

Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association

Volume 51 Issue 1

January 2024

# STAR & SHIELD

# NEW PPOA LEADERSHIP

Directors Elected, President Selected

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A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY
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PPOA DELEGATES HONORED

SEE PAGE 10

100-PLUS RETIREES
REUNITE AT PPOA LUNCHEON

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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.

The Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the PPOA offices at 9 a.m.

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Tony Coleman Second Vice President

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Kevin Ahsmuhs Walter Arcos Roel Garcia Luis Orozco Jose Salgado Jim Schallert Joe Walker

## O PPOA Affiliations

California Coalition of Law **Enforcement Associations (CCLEA)** California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation (CPOMF) **Coalition of Los Angeles** County Unions (CCU) Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Los Angeles County Organization of Police and Sheriffs (LACOPS) Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO **National Conference of Public Employee Retirement Systems Public Employees Staff** Organization (PESO)



Southern California Alliance of Law Enforcement (SCALE)

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LA County PPOA



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# This Year Holds Immense **Opportunity for Our Membership**

want to express my appreciation and gratitude upon being recently elected as president of PPOA. I am honored to represent you! I thank and acknowledge outgoing President Nancy Escobedo for her years of dedicated service to PPOA and its membership. Following in the footsteps of my predecessor will be a huge order, and I aim to expand upon the vision and servant leadership she provided. Our members are the true leaders of PPOA. The PPOA team and I have the privilege of serving and protecting your interests to the utmost of our ability. Specifically, with negotiations on the horizon, I promise you nothing less than our best.

Theodore Roosevelt, whose leadership I have long admired, once stated, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the

strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly." This quote, in my opinion, applies to our PPOA members because we are an association of men and woman who, on a daily basis, strive in the arena of Los Angeles County against dire situations while producing quality results within the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Medical Examiner. We do our duties with dignity and pride despite unimaginable odds. This is why I feel so privileged to protect and support this Association.

For our retiree members, we truly look forward to supporting you and the legacy you provided that encouraged so many of us to pursue our chosen professions. We continue to see increases in both the population of our retired base and the activities in which they engage. We anticipate a 2024 Roundup in Laughlin this April that expands the value of the contributions of our retired members. To those of you with retirement on the horizon or who have recently retired, I wish you continued success in all your new endeavors.

This year's upcoming public election cycle will bring to the surface various candidates, issues and legislation in which PPOA will be strongly engaged to protect the rights and livelihood of our members. In collaboration with our affiliated unions, we will strategically fight to ensure we remain viable, healthy and safe. If change is a constant, we must adapt in a form and manner that reaches the best outcome with the highest result.

Regarding our physical and mental well-being, let us do our utmost to guard against those stress inhibitors that often go unchecked and can lead to further complications. Unlike any other time in our profession, we are met with challenges in the virtual realm such as unbridled cellular phone usage, social media dissention and internet/data security constraints. These can be



Steve Johnson PPOA President Lieutenant, LASD sjohnson@ppoa.com

likened to digital obstacles, which are easily amplified. Let us be mindful of the impact these platforms can have on our time and energy.

Congratulations are in order for Custody Assistant Class #109 and Security Officer Class #59. Collectively, these two Academy classes graduated 34 fine individuals in November. PPOA representatives were honored to attend both ceremonies (see photos on pages 22-23) to cheer on the graduates and acknowledge their accomplishment.

I also want to recognize the 15 recruits from Custody Assistant Class #110 who began their careers on December 4. PPOA proudly welcomed these newly hired women and men during their first day of orientation, and we look forward to their graduation next month.

In December, I also had the privilege of attending the annual PPOA delegates' holiday luncheon held in Glendale. The turnout was outstanding, and it was amazing to see our Association's bargaining unit members represented in full force.

As we progress through 2024, let us continue our "Tradition of Success." This year holds immense opportunity for our membership. Let us make it a momentous year!



President Steve Johnson and First Vice President Jay Chapman present a plaque to former President Nancy Escobedo in acknowledgment of the stellar leadership she provided to this Association.

# **Contract Negotiations**

appy new year! As we begin 2024, PPOA's most important resolution is to prepare for and begin negotiations in good faith with the County of Los Angeles for successor Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to PPOA's existing 2022-2025 MOUs. PPOA is the exclusive bargaining unit (B/U) for thousands of employees of the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office and Coroner's Office (Department of Medical Examiner). PPOA is the only union that can negotiate for their wages, hours and working conditions, and only PPOA members have the right to ratify a potential contract. PPOA negotiates under the mandate of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act and receives its exclusive representation status from that state law and

the Los Angeles County Employee Relations Commission (ERCOM).

PPOA's first negotiations process in 2024 will be for *B/U* 612 (LASD/LADA: Sergeants and Lieutenants). The current 612 MOU expires January 31, 2025. All B/U 612 employees will receive the third and final salary adjustment (3.25%) of the current MOU effective July 1, 2024. Well before this date, the PPOA 612 Negotiating Team for a successor MOU will be in place, as negotiations are set to begin no later than October 15, 2024.

Like the previous MOU negotiations, *B/U 621* (LASD: Civilian Investigator, Court Services Specialist, Crime Analyst, Custody Assistant, Law Enforcement Technician, Public Response Dispatcher I, Public Response Dispatcher II, Public Response Dispatcher Specialist, Supervising Public Response Dispatcher, Security Assistant and Security Officer) will start after B/U 612 is at the bargaining table, thus becoming PPOA's second negotiations process in 2024. The current 621 MOU expires March 31, 2025. All B/U 621 employees will receive the third and final salary adjustment (3.25%) of the current MOU effective October 1, 2024. Well before this date, the PPOA 621 Negotiating Team for a successor MOU will be in place, as negotiations are set to begin no later than January 15, 2025.

PPOA's *B/U 614* (Coroner and LASD: Criminalist, Criminalist Lab Technician, Forensic ID Specialist I, Forensic ID Specialist II and Senior Criminalist) will begin their negotiations process later in 2024. The current 614 MOU expires on September 30, 2025. All B/U 614 employees will receive the third and final salary adjustment (3.25%) of the current MOU effective October 1, 2024. B/U 614 will begin negotiations no later than June 14, 2025.

PPOA's B/U 631 (Coroner: Coroner Investigator and Trainee



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

Coroner Investigator) and *B/U 632* (Coroner: Supervising Coroner's Investigator I and Supervising Coroner's Investigator II) will begin their negotiations process later in 2024. The current 631/632 MOU expires September 30, 2025. All B/U 631/632 employees will receive the third and final salary adjustment (3.25%) of the current MOU effective October 1, 2024. B/U 631/632 will begin negotiations no later than June 1, 2025.

Each of the four PPOA MOUs are available for members to view at *PPOA.com*. All active PPOA 612, 621, 614 and 631/632 members are strongly encouraged to make sure that PPOA has your personal, non-Department (LASD, LADA or DME) email address in order to receive negotiation updates and contract communications. If you are presently not

receiving the Saturday morning Week in Review email, then PPOA probably does not have your personal email address on file. Please send it to *info@ppoa.com*.

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PPOA'S MOST IMPORTANT
RESOLUTION IS TO PREPARE FOR
AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN
GOOD FAITH WITH THE COUNTY
FOR SUCCESSOR MOUS.

In addition to the above *salary* bargaining tables, 2024 will also include *fringe benefits* negotiations between the Coalition of County Unions (CCU), which includes PPOA, ALADS and 13 other unions (*coalitionofcountyunions.com*), and the County of Los Angeles. The current 2022–2025 Fringe Benefits MOU (available to view at *PPOA.com*) expires March 31, 2025, with negotiations set to begin no later than December 31, 2024.

It is once again imperative that the Board of Supervisors recognizes and addresses one of its most urgent fiscal priorities: the superior economic and fringe benefits successor MOUs for its represented workforce who will be at the bargaining table with the County of Los Angeles in 2024.

May the coming year bring our active and retired PPOA members God's blessings, good health and the fulfillment of your dreams.

# **Challenges Facing the Department Continue to Stymie Hiring Process for Custody Assistants**

appy new year to you all. A new year, new leadership, yet the work continues, especially with the challenges facing the Department that affect us all.

The past year saw unprecedented amounts of overtime and drafting. CARP is entering year four, and the applications are not what they once were as the Department struggles to get applicants who pass backgrounds and make an academy. We're also dealing with the harsh reality of law enforcement employment not being as desirable as it once was.

With that said, I questioned what determines a Custody Assistant academy class and what is the minimum amount of recruits to run one. Waiting for a class of 25 to 30 was being hampered by a decrease of interest in

law enforcement and the length of the backgrounds process and individuals passing backgrounds. This is also compounded by



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

the fact that the Deputy position is fishing in the same pond, meaning we're going after the same applicants.

There is a benefit to consistently running smaller classes more frequently. The numbers in terms of class size may be less than what we're accustomed to; however, at this point every bit helps. Four to five classes over a year is *potentially* 60 to 75 new bodies.

Custody Assistant Class #110 began its academy on December 4. They began as a class of 15, and hopefully they will all make it to graduation. One is a current Department employee, meaning the others have faith in themselves and the Department as they accept the challenges ahead.

For station jailers, the Department's proposed budget includes a three-year plan

to increase station jailer items. Station jailer staffing has been a longstanding issue. As jailers become injured or relieved of duty, the remaining jailers are left to take up the hours. Some stations are down two or three bodies, leaving only two active jailers to carry the load.

As I go through the proposal, I will report on any additional information related to our classification.

If you call the office inquiring about a possible grievance, have questions about the process, have a complaint or feel corrective action is needed, please *contact me for clarification*. Department-wide emails are against policy. Do not compound your need by opening yourself up to potential discipline.

When the office receives calls, certain information is required to aid in the filing process, such as specific dates, shifts, the cause and documentation. There is also interpretation of Department policy or the MOU.

The union is there *for you*. It is a partnership to work for the best achievable outcome for its members, including honest conversations in the event that a grievance is warranted.

Lastly, I'd like to acknowledge outgoing PPOA President Nancy Escobedo. We had hard conversations regarding Custody Assistants while challenging the Department on issues including Title 15 walks, vacancies, station jailers and how the position is being utilized. She took over in the midst of Measure R and tattoo inquiries and on the heels of a pandemic, unreasonable policies being implemented and numerous legal filings on behalf of membership to protect rights. During it all, no member was written up, disciplined or terminated behind vaccine mandates. That is the goal and purpose of the union.

To incoming President Steve Johnson: Congratulations! The efforts we proudly and humbly make to support and protect our membership are extremely rewarding.

To my peers, take care. Be safe.

# Become a PPOA Delegate Make the Most of Your Membership!



PPOA delegates play an important role in facilitating communication between the union Board of Directors, staff and membership.

- Attend quarterly dinner meetings
- Serve on committees
- · Represent PPOA at work-related events

Ready to step up your membership and get more involved?

Email your full name and employee number to *info@PPOA.com* and request the online training link.

# Thankful for Support and Determined to Help PPOA Members Move Forward

ello, partners. I would like to start by thanking every Sheriff's Security Assistant and Sheriff's Security Officer in our Department, not only for their support during the recent PPOA Board election, but also for the hard work they put in every day to keep our communities safe.

During my time in the Department, I have witnessed my partners perform incredible achievements — acts of courage like Parks Bureau SSO Fonth and his actions responding to a deadly school shooting, Court Services SSO Fabian's heroic intervention to save a woman's life from a violent attack, and College Bureau SSOs Lewis-Williams and Lopez's unwavering efforts to provide lifesaving aid to a man experiencing a heart

Luis Orozco PPOA Board Member Sheriff's Security Officer, LASD lorozco@ppoa.com

These are just a few examples of when our partners have faced challenging tasks and responded selflessly and without hesitation. I can personally attest to the pride and devotion my partners have every time they go 10-8. Now, it is time for the County and the Department to recognize us also.



# I WILL DRIVE FOR US TO HAVE A LIVING WAGE, ADEQUATE INJURY PROTECTION AND EQUIPMENT TO PERFORM OUR DUTIES.

During my campaign, I visited several assignments and heard about the issues impacting personnel at each of them. Some of the matters brought up were inadequate salary for our classifications, lack of Labor Code 4850 coverage and denial of potentially lifesaving duty equipment. Know that I will fight to ensure equal recognition and ensure that the County, the Department and PPOA uniquely value our contributions.

As one of the newest Board members, I will make it my mission to ensure that our concerns are heard. To my fellow Board members, it is up to us to prove that PPOA does care and we will work hard to address issues and help mend the relationship between all groups.

These will not be easy tasks, but it is our responsibility to address the problems and accomplish goals that will benefit all PPOA members. I promise to work for our classifications with the interests of our members in mind and will drive for us to have a living wage, adequate injury protection and equipment to perform our duties.

## **UPCOMING CHANGES TO YOUR HEALTH CARE COSTS**

Starting in January, you might notice a decrease in your paycheck; this is because health care premium rates are projected to increase, thus lowering the takehome amount you are used to seeing. Unfortunately, this is statewide and out of our control, so prepare for this change.

### **MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

These next few months will be critical in building our case for better salary, coverage, equipment and recognition. With contract negotiations quickly approaching, I would like members to please send in stories on the positive impacts SSAs and SSOs have had. We all know the great work we do every day, and now we need to present it and become undeniable to those who have devalued us for so long.

• Email: lorozco@ppoa.com • Office: (323) 261-3010 • Mobile: (323) 400-9590

Please text me your name and UOA to save your contact info.

On that subject, I should remind everyone in the event that you need to report an incident or file a grievance, please follow PPOA protocol and contact the office directly at (323) 261-3010. This will help preserve the integrity of the investigation and give you the best results.

Lastly, we have begun the first steps for an employee survey for SSOs and SSAs. It will take some time to complete, but once it's ready I will inform everyone. Please fill it out when you receive it. The more responses we have, the more it will show the importance of our concerns and demonstrate our united strength.

Thank you all again for your trust, and I hope to hear from members soon.

# New Directors Sworn In; New President Selected to Take the Helm

uring the PPOA Board of Directors meeting in December, the following recently elected union directors were sworn in:

- Sergeant Kevin Ahsmuhs
- Sergeant Walter Arcos
- Security Officer Luis Orozco
- Lieutenant Steve Johnson

The PPOA Board also chose the following four directors to continue serving in their Executive Board positions:

- First Vice President Jay Chapman
- Second Vice President Tony Coleman
- Secretary Christopher Lee
- Treasurer Joyce Kato

Following the oath of office for all members above, the Board of Directors selected Lieutenant Steve Johnson to serve as PPOA president. He was most recently assigned to East L.A. Station, with past assignments in specialized units such as Internal Affairs and within the Bureau of Labor Relations and Compliance. President Johnson is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He proudly served on active duty in the Air Force for eight years, achieving the rank of captain. He also attained his master's degree in business from USC.

PPOA gratefully acknowledges our outgoing Board members, Juan Carlos Calderon, Nancy Escobedo, Gerry Garcia and Jose Rios, for their service and commitment to this Association.









# Gratitude for Dedicated PPOA Committee Members

or the last seven decades, PPOA has benefitted from active members who answered the call to get involved and help the union move forward. A prime example is committee work.

In November, six members volunteered to serve on an Election Committee and monitor the ballot count that resulted in the election of four new Board members (see page 8). We are grateful to the following members who stepped forward to be a part of that committee:

- Investigator Anthony Lopez
- Retired Member Abel Moreno
- Commander Tania Plunkett
- Custody Assistant Christine Rosborough
- Custody Assistant Eddie Smith
- Custody Assistant Sue Tupper

In December, five members gathered in the PPOA boardroom to serve on the Audit Committee. Per the PPOA Bylaws, an outside accounting firm conducts an extensive audit at PPOA annually to help the staff and Board determine the most efficient course for day-to-day operations of your union. PPOA members are asked to serve on the Audit Committee, which confers with the auditor to review the findings and confirm the information is accurate. It is an integral part of being transparent as an association and ensures that members play an active role in that process. We want to thank the following members for volunteering with the Audit Committee:

- Senior Criminalist Ryan (Gregory) Forte
- Civilian Investigator Ben Garcia
- Lieutenant (DA) Yvette Hartwell
- Retired member Dan Machian
- Medical Examiner Investigator Melissa Muñoz

Are you ready to make a difference? We regularly seek new committee members. If you're interested in serving on an upcoming committee, please email <code>info@ppoa.com</code> with your full name, employee number and phone number.





# Festive Appreciation for PPOA Delegates

POA was honored to acknowledge our most dedicated delegates at a luncheon last month. These are your fellow union members who volunteer their time to attend meetings throughout the year and help foster communication with the membership. Per tradition, this appreciation luncheon includes drawings for gifts provided by our law firms and business partners who are proud to support and represent PPOA members. We are thankful for their generosity and the outstanding commitment of our delegates. •





# **Honored to Welcome New PPOA Members**

POA representatives met with 15 newly hired Custody Assistants at Biscailuz Center during their first day of orientation in December. PPOA Second Vice President/Custody Assistant Tony Coleman was joined by Board and staff members to answer questions, discuss benefits and welcome members of C/A Class #110 to this Association.





# PPOA Members Spotted on the Socials

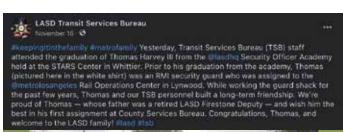
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e are proud to see PPOA members and their partners being acknowledged for their dedication to the communities they serve. *Images courtesy of social media.* •













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The SYF is consistantly creating opportunities to raise funds in support of youth programs, so that we can continue to do outreach and effect a positive outcome for youth in the communities we serve.

Our newest fundraiser features a custom-built skateboard designed to look like an LA County Sheriff's patrol car. It is a one-of-a-kind design with all the logos and stickers that are on a black and white patrol car, along with red and blue wheels simulating the patrol car's lights.

Please support the Sheriff's Youth Foundation by making your tax deductible purchase. For more information go to our website at www.sheriffsyouthfoundation.org







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Greg Takeshita, Founder (Active WHD Reserve Deputy)

# STAR&SHIELD | JANUARY 2024

# Proud to Support Compton Station Personnel

POA delivered a treadmill to Compton Station last month for use in the staff gym. In a continuing effort to support members, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation teams up with a local exercise equipment retailer each year to secure a limited number of treadmills and ellipticals for employee gyms at facilities throughout the county. The machines are purchased by the Star & Shield Foundation at discounted pricing and delivered by PPOA to units with an expressed need for new exercise equipment.





# RETIREE EVENTS



# Las Vegas ROMEOs Luncheon

January 20

TGI Fridays at Aliante Casino and Hotel RSVP: bobbycanfield@gmail.com

### **HR-218 Qualification**

January 21 and January 27 PDC (Wayside) Range 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Info: pabner54@gmail.com

# Lakewood Annual Retiree Luncheon

January 24 Chili's, Lakewood 11 a.m.

RSVP/Info: kamohagen@aol.com



# **LASD Retiree Roundup**

April 7–10
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

# 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**.

## January 15

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The PPOA office will be closed in honor of the County holiday.

# February 14

## **PPOA Board of Directors Meeting**

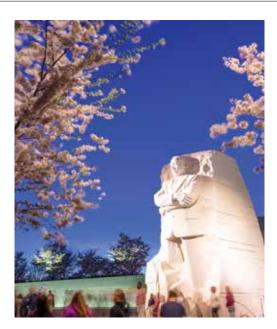
San Dimas 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Members: RSVP to (323) 261-3010

## February 19

### **Presidents Day**

The PPOA office will be closed in honor of the County holiday.



# February 27

## **PPOA Delegates Meeting**

Location TBA

### March 13

## **PPOA Board of Directors Meeting**

San Dimas 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Members: RSVP to (323) 261-3010

### March 25

### **Cesar Chavez Day**

The PPOA office will be closed in honor of the County holiday.



# 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

(November issue — the hidden word appeared on page 4)

**Seth Johnson**, Sergeant **Patricia Massey**, Retired Member **Cecilia Onofre**, Custody Assistant



# **Special Funeral Savings**

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\*Based on the purchase of a complete funeral Tribute plan for \$12,450 with package savings of \$650 plus an additional 10% discount for a total savings of \$1,895. Offer expires March 31, 2024 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 OD04129





# Support Your Foundation!

Help PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation support families of fallen officers and those truly in need. Donate online today at **starandshieldfoundation.org/donate**. If you would like to contribute by phone, please call (323) 261-3010.

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. The Star & Shield Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID #95-4752410.

# **Significant Discounts for PPOA Members**



# PPOA members have access to exclusive group discounts on tickets for a number of venues, including:

- **X** AMC Theatres
- **★** Huntington Library
- X Knott's Berry Farm
- **≭** Legoland
- **★** Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific
- **★** Regal/Edwards Theatres
- **X** San Diego Zoo
- **★** Six Flags Magic Mountain

Visit PPOA.com for details!

# MYSTERY PHOTO



The first PPOA member to correctly identify where the PPOA van was parked for this photo will win a PPOA prize pack. Email your guess to *info@ppoa.com*. One attempt per member, please.





# STAR&SHIELD | JANUARY 2024

# Important Note Regarding FOP Membership for Retired PPOA Members

PPOA members have long benefited from our longtime affiliation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the world's largest organization of law enforcement officers, with more than 367,000 members in more than 2,200 lodges nationwide. All active PPOA members are part of California FOP Lodge #1.



An important note regarding FOP membership for retired PPOA members: Once a sworn PPOA member retires, and he/she wishes to reactivate their FOP membership/benefits, the following steps must be taken:

To reactivate your membership as a retired peace officer, you will need to pay FOP annual dues of \$40 for 2023. To do so, please send an email to the FOP Lodge #1 secretary at *wmwestermann@sbcglobal.net*. Be sure to include your full name and advise that you are a retired PPOA member requesting membership with FOP.



# 2024 College Scholarship Program

We are proud to announce that 12 scholarships worth \$13,500 total will be available to help further education for PPOA members and their dependents.

Criteria and applications will be posted by March 1 on *PPOA.com*.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 19.



# PPOA Political Action Committee Annual Notification

Any member who does not wish to contribute to LAPPOA's PAC, Independent Expenditure Committee or Issues Committee may so designate by checking the statement below and mailing this statement to LAPPOA at: 188 E. Arrow Hwy.,
San Dimas, CA 91773

"I, \_\_\_\_\_\_(member name, employee number),
do not want any of my LAPPOA membership
dues used for political purposes. Note:
Membership dues will not be reduced for any
member who does not want their membership
dues used for political purposes."



# **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.

# Do You Know What Your Union Is Working on Each Week?

Every Saturday morning, PPOA members receive an email documenting union accomplishments, ongoing projects, challenges facing the membership and more. Reading the **PPOA Week in Review** will help you stay connected and up to date on a range of important issues. If you are a PPOA member and have not received the Week in Review, please send your name, employee number and personal email address to *info@PPOA.com*.



# **Proud to Reunite More Than 100 Friends** for PPOA Retiree Luncheon

POA was proud to host our 19th annual Retiree Luncheon in November at the Sheraton Fairplex. Board Member Jim Schallert (LASD ret. 2019) served as master of ceremonies, and we were pleased to offer special acknowledgment to the military veterans in attendance. PPOA is grateful to the more than 100 friends who joined us for a memorable afternoon.

















# FOLLOW LAPPOA ON FACEBOOK



Graduation for LASD Security Officer Class 59



Custody Assistant Class 109 Graduation



19th Annual PPOA Retires Luncheon



PPOA 22nd Annual Pre-Labor Day BBQ



Sheriff's Security Officer Class 58 Graduation



23rd Annual PPOA Fishi Trip



12th Annual PPOA Scholarship Awards 13 Items



15th Annual Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournamen 46 Items



77th Annual STAR POST



Sheriff's Security Officer Class #57 Graduation 19 Items



LASD Retiree Roundup 2023

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



# SAVE THE DATE!

# **PPOA**

16th Annual
Peace Officer
Memorial
Golf Tournament

Monday, June 24, 2024
FRIENDLY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, WHITTIER

Visit **PPOA.com** for details and registration.

# **Congratulations to Custody Assistant** Class #109 and Security Officer Class #59

POA representatives were honored to attend graduation ceremonies in November for C/A Class #109 at Biscailuz Center and SSO Class #59 at STARS Center. We extend congratulations to all of the graduates for their teamwork and dedication. Photos by Greg Torres/PPOA.









































# $\blacksquare$ END OF WATCH $\blacksquare$

# PPOA extends our sincere condolences to the loved ones of the following members who passed away in October and November:

Sheriff's Security Officer **Branden Colbert** 

EOW: October 7, 2023
Began career with
LASD in 2007
Assigned to Parks Bureau
at time of passing

Sergeant (LADA)

# **Emilio Guerrero**

EOW: October 8, 2023
Began career as LASD
deputy in 1994 (Class #286)
Joined District Attorney's
Office Bureau of
Investigation in 2006

**Retired Deputy** 

### Richard A. Martin

EOW: October 9, 2023
LASD 1971-2001
Academy Class #151
Last assignment: Major Crimes
Bureau
U.S. Army veteran
Condolences may be
emailed to his family:
richardmartin3957@
icloud.com

Retired Sergeant (LADA)

## **Deren Brady**

EOW: October 17, 2023 LADA ret. 2020 Began career as LASD deputy in 1995 (Class #290)

**Retired Sergeant** 

### Richard "Duke" Elliott

EOW: October 29, 2023 LASD 1969-1990 Academy Class #135 Last assignment: Forgery/ Fraud Detail U.S. Air Force veteran Retired Deputy

## Michael S. Robbins

EOW: November 2, 2023 LASD 1970-1996 Academy Class #142 Last assignment: Technical Services Transportation U.S. Air Force veteran

**Retired Sergeant** 

### Kenneth Allen

EOW: November 3, 2023 LASD 1958-1990 Academy Class #74 Last assignment: Narcotics Bureau Condolences may be emailed to his family: ruschuhmann@gmail.com

Commander

## **Darren Harris**

EOW: November 6, 2023 Began career with LASD in 1990 Assigned to Court Services Division at time of passing

Retired Deputy

# **Alvin Henley**

EOW: November 8, 2023 LASD 1966-1992 Last assignment: Men's Central Jail

Retired Deputy

### **Thomas Holeman**

EOW: November 9, 2023 LASD 1973-2004 Academy Class #164 Last assignment: Narcotics Bureau U.S. Air Force veteran Retired Deputy III

# **Barry Stauffacher**

EOW: November 10, 2023 LASD 1960-1978 Academy Class #86 Last assignment: East L.A. Station U.S. Air Force veteran Condolences may be emailed to his family: debrastauffacher@icloud.com

Retired Deputy Marshal

### **Manuel Valle**

EOW: November 12, 2023 Marshal's Office 1971–1993

Retired Sergeant

# Clifford Morden

EOW: November 17, 2023
LASD 1962–1993
Academy Class #93
LASD assignment:
West Hollywood Station
U.S. Marine Corps veteran
Condolences may be emailed to his family: mordens@charter.net

Retired Deputy

### **Kenneth Duffey**

EOW: November 19, 2023
LASD 1967-1996
Academy Class #131
Last assignment: Special
Investigations Bureau
U.S. Army veteran
Condolences may be emailed to his
family: duffey1616@yahoo.com

Retired Deputy

## **Larry Tomes**

EOW: November 28, 2023 LASD 1969-2003 Academy Class #136 Last assignment: Lakewood Station U.S. Army veteran



Sheriff's Security Officer Branden Colbert (EOW: 10/7/23)



LADA Sergeant Emilio Guerrero (EOW: 10/8/23)



Retired Deputy Richard A. Martin (EOW: 10/9/23)



Retired LADA Sergeant Deren Brady (EOW: 10/17/23)



Retired Sergeant Richard "Duke" Elliott (EOW: 10/29/23)



Commander Darren Harris (EOW: 11/6/23)



Retired Deputy Thomas Holeman (EOW: 11/9/23)



Retired Deputy Marshal Manuel Valle (EOW: 11/12/23)



Retired Deputy Kenneth Duffey (EOW: 11/19/23)

# **Relying on Credit for Necessities**



he increasing cost of daily necessities — most noticeably groceries — is again closing the gap between income and expenses. With few places to make cuts, many people are resorting to credit cards to make ends meet. According to data from the Federal Reserve, consumers' total credit card debt reached \$1.03 trillion in the second quarter of 2023, the highest amount on record. Though the use of plastic may work in the short term, be cautious about using credit cards as a long-term solution to cash-flow problems.

Even if you're still able to make the monthly payments, relying on credit cards could put you into a danger zone. For example, are you charging more than you used to? Or carrying over part of your debt into the next month when you used to pay off the full balance each month?

If your credit card debt becomes so high that you can't even make the minimum payment within 30 days of its due date, your credit score could drop by as much as 100 points. That late payment will stay on your credit report for seven years, making it harder to get loans in the future.

### RECESSION-PROOF AND INFLATION-PROOF YOUR FINANCES

If you're starting to feel the pinch of higher prices, here are a few ways to protect yourself from serious financial trouble:

Figure out how much you're spending on gas, groceries and other necessities every month compared with a year ago. You may not even realize you're spending more, because you haven't changed your lifestyle.

- Look for reductions in income. For example, retired consumers may find they have to tap into their principal to achieve the same annual income they used to get from the return on their investments.
- Revise an outdated budget using the information you gather. Identify where you can make cuts. Start with any remaining luxuries, but be prepared to economize on necessities.
- Plan for further price increases. Looking at your new budget, ask yourself how you would make ends meet if gas went up another dollar or groceries cost you an additional \$75 per month. Recession- and inflation-proofing your finances is all about planning, as opposed to reacting.

If you're already watching your debt climb and you can't see any alternative to using credit cards, you may want to talk to a credit counselor or financial advisor. They can show you how to reduce expenses or increase income. They are also familiar with all sorts of free or low-cost assistance programs. You can find a list of agencies at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, nfcc.org.

Use this time to be proactive. One of the best things you can do is to start or increase an emergency fund. Then tap it, rather than credit cards, when you need help making ends meet. And remember, POPA Federal Credit Union is here to help. Give us a call at (800) 369-7672 anytime Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or contact us via email at feedback@popafcu.org. Don't wait until you're in deep trouble to ask for a financial checkup. The earlier you ask for a review, the better the outcome.







# 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 navyblue background. The badge, buckle and frame are in pristine condition. Price for all: \$6,000. Contact: (702) 227-0345. (1122)





# LAGUNA OCEAN FRONT UNIT FOR RENT

Laguna Surf Resort. Check in 2/2/24, check out 2/9/24. 1 BDRM plus murphy bed, sleeps 4, 2 baths, fireplace, kitchen. See Lagunasurf.org for pics. Contact (360) 301-0277 or jasewards@me.com. (1123)

# ROLAND DIGITAL PIANO FP 10

Approx. 44 lbs. 88 keys, selfplay. Bench seat included. Can connect to iPad or tablet. Many internal songs. More at roland. com. Used once or twice. \$300. Pick up in Irvine. Call (714) 915-1313. (1123)

# **BROWNING SHOTGUN** FOR SALE

Browning Citori model 425, 12 ga, 0/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)

# **SEEKING ROOMMATE** IN ARCADIA

Looking for one roommate in an awesome Arcadia neighborhood. You get two bedrooms, a private bathroom and mudroom in a 4 bed/3 bath home for \$1.600 a month. No cats. I do have a dog. Call for more information: (951) 323-3030. (0124)

# 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. Call (562) 217-7371. (1023)

# **WANTED: VINTAGE** STAR WARS AND TRANSFORMERS TOYS

Looking to buy vintage Transformers and Star Wars figures or ships in any condition from the '70s and '80s, Call or text (661) 466-3088. (0124)

# **2001 HARLEY ELECTRA GLIDE** CLASSIC

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

## **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)



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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always be challenged.

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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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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.