements from various law enforcement unions but then later blatantly turn their back on us by betraying their commitments.

I have had the pleasure of working in specialized units such as Internal Affairs and within BOLRAC, often times with PPOA attorneys and representatives. My work there to ensure fairness and balance speaks for itself. I understand on a deep level what our members encounter when allegations are placed against them. I understand the stress and anxiety administrative cases can cause. But there are ways we can alleviate that pressure on our members.

As a leader, I have an innate ability to garner trust and work with people from all perspectives. Contention exists in every group work model. But the key is how quickly can we organize and move from contention toward consensus into action.

I appreciate your consideration. I believe my experience, values and abilities will be a great asset to the board.

Thank you. 🇺🇸

Jesse Lucero → *continued from page 13*

me to gain insight into the different needs of the Patrol Divisions and Stations.

I have one reason for running for the PPOA Board of Directors. I want to serve our membership. I want everyone's voice to be heard. From the North County (Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita) to the South from the East to the West. I commit to fighting for our pay, benefits, and workplace rights.

LASD members are working hard and being asked to do more with less. The work levels have never been this bad. We are being attacked by print and TV media. Hiring levels are low, and we are losing many to other agencies. This is a crucial time for the PPOA leadership to take a stand and safeguard the protected rights of our union members.

The Sheriff's Department is now in its fourth administration since 2014. The changes with each administration have made the membership constantly adapt to each Sheriff's new vision for the future. Unfortunately, our members have suffered. We also are dealing with a law enforcement landscape that has challenged all of us to keep moving forward. PPOA leadership must convey that while the members will always respect and adapt to new ideas of change and

→ *continued on page 16*

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Jesse Lucero → *continued from page 15*

reform, the administration must remember that our Department has a long and storied history. We must uphold the traditions that have made our Department one of the finest in the United States.

In closing, I am running to fight for the members and our voices to be heard by the Department. 🇺🇸

Jose Rios → *continued from page 13*

and more united. As a board member, I will work tirelessly to ensure that every decision made on your behalf is clear and accessible, leaving no room for doubt or confusion.

Empowerment is at the core of our union's mission. I envision a workplace where each member feels protected and empowered to reach their fullest potential. I will champion initiatives that foster personal and professional growth, from training and mentorship programs to advocating for fair wages and benefits that truly reflect our dedication.

Unity is our greatest asset. Together, we are an unstoppable force for positive change. I pledge to bridge divides, build consensus, and create an inclusive environment where every member's unique perspective is celebrated. When we stand together, we are not just a union; we are a family, a community, and a force to be reckoned with.

With your support, we can embrace "Transparent Empowering Unity" and shape a future where our collective strength knows no bounds. Let us continue our journey toward a workplace that meets our needs and elevates our aspirations. Together, we will thrive. 🇺🇸

Oscar Rodriguez → *continued from page 13*

When it has come to contract negotiations, this union has failed us over and over again. While other unions fight for their members and get substantial raises, we continue to see contracts that don't even keep up with inflation.

They failed us during the Covid pandemic, leaving us to fend for ourselves when we were threatened with discipline and termination if we didn't follow every order by the board of supervisors, even if we had legitimate reservations about those orders.

They failed a group of our colleagues in the promotional process when a group of Sergeants and Lieutenants were denied their supervisory pay and promotional time when the board of supervisors failed to recognize their promotions.

They have failed us in transparency. The books should be open to all members who request to see financial records, no questions asked. There should not be any closed session meetings that decide how membership dues are to be spent.

I am tired of seeing other unions fight for their members and win, while ours just whimper and bend over for the

board of supervisors or the sheriff. If you want to continue seeing more of the same inaction by our union, than vote for the other candidates, but if you think it's time for change and want to see our union fight for the membership, then vote for me, Sergeant Walter Arcos, and Sergeant Kevin Ahsmuhs. Together we WILL change this union. 🇺🇸

Gerardo "Gerry" Garcia → *continued from page 14*

members, and although the County did not approve it, I made a considerable effort.

Throughout my tenure, I had the opportunity to oversee three job fairs, two at County Services and one at Colleges. During this time, I had to make tough decisions to ensure a fair outcome for all personnel involved, including new hires and those who had been with the Department for over 20 years. Additionally, I was responsible for handling the issues surrounding the cancellation of the Probation Contract.

Throughout my career, I have always made a conscious effort to address any complaints or issues raised by my coworkers while still working overtime to support other bureaus. Despite my growth from a Security Assistant to a Sheriff's Security Officer with over 18 years of experience and step raises, I will always remember where I came from.

As a Sheriff's Security Officer, I have brought up equipment-related issues like firearms. Currently, personnel who want to exchange their Beretta for the Smith and Wesson will have the opportunity to do so in the coming months. Vehicle shortage has also been a topic of discussion, and the Department has responded that no vehicles are available for the classification. However, I will continue following up on this issue. There is no policy on what a Sheriff's Security vehicle should be equipped with, but I am working on it.

The issue with uniforms has been ongoing due to changes in leadership and the need to start from scratch. I have been allowed to sit on the Uniform Committee, which has allowed me to be deeply involved in addressing uniform-related issues. I am currently creating a proposal for an exterior vest suitable for static situations and inclement weather. More information will be coming soon regarding Class "B," polo shirts, and duty uniforms. Additionally, I continue working with attorneys to create language that will protect each of us regarding the 48/50 time.

In the past 21 years, I have witnessed significant growth in the classifications, and it's essential to have someone with ample experience to represent our issues and make sure that our voices are heard. I kindly request your support for my re-election to the Director's Position since I have important work to continue, and I have established a constructive and collaborative relationship with the top personnel of the Department.

Thank you for your time, Gerardo "Gerry" Garcia. 🇺🇸

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Luis Orozco → continued from page 14

in the County to the underpaid, overworked, unappreciated, low-morale state it is currently in. Considering the level of risk we put ourselves in every day when we go to work, it is only right that we are represented, respected, and compensated accordingly. Some might not care that we are some of the lowest-paid positions in the department; they would rather put more focus into what color shirt we wear – a topic that has gone unaccomplished for years. If allowed to represent our classification, I would not waste time on trivial pursuits; I would focus on interests that will benefit us all.

Overall higher pay is one of the goals I will pursue if elected as representative along with the following:

Standardized Training – Every member in our classification should receive the same training regardless of their assignment so there is a baseline level of training and readiness when they arrive at their assignment.

Compensation – Receiving bonus pay similar to our partners (i.e. Patrol Retention, Longevity Pay, Equal Uniform Allowances as our partners, Higher Education Pay if you received a degree after joining the department and 100% IOD pay similar to our partners).

Better Equipment – Equipping assignments with proper equipment to improve the safety and performance of our duties.

Transparency – Better communication between the union and its members. Promoting the establishment of a live streaming and recorded system so members can see EXACTLY what is being discussed during meetings without the need to physically attend meetings at distant locations that conflict with their work hours or personal duties.

I am sure there will be some people who will read this message and disregard it as unobtainable or unrealistic goals, but I truly believe if our classification wants to improve we must try, we must have our concerns heard and we must do this together. I am not seeking your support to be some title-holder who only looks out for his friends and people who backed me; I am seeking your support to advance our classification for everyone.

Whether you decide to vote for me or you vote for someone else, I do ask one more thing – DEMAND MORE. Make sure the representative you support is working for you, backing you, Do not speak FOR you, instead they amplify the message you want to be delivered. Thank you all for considering me and I hope to represent you soon. 🇺🇸

REGISTER NOW!

THE CALIFORNIA NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
59TH ANNUAL
TRAINING INSTITUTE & LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPOSITION

NOVEMBER 17–21, 2023
NUGGET CASINO RESORT | SPARKS, NEVADA



CNOA.org
(661) 775-6960

Pre-registration: \$675
(postmarked by October 15)

Door and late registration: \$715
(after October 15)

Registration includes CNOA membership dues for 2024. Life members may deduct \$100.

- › Over 32 workshops
- › POST-certified under Plan NA-24 Hours
- › Community college credit available
- › STC work-related credit available
- › MCLE credit available

Delegates Gather for Quarterly Meeting

PPOA delegates met with union Board members and staff last month in Alhambra. Topics of discussion at the quarterly meeting included health care premiums, union Board elections, the Public Records Act, bargaining

unit contracts and more. We were also honored to be joined by a special guest speaker, Ron DeLord. The fiery former Texas cop-turned-labor organizer spoke with delegates about the impact of the police reform movement and the challenges going forward. ♡



SPOOKTACULAR SAVINGS FOR PPOA MEMBERS

The weather is cooling off, but the Halloween deals are heating up! PPOA members can snag discount tickets for **Knott's Scary Farm** and **Universal Studios Halloween Horror Nights** all month long.

For dates and details, visit **PPOA.com** or call PPOA at (323) 261-3010.

RETIREMENT WORKSHOP FOR PPOA MEMBERS

Saturday, October 28, 2023

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PPOA Conference Center

188 E. Arrow Highway, San Dimas

FREE for active PPOA members

Gain valuable insight from:

- LACERA
- Workers' Comp Law Firm
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Horizons
- LASD Logistics
- PPOA Retiree Rep



Update: All seats have now been reserved for this event. The next PPOA Retirement Workshop will be hosted in Spring 2024. Details TBA.

Assessing Candidates for 2024 Primary Elections

During the PPOA Board of Directors meeting in September, Efren Martinez spoke with Board members about his endorsement request and campaign for Assembly District 57, which encompasses the eastern Gateway Cities region and southern San Gabriel Valley. ♥



ATTENTION ACTIVE PPOA MEMBERS

You are invited to attend the L.A. County District Attorney Candidates Forum and Debate

**October 18, 2023
Pacific Palms Resort,
Industry, 6 p.m.**

Co-hosted by PPOA, ALADS, ADDA, LAPPL, PORAC and LBPOA

RSVP is mandatory, as seating is strictly limited. Email your full name, employee number and phone number to info@ppoa.com.

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 October 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

This month's hidden word is:

Infrastructure

The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise

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

JOIN US



19TH ANNUAL

PPOA RETIREE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Sheraton Fairplex, Pomona




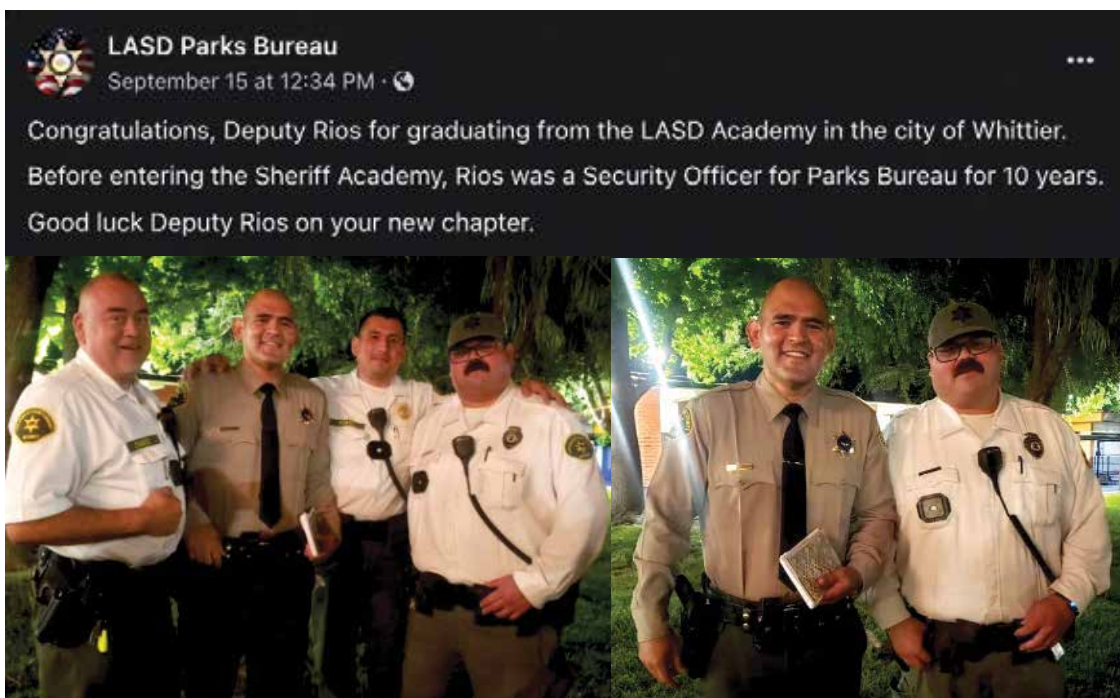
***Free for retired PPOA members
+1 guest each!***

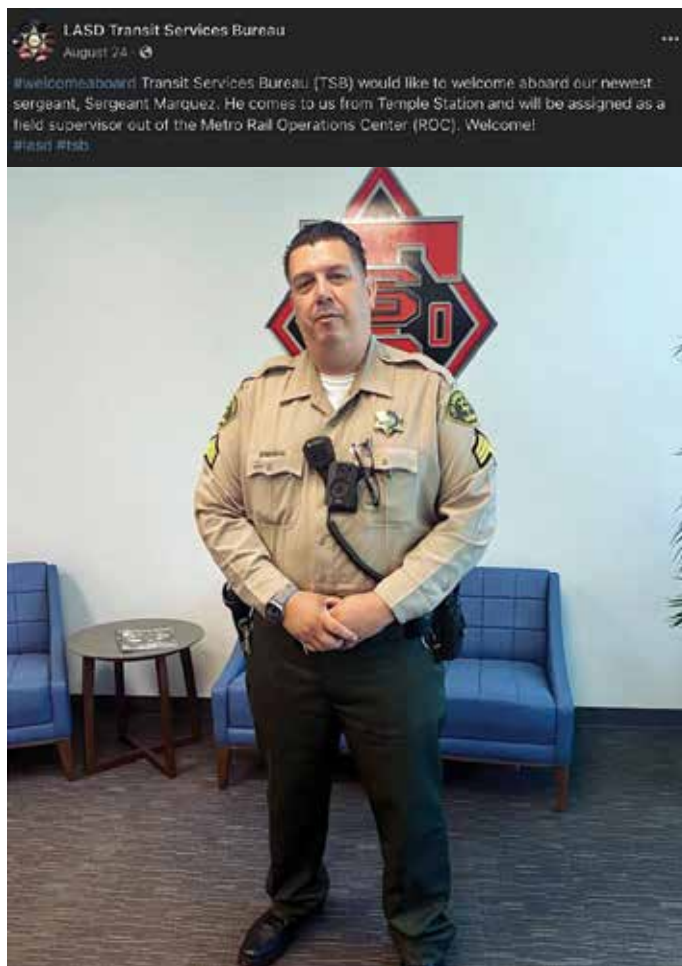
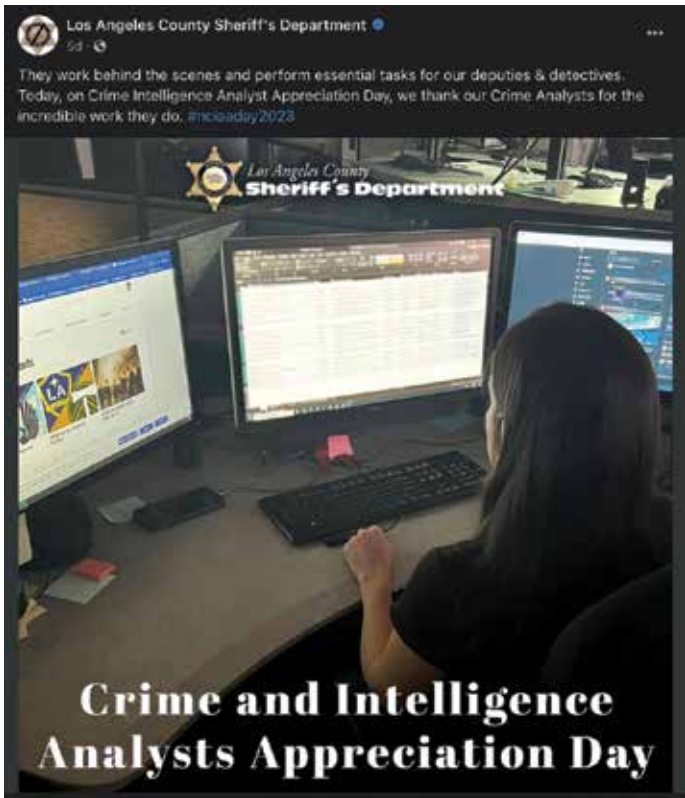
RSVP by October 27 to (323) 261-3010 or info@ppoa.com.

Please include your first name, last name and whether you will bring a guest.

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.* 





PPOA Welcomes New Members

PPOA representatives met with 15 newly hired Custody Assistants at Biscailuz Center during their first day of orientation in September. We look forward to seeing Class #109 at their graduation in November and wish them well as they begin their promising new careers with the Sheriff's Department.

PPOA representatives also met with 28 LASD Sergeants during their first day of Supervisory School at STARS Center on August 28 to answer questions and discuss their crucial roles on the Department. 🇺🇸



RETIREE EVENTS



HR-218 Qualification

October 15 and 29
PDC (Wayside) Range

Retired Female Deputies Social Club Biannual Luncheon

November 4
Holiday Inn Long Beach Airport
11 a.m. social hour, 12 p.m. luncheon
Guest speaker: Sheriff Luna
Info: Contact Marguerite at mlwaddy@msn.com or (323) 778-2635

19th Annual PPOA Retiree Luncheon

November 7
Sheraton Fairplex, Pomona
12 p.m.
Free for retired PPOA members +1 guest
RSVP to: (323) 261-3010

LASD Retiree Roundup

April 7–10, 2024
Riverside Resort and Casino, Laughlin

Retired Guys & Gals Breakfast Club

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

Desert Heat Retirees Luncheon

First Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m.
Elks Lodge, Lake Havasu
Info: Lnx1993@yahoo.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



PPOA Committees and Staff

2023 STANDING COMMITTEES

Associations

> Chairwoman Escobedo

Bylaws

> Chairman Coleman

Communications

> Chairman Chapman

Delegates

> Chairman Coleman

Finance

> Chairwoman Kato

Insurance

> Chairman Lee

Legislative

> Chairman Reddy

Membership

> Chairman Garcia

612 Negotiations

> Chairwoman Escobedo

614 Negotiations

> Chairman Lee

621 Negotiations

> Chairman Coleman

631 Negotiations

> Chairwoman Kato

632 Negotiations

> Chairwoman Kato

Retiree Liaison

> Chairman Schallert

Scholarship

> Chairwoman Kato

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Lang, Hansen, Giroux & Kidane

Visit PPOA.com to read about PPOA's position on legislative bills proposed in the current session.

STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Quint Jr.

Executive Director

Richard Escalante

Field Representative

Clare Franco

Administrative Assistant

Violet P. Moreno

Administrative Assistant

Dave Ladjevic

Labor Representative

Art Reddy

Legislative Consultant

Mark Sanchez

Labor Representative

Shannon Schreck

Administrative Assistant

Kevin F. Thompson

Intake Representative

Greg Torres

Public Relations Coordinator

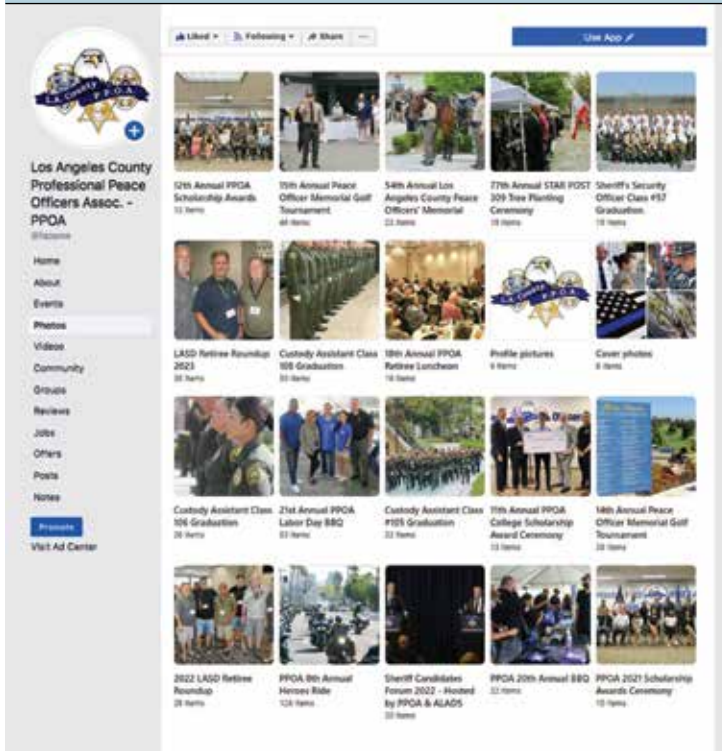
Maricela Villegas

Executive Administrative Assistant

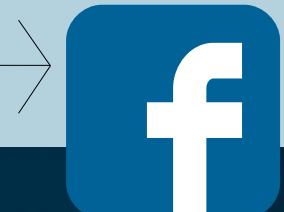
Venise Wallace

Sr. Labor Representative

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

Support for South Los Angeles Station Personnel

PPOA representatives were proud to fire up our barbecue trailer and serve lunch for Staff Appreciation Day last month at South Los Angeles (SLA) Station. We partnered with POPA Federal Credit Union for the event to provide giveaways and acknowledge SLA personnel for their dedication to public service. 🇺🇸




Special Funeral Savings

ACT NOW: THIS OFFER EXPIRES November 30, 2023

Save up to \$1,897*
on a prepaid Tribute Plan funeral package

Call 888-818-8644 for a no-obligation tour or appointment with Mark Ortega.

ROSE HILLS
MEMORIAL PARK & MORTUARY

*Based on the purchase of a complete funeral Tribute plan for \$11,475 with package savings of \$750 plus an additional 10% discount for a total savings of \$1,897. Offer expires November 30, 2023 and is subject to change without notice. Additional restrictions apply. Contact your Rose Hills advisor for more details.

Whittier | COA 610 | FD 970 | CA INS LIC: ODO4129



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

These events and more can be found on PPOA's online calendar at PPOA.com. Do you know of a Department-related event we can help promote? Email details to info@ppoa.com.

October 20

PPOA Board Election Ballots Mailed to Eligible Members
See page 12

October 22

Anaheim Ducks Law Enforcement Appreciation Night
Visit PPOA.com for details

October 28

PPOA Retirement Workshop
San Dimas
Update: All seats have now been reserved. Next workshop to be held in spring 2024.

November 1–3

USPFC Fall Classic
Legacy Park, Mesa, Arizona

November 8

PPOA Board of Directors Meeting
San Dimas
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Members: RSVP to (323) 261-3010

November 20

Deadline to receive PPOA Board Election Ballots
See page 12

November 21

Ballot Count for PPOA Board Election Ballots
10 a.m. in the PPOA conference center.
Members are invited to observe.

November 25

L.A. Sheriff Athletic Association Shotgun Tournament
LA Clays, South El Monte
8 a.m.
Info: mjmunoz@lasd.org

Los Angeles District Attorney Investigators' Association

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, November 3, 2023

California Country Club
1509 South Workman Mill Road, Whittier, California 90601

Check-In 7:30 AM
Opening Ceremony 9:00
Shotgun Start 9:30

REGISTRATION
Foursome: \$175.00/Golfer
Individual: \$200.00

A portion of proceeds will benefit
Special Olympics of Southern California

Special Olympics Southern California | LETR

TO REGISTER, PLEASE EMAIL: LADAIAGolfTourney@gmail.com

Provide your name, contact information, and number of golfers in your group.
You will be contacted with payment information & additional details.

In Memory of ANTHONY D. THOMPSON

6th ANNUAL MEMORIAL 5K RUN AND WALK FOR A CAUSE!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 04, 2023

REGISTRATION: 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM | CEREMONY: 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM | RACE BEGINS AT 9:00 AM
5000 E. OCEAN BLVD, LONG BEACH, CA 90803 (ROSIE DOG BEACH)

Join us as we come together to help support our community's youth by raising funds for academic scholarships which will be awarded by the Officer Anthony Thompson Foundation and raise awareness of our public safety campaign to help make our freeways safer

It only takes a second for a mother to lose everything. Her only daughter. Her little boy. The love of her life. Mama Koko will forever feel pain losing her only son, Anthony. We won't stop until no mother has to experience this 100% preventable loss again but we need your compassion to get us closer. Be driven by a mother's pain and help stop more Victims of Drunk and Wrong Way Driving!

MEMORIAL 5K RUN AND WALK ONLINE REGISTRATION AT FAWWD.ORG
\$50.00 ONLINE REGISTRATION
100% PROCEEDS TO OFFICER ANTHONY THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
TAX DEDUCTABLE 501(C)(3)

zelle | venmo | OFFICER ANTHONY THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
GOLF QUESTIONS? E-MAIL US AT 123456789@GMAIL.COM

FAWWD.ORG | @FAWWD | FAWWD



Hundreds Attend Annual PPOA Labor Day Barbecue

PPOA was proud to host the 22nd Annual Pre-Labor Day BBQ and General Membership Meeting at Biscailuz Center. More than 400 PPOA members and guests enjoyed an afternoon of food, friends and fun. Special thanks to Sheriff Luna for taking the time to join us and visit with members. PPOA is grateful to everyone who helped us honor the hardworking men and women who put the “labor” in Labor Day! To see more photos from the event, visit the LAPPOA Facebook page. 🇺🇸



PPOA extends our sincere condolences to the loved ones of the following members who passed away in August:

**Retired Sergeant
James Crider**

EOW: August 1, 2023
 LASD ret. 2007
 Academy Class #178
 Last assignment: Temple Station
 U.S. Marine Corps veteran
 Condolences may be
 emailed to the family:
criderhud2@bresnan.net

**Retired Deputy
Richard B. Olson**

EOW: August 3, 2023
 LASD ret. 1980
 Last assignment: Lennox Station
 U.S. Army veteran

**Retired Deputy
Miguel M. Castillo**

EOW: August 6, 2023
 LASD ret. 2010
 Academy Class #225
 Last assignment:
 Personnel Bureau
 Condolences may be
 emailed to the family:
franmcastillo@live.com

**Retired Sergeant
David "Dock" Parnell**

EOW: August 7, 2023
 LASD ret. 1967
 Academy Class #39
 Last assignment: Detective Bureau
 U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force veteran

**Retired Corrections
Officer/Reserve Deputy
Palm Calhoun Jr.**

EOW: August 26, 2023
 LASD ret. 1993
 Last assignment: Custody
 Administration
 U.S. Navy veteran
 Spouse of retired MDR Station Parking
 Control Officer Virginia Calhoun
 Condolences may be emailed to the
 family: *mrsvirginia47@gmail.com*

**Retired Sergeant
Neal Gayhart**

EOW: August 27, 2023
 LASD ret. 2004
 Last assignment: Homicide Bureau
 Academy Class #170
 Spouse of retired Deputy Sandi Gayhart



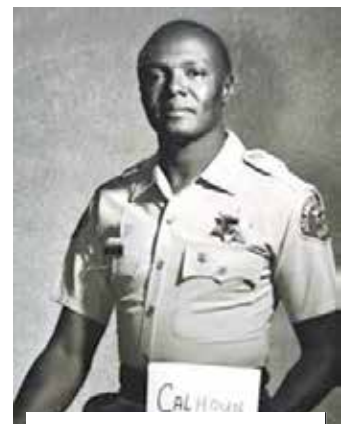
Retired Sergeant
Neal Gayhart
(EOW: 8/27/23)



Retired Sergeant
David "Dock" Parnell
(EOW: 8/7/23)



Retired Sergeant
James Crider
(EOW: 8/1/23)



Retired Corrections Officer/
Reserve Deputy Palm
Calhoun Jr. (EOW: 8/26/23)

Can Your Credit Limit *Decrease*?

Have you ever had your credit card denied, only to find out that your credit limit had been lowered? According to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the credit card issuer can lower your limit at any time, and they are not required to notify you ahead of time.

The most common reason a credit card issuer will lower your limit is because your spending behavior is raising red flags. If you're frequently maxing out your credit cards or carrying huge balances, the issuer may lower your limit to decrease their risk.

Conversely, *not* using a card may also decrease its limit. The company makes money on the card only if you use it. If you don't use it, they'll decrease your limit and allocate the available credit to a more active user.

They may also decrease credit limits during shaky economic periods, as some did during the height of the COVID pandemic.

When lenders reduce credit limits, your total debt utilization ratio — the amount of credit you are using divided by the total credit available — increases, which causes your credit score to drop.

If creditors believe that you're at higher risk of default — that is, when you're close to (or in) debt trouble — they're more likely to decrease your credit line. Here are some tips to help you avoid the pitfalls of a decreased credit limit:

- **Check accounts online regularly.** At the very least, check it monthly when you get your statement. It's also



wise to look at your account before making a big-ticket purchase.

- **Keep a card or two with low or no balances.** That way, if your limit is decreased on one card, your debt utilization ratio doesn't skyrocket.
- **Stay out of credit card debt trouble.** Credit card companies are most likely to reduce the credit limits of higher-risk customers. Avoid making late payments or applying for too much credit. Generally, anything that could drop your credit score could also make you vulnerable to a credit limit decrease. 🛡️

ATTENTION
PPOA
MEMBERS

We need your personal (non-Department) email address! If you have not received an email blast from PPOA in the last 30 days (we send at least one per week), that means:

- 1** Your email address is not on file with PPOA, or
- 2** We have only your County email address (PPOA sends membership-wide email blasts to personal addresses only).

Either way, we need your personal (non-Department) email address so that we can disseminate important news to you as quickly as possible. Please email your address to info@ppoa.com and reference "email updates" in the subject line.



HISTORIC LASD BADGE AND BUCKLE

Description provided by badge owner (retired LASD Lt.): L.A. County Sheriff's badge, circa 1932, number 12. According to Sheriff's Personnel Bureau, the badge represents the first of the six-pointed star series. The back is stamped Chipron Stamp Co., L.A. The sterling silver buckle, 3 1/4" long and 2 1/4" wide, was made by Edward H. Bohlin, known as the "saddle and buckle maker to the stars" in the early days. The buckle is hand-engraved with rope filigree edging. The front is adorned with an applied LASD star, #12 and initials "H.G." Marked on back: Bohling made — Hollywood, CA — sterling. The badge and buckle are encased in a custom-made gold-colored shadow box with a dark navy-blue background. The badge, buckle and frame are in pristine condition. Price for all: \$6,000. Contact: (702) 227-0345. (1122)



SO. ONTARIO POOL HOME FOR RENT IN QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD

Corner lot, partially furnished 3 bd./ba., 2-car garage, alarm, A/C, lock pool enclosure, lock gates, cable hookup. Within Chino School District (pre-K, middle school) and Chaffey Joint School District (high school). Close to freeways, malls. No pets/no smoking. Month to month offered at \$2,550 (1st and last month req.) plus second deposit of \$1,300. Call (909) 917-5074. (0423)

LAGUNA BEACH RENTAL

Laguna Surf Resort, oceanfront unit. Check in 10/27/23, check out 11/03/23. \$1,550. Inclusive, no additional taxes or fees. 1 BDRM plus murphy bed, sleeps 4, 2 baths, fireplace, kitchen. See site for pics: Lagunasurf.org. Contact jasewards@me.com or (360) 301-0277. (0923)

LUDWIG DRUMS FOR SALE

Vintage 1976 Clear Vistalites, olive/blue badges, similar serial #s, very good condition. No cracks/chips/gouges. Solid seams. All hardware/ cymbals included. Bass: 22x16, snare: 6.5x14 / Toms: 16x16, 13x10, 12x9 / Paiste: 14" hi hats & 20" ride / Zildjian: 16" med crash & 16" lite / Orig. SpeedKing & new Tama double pedals. Most hardware original Ludwig. \$4,000 obo. Text Jim: (562) 321-4122. (1022)

BROWNING SHOTGUN FOR SALE

Browning Citori model 425, 12 ga, O/U w/ 28" barrels, nickel/silver and three chokes. Factory box and papers, unfired. \$1,400 obo. Call (714) 350-7914. (0523)

SCROLL SAW FOR SALE

Hawk 226 VS Scroll Saw with base table. \$200. Call Richard: (626) 444-0686. (1022)

LA HABRA ROOM FOR RENT

For 1 person, \$1,500/month + utilities. Avail. September 2023. Male or female, clean, quiet, responsible, friendly. 2-story home/upstairs room w/ view of Disneyland fireworks. Kitchen access/ light cooking. Parking in driveway. Washer/dryer available. Pool access. No overnight guests. No smoking, vaping, drugs. No pets. Month-to-month lease. (562) 217-7371. (1023)

GREEN VALLEY LAKE CABIN

Beautiful cabin in the "hidden gem" of the San Bernardino Mountains, Green Valley Lake. 1532-sq.-ft., 3-bdrm, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces, pool table. Short 3-min. walk to the lake. Sleeps 6. \$190 per night + cleaning fee. Call Tom (909) 957-8036. (1023)

2001 HARLEY ELECTRA GLIDE CLASSIC

Only 34,369 miles on it. Asking \$8,000. Call (626) 392-8507. (1023)



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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Our firm of 15 attorneys and over 50 support staff are dedicated to professional, personal service.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

State Bar Certified Specialist

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.

(818) 703-6000

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Making a false or fraudulent workers' compensation claim is a felony subject to up to five years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000.00 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and fine.