



Los Angeles County Professional
Peace Officers Association

Volume 52
Issue 1

January
2025

STAR & SHIELD

**PRESIDENT SIGNS
SOCIAL SECURITY
FAIRNESS ACT INTO LAW**

**H.R. 82 Secures Benefits for
Millions of Public Servants**

SEE PAGES 4 AND 6



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

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2025: A Year of Exponential Growth and Unprecedented Breakthroughs

Our mission at PPOA highlights a “Tradition of Success,” which includes our entire membership and, by association, the Department as a whole. PPOA will not budge on its proud heritage of fighting for and defending our members’ individual and collective rights. We execute this through procedures established by law regarding civil service rules, labor rights and employee relations regulations. Into the new year, we will continue our unrelenting practice of requiring the County to abide by the meet-and-confer process codified in the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) regarding wages, hours and other impacts of employment.

Success can be created in unique ways. General Colin Powell, who I served under in the Air Force as a captain, summed it up nicely: “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.” Our success can have its setbacks, particularly for expansive and innovative goals. This crucial year, we look forward to exponential growth and unprecedented breakthroughs. PPOA will make every committed effort to work professionally and ethically with Sheriff Luna and his executives in the most collaborative way possible.

Another contributor to our success is our members’ participation. Please get involved and experience the reward of our collective efforts. Become a delegate or volunteer for a committee. These opportunities avail you information and knowledge that you can pass on to other members. Your personal contributions of time and effort bring tremendous value to the table. Your participation and feedback are highly encouraged as members of our PPOA family.

In any organization, complacency is a sure sign of stagnation. In the military and as a sworn member of our Department, I have proudly served with personnel and supervisors who understood that despite rigorous planning, change is a constant; adaptability is key to positive outcomes. For PPOA, that translates into grasping an accurate assessment of the legal, political and work environment constraints that impede our ability to safely execute our duties. In 2025, the memorandums of understanding for all PPOA members will expire, and thus, we are (and will be) at the bargaining table with the County and our Department. Despite the seemingly blatant nonprioritization of public safety by a decreasing minority of elected officials, we will work to negotiate terms that respect not only the premiere efforts our members make but also the world-class challenges they are facing and will face.

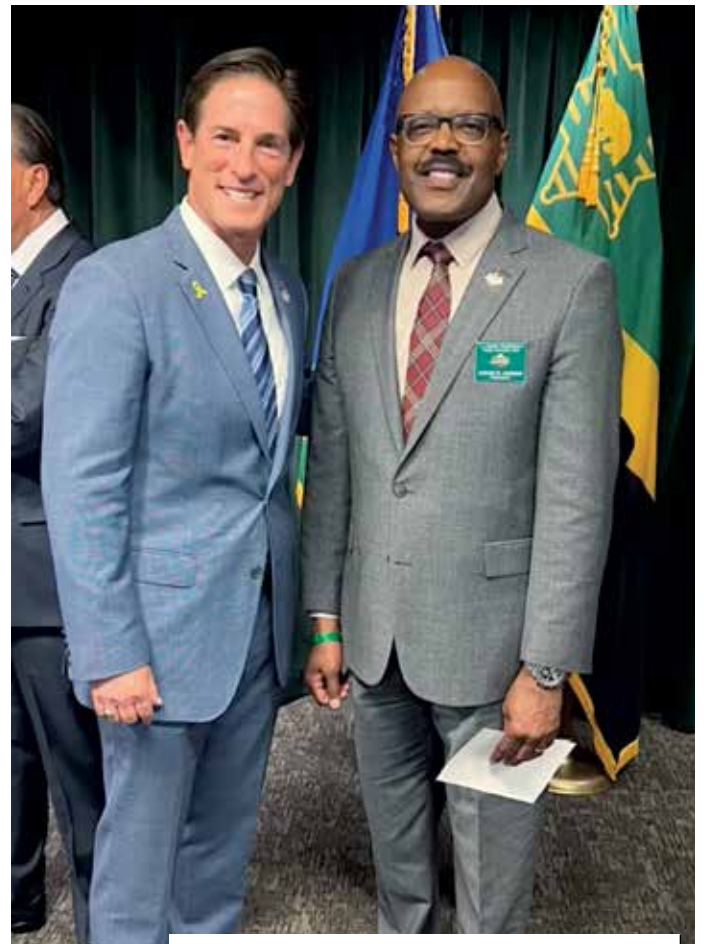
As Measure R came into existence in 2020, Los Angeles County voters overwhelmingly passed a ballot initiative that substantially increased the oversight of the Sheriff’s Department via the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Civilian Oversight Commission.



Steve Johnson
PPOA President
Lieutenant, LASD
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Due to the OIG’s failure to adhere to legal standards regarding the implementation of Measure R, PPOA has been actively engaged in and successful with several legal filings against the OIG. If you are contacted to participate in any such inquiry and/or investigation (particularly involving tattoos), your first call should be to PPOA. The Department and the OIG have invested and exhausted many resources toward targeted issues in what some might describe as a “witch hunt” — all the while yielding a diminishing return.

The impact of oversight entities, lackluster policy rollouts, public sentiment and severe personnel shortages on the morale of our members is palpable. However, the tide has definitely shifted as Los Angeles County voters grew fatigued and hopeless with the “soft-on-



DA Nathan Hochman and PPOA President Johnson

crime” policies of our former Los Angeles County district attorney. With the successful election of District Attorney Nathan Hochman and the passage of Proposition 36, voters spoke loudly and clearly that a stronger, new direction for the safety of our county was required. Key to the victory of District Attorney Hochman was an independent expenditure committee of public safety partners, of which PPOA was one of the largest contributors. I urge all PPOA members to assign a portion of their monthly dues, be it \$2, \$5 or \$10, toward our political strategies (see the PAC Plus form below and at tinyurl.com/yurv2324). This ensures we have a voice in who gets elected and which laws get passed.

Editor’s note: After this article was submitted, H.R. 82 was signed into law by President Joe Biden on January 5, 2025. This accomplishment is historic in scope and required a monumental, union-led effort to secure the Social Security benefits earned rightfully by millions of public servants.

On the federal level, the tide has similarly shifted in a monumental way. The repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) has been achieved. Both houses of the United States Congress have passed the legislation. This legislation is now headed to the president, who has committed to signing this bill into law. This historic milestone will bring long-overdue relief to countless current and future public workers in California and nationwide.

This achievement would not have been possible without the immense dedication and endless commitment we have as members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The FOP aligned lodges across the country to speak with a united voice to exemplify the immense strength and power of our organization. This victory highlights the strength of collective tenacity and focus. As members of PPOA, we make up the largest component of California FOP Lodge #1. I currently serve on the executive committee of the California FOP, which consists of 32 lodges statewide; this ensures our members have a voice on the state and federal levels. Additionally, the FOP provides our Legal Defense Plan (LDP) and numerous other unique benefits.

Lastly, I want to share what an honor and privilege it is for me to serve as the chair of our Star & Shield Foundation. Last year, our Foundation was able to

provide financial support to those in need. Many had to deal with severe loss. The Star & Shield Foundation is funded by our members and sponsors. The Foundation’s purpose is to support our members who experience tragedy and the families of officers killed in the line of duty. We ask all PPOA members to support the Star & Shield Foundation in any way possible.

Let’s make 2025 a year like no other. We will continue to expand our vision, mission and purpose while providing the best customer service possible to our members. Please stay safe, stay well, and we will see you very soon! ❤️



I WANT TO PUT THE “ACTION” BACK IN POLITICAL ACTION!

PAC Plus is a political action committee of PPOA members focused primarily on establishing a stronger, more effective presence in county and state politics. PAC Plus expenditures will target elections and legislation that could potentially impact the safety, livelihood and careers of PPOA members.

Please complete and send this form to:

**PPOA
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San Dimas, CA 91773**

This form can also be completed online at:

ppoa.com/members/political-action-committee-pac-plus/pac-application

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I authorize the following amount to be deducted monthly (beyond regular union dues) for PPOA’s PAC Plus program:

- \$5
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Member Name: _____

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Historic Social Security Fairness Act Goes to President's Desk

Editor's note: After this article was submitted, H.R. 82 was signed into law by President Joe Biden on January 5, 2025. This accomplishment is historic in scope and required a monumental, union-led effort to secure the Social Security benefits earned rightfully by millions of public servants.

Happy new year! Hopefully, each of you has had a chance to peruse PPOA's 2024 Annual Report, and especially PPOA President Steve Johnson's message, which succinctly details our Association's commitment to continuing a "Tradition of Success" for our active and retired members. Specifically, Steve rightfully acknowledges the Fraternal Order of Police's (FOP) "remarkable progress" regarding the recent passage of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023.

All active PPOA members are members of the National FOP, which is composed of more than 2,200 local lodges serving 377,000 members nationwide. PPOA members belong to California FOP Lodge #1 (L.A. County). Our lodge joins 32 other subordinate lodges throughout California that collectively belong to the California State FOP Lodge, representing over 21,000 law enforcement professionals. PPOA President Johnson serves on the Executive Board of the California State FOP Lodge as sergeant at arms.

At the time of this article, public employees across the United States were hailing the December 21, 2024, historic vote on the U.S. Senate floor, which sent H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, without amendment, by a yea-nay bipartisan vote of 76-20 to President Biden's desk for his expected signature. The bill previously passed the House of Representatives on November 12, 2024, by roll call vote, 327-75-1, under suspension of the rules.

This legislation repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), which have reduced the amount of Social Security benefits accessible to select federal, state and local employees, and to their spouses and survivors. The WEP and GPO affect an estimated 6.5 million public-sector workers not covered by Social Security.

It should be noted that anyone born in 1929 or later needs 10 years of work (40 credits) to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. How many credits you need for Social Security disability benefits depends on how old you were when your disability began.



Wayne Quint Jr.
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The WEP affects how Social Security calculates your retirement or disability benefit. If you work for an employer (Los Angeles County) who does not withhold Social Security taxes from your salary, any retirement or disability pension you get from that work can and almost always will reduce your Social Security benefits.

The GPO reduces Social Security benefits paid to spouses or survivors when the spouse or survivor earned a pension from a government job that was not covered by Social Security. The GPO reduction is equal to two-thirds of the amount of the pension payment from noncovered government work. The Social Security Administration uses the following example:

If you get a monthly civil service pension of \$3,000, two-thirds of that, or \$2,000, must be deducted from your Social Security benefits. So, if you are eligible for a \$2,100 spouse's or surviving spouse's benefit from Social Security, you will get \$100 a month ($\$2,100 - \$2,000 = \100). If two-thirds of your government pension is more than your Social Security benefit, your benefit could be reduced to zero.

After the historic passage of H.R. 82, Patrick Yoes, national president of the FOP, stated, "The WEP and GPO are inherently unfair provisions that unjustly penalize our nation's public employees. No one, even those who did not vote for our bill today, argued that the provisions treated workers fairly. No one."

Yoes acknowledged that Social Security fairness had been a legislative priority for the FOP since 1997, and he thanked President-elect Trump (endorsed by the National FOP and California State FOP Lodge) for his invaluable assistance in delivering support for the Senate passage of H.R. 82.

To help PPOA members better understand these important changes and the timeline for implementation, the FOP has created a comprehensive questions and answers guide. This resource provides clear explanations about how the repeal of these provisions will affect you, what to expect moving forward and how to navigate the updates to your benefits: tinyurl.com/2nwve57w.

As the situation evolves and further details emerge, this document will be updated regularly to ensure it remains an accurate and reliable resource. Please check back often for the latest questions and answers.

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

Refreshing Positivity

It's so refreshing to turn on the local news and see our Department being portrayed in super positive ways. It's even more refreshing when we see a Department leader showing cool, calm leadership qualities. We expect it and see it constantly when Sheriff Luna appears in the middle of a crisis and his thoughtful demeanor rises through the uncontrollable news events surrounding him. The same positive sensation occurs when we see a leader that we personally know and who we've watched up close and watched from a distance as they exhibit continued extraordinary leadership. This past December, I saw this over and over with one of the top captains on the Department, and someone I have had the privilege to serve with off and on over the years. I am referring to Captain Jennifer Seeto.

I met Captain Seeto about 10 years ago when she was a lieutenant at the Sherman Block Building. Knowing I was involved in PPOA "stuff," she often called me into her office in the basement of the Monterey Park building and would have me look at emails she was preparing regarding the movement of employees, transfers and other issues that the union may or may not want to know about. What impressed me most was that she thought of the employee first and wanted to make sure everything was done correctly. This type of proactive leadership is sorely lacking these days, and I hope her view of how a captain should operate spreads to her peers.

What made Captain Seeto so visible in mid-December was the newest rash of Malibu fires. She was a calming influence on the many press conferences she held. I liked seeing how composed and professional she was. She was *not* acting glib or making light of the tragedy surrounding her. Oftentimes, when our leaders appear before the cameras, you wonder if they care more about how many clicks or shares their clips will get on Instagram and other social media platforms. I am very sure Captain Seeto has no idea how many likes her appearances generated, but I have no doubt she knows how many rescues were made by Malibu Lost Hills deputies, how many families lost their homes and how many were saved. Good job, captain.

One of the stories that emerged was the rescue of actor Dick Van Dyke. At 99 years old, he is still doing great and had to be rescued by Malibu Lost Hills Station residents and volunteers. He was interviewed on TV and said, and I quote from ABC News: "He's looking forward to his next big birthday, but hopefully, without the same kind of fiery drama.



Joe Walker
PPOA Second Vice President
Crime Analyst, LASD
jwalker@ppoa.com

As he continues to dance his way to 100, he said there is still so much more he wants to do."

"It's still not enough," Van Dyke said. "I need more time. I've got plans."

I thought of that line. "I need more time. I've got plans." I feel the same way, and the clock ticks on my own service to my fellow Unit 621 members. As my last season of contract negotiations approaches, I need to hear from everyone about what you want from me and what you want PPOA to focus on in the next year. If every Custody Assistant, Law Enforcement Technician, Crime Analyst, Court Services Specialist and Public Response Dispatcher blew up my email here at PPOA, it would be the best New Year's present ever. Thanks for listening. 🇺🇸

An advertisement for POPA's Share Certificate. The background is a dark, textured surface with autumn-themed decorations like pumpkins, gourds, and leaves. In the top left corner, there is a gold star-shaped logo with the text "Exclusively serving L.A. law enforcement and their families since 1978". The main text reads "Harvest Your Savings With POPA's Share Certificate" in a mix of white and gold fonts. Below this, the interest rate "4.50% APY*" is displayed in large, bold, gold numbers. Underneath the rate, it says "7 Month Term | Minimum Deposit of \$1,000". Further down, it says "Visit POPAFCU.org or call 562.229.9181 To Apply Today!" and "Limited Time Offer!" in a white script font. In the bottom right corner, it says "Federally Insured By NCUA". At the very bottom, there is a small disclaimer: "*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. The advertised promotional Share Certificate rate is effective as of 1/11/2025. 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 a 7-month term with a minimum deposit of \$1,000. Membership is required. Other restrictions may apply. Contact the Credit Union for more details."/>

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Hello, Partners, and Happy New Year

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH FOR L.A. COUNTY

As we enter 2025, I have confidence in great things, changes and opportunities for us. At a local level, the citizens of Los Angeles County have raised their voices and told the ousted former District Attorney George Gascón that his social experiment was a complete failure that changed our once-safe communities to a crime-ridden cesspool where criminals had free range to terrorize citizens. The people sought a common-sense leader who would hold criminals accountable for their actions and cast their votes for the new Los Angeles County District Attorney, Nathan Hochman. I had an opportunity to meet Hochman in December and listen to his vision for restoring sensibility to the district attorney's office, which will, with any luck, raise morale for law enforcement and empower prosecutors to punish offenders and deter criminal acts.

CSB PROBATION DELETION

For those who are unaware, in late 2024, PPOA and I were made aware of the Department's intentions not to renew the services of the Probation Department at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Sylmar Juvenile Hall. I would like to clear up some misconceptions about the role PPOA has in these service contracts. The union *cannot* strong-arm the Department nor the County to create or continue services with any entities. We will, however, advocate for them when beneficial to our members, enforce guidelines are being met and respond appropriately if they are infringed. With that being said, it is my belief the decision to discontinue these services — and others throughout the County Service Bureau — is asinine and a gauge of poor management and leadership.

County Services Bureau is one of the biggest service providers for facility and medical services, including public libraries, children and family services, register recorders offices, mental health facilities and the Hall of Justice.



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

However, in the past years, it has been dwindling, with closure after closure of assignments.

If the problem is short-staffing, resulting in officer safety concerns, it is an issue that has been long ignored, and corrective measures — including incentivizing applicants and promoting recruitment — are far overdue. *In short, something is not working and needs to be addressed or replaced soon.*

2024 MEDAL OF VALOR AWARDS – SSO LUIS MEDINA

On October 3, I was honored to attend the Department's Medal of Valor awards and see our partner, SSO Luis Medina from West Valley DMH, receive a Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal for his brave actions

in 2019, which are described as follows:

“On December 11, 2019, while working at the West Valley Department of Mental Health Clinic in Chatsworth, Sheriff's Security Officer Luis Medina saw thick black smoke coming from a residence across the street from his post ... SSO Medina entered the home through the smoke-filled garage and began checking the rooms. He found a male sleeping in one of the bedrooms. He made contact with the male and assisted him out of the residence. When SSO Medina determined there was no one else in the residence, he exited and noticed the fire had intensified.”

Outstanding work, SSO Medina, you make us all very proud.

PASSING OF SSA ANTONIO CRUZ

On Monday, December 9, we received some awful news of the passing of Sheriff Security Assistant Antonio Cruz from Court Services Division East Bureau — Whittier Court. I spoke with SSA Cruz's son the following day to extend our condolences and offered him assistance on behalf of PPOA for services needed to honor his father. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts during this time. 🇺🇸





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.

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 January 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

This month's hidden word is:

Glib

*Fluent and voluble,
but insincere and shallow*

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PPOA Board Leadership Update

PPOA Board members set to begin new two-year terms were sworn in during the December meeting. These directors included Roel Garcia, Jim Schallert and Joe Walker. The Board also selected the following Executive Board to serve in 2025:

- President Steve Johnson
- First Vice President Jay Chapman
- Second Vice President Joe Walker
- Secretary Chris Lee
- Treasurer Joyce Kato

After the oath of office ceremony, Board members expressed gratitude to Custody Assistant Tony Coleman for his eight years of outstanding dedication as a PPOA director, including his leadership as second vice president. His seat on the Board will be filled by a new Unit 621 representative this month following the outcome of a runoff election between Custody Assistants Melissa Rodriguez and Rodolfo “Martin” Cabrera. 🇺🇸



Appreciation for Dedicated PPOA Delegates

PPOA was honored to acknowledge our most dedicated delegates at a luncheon in Altadena 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. 🍀



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Congratulations to Custody Assistant Class #114 and Sheriff Security Officer Class #61

PPOA representatives were proud to attend the graduation ceremonies for C/A Class #114 at Biscailuz Center and SSO Class #61 at STARS Center last month. We wish all of the graduates the best of luck as they begin their promising new careers with the Sheriff's Department. Full photo albums from both of the ceremonies are available to view on the LAPPOA Facebook page. ❤️



Photos by Greg Torres



**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.

Proud to Support New Security Officers, Sergeants and Lieutenants

P POA representatives met with 18 LASD sergeants in October during Supervisory School at STARS Center. In November, we spoke with 20 newly promoted LASD lieutenants who were at Biscailuz Center to pick up their new badges as well as 19 newly hired security officers at STARS Center during their orientation. 🇺🇸



Supporting Health and Fitness for Personnel at TTCF

PPOA was proud to deliver a treadmill to Twin Towers Correctional Facility last month for use in their staff gym. In a continuing effort to support health and fitness for members and Department personnel, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation teams up with Discount Fitness in Bellflower to secure a limited number of treadmills and ellipticals for employee gyms at facilities throughout the county. The refurbished, high-end commercial machines are purchased by the Foundation at discounted pricing and delivered by PPOA to select units where our members have an expressed need for exercise equipment.

To date in 2025, we have five units on the waiting list for treadmills. These purchases will bring us close to our annual budget for this program, *but please know that we've arranged for Discount Fitness to extend special pricing to PPOA members interested in purchasing fitness equipment for staff gyms or personal use.* For more info, call Discount Fitness at (562) 531-7767 and tell them you're a member of the Professional Peace Officers Association. ♥



Become a PPOA Delegate and 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.



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."

Members Reunite for 20th Annual PPOA Retiree Luncheon

PPOA was proud to host our 20th annual Retiree Luncheon in November at the Sheraton Fairplex. Board member Jim Schallert (LASD ret. 2019) served as master of ceremonies, and we were particularly honored to offer special acknowledgment to the military veterans in attendance. This Association is grateful to the 120 friends who joined us for a memorable afternoon!

The full photo album from this event can be viewed on the LAPPOA Facebook page. [📷](#)





PPOA Members Spotted on the Socials

We are proud to see PPOA members and their partners being acknowledged for their professionalism and dedication. *Images courtesy of social media.*



lasd.colleges Captain Renteria and Lieutenant Gonzalez say farewell to Sheriff Security Officer Holguin as he heads off to the Deputy Academy. After many dedicated years with the Community Colleges Bureau, we're excited to see him take this next big step!



lasdlkd Yesterday, during the monthly volunteer meeting, Lakewood Station Volunteers said farewell to Community Relations Supervisor - Sgt Martinez, who is promoting and transferring to Court Services after a long run at Lakewood Station. The Volunteers also presented Sgt Martinez with a plaque of appreciation and an LASD Volunteer patch on a canvas signed by all the volunteers.



lasdtraining Congratulations to Sgt. Adriana Mejia on 25 years of service 🎉 Training Bureau, Recruit Training Unit and the academies you've been a part of are more than lucky to have you 🙌



lasdlkd Honoring a Legendary Career!
Join the Lakewood Sheriff's station in celebrating such a remarkable woman. Officer Johnson, 35 years of service is a remarkable achievement on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. We're grateful for your 11 years at the Lakewood Sheriff's Station as our Jailer. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement! We are going to miss you!

STAY TUNED

**COMING
IN MARCH**



- **2025 PPOA Scholarship Applications**
- **Retirement Planning Workshop for PPOA Members**



Look for details in the **PPOA Week in Review** email every Saturday and in the February issue of *Star & Shield*!

PPOA extends sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following members who passed away in September, October and November 2024:

Retired Lieutenant
James Walgren
EOW: September 5, 2024
LASD 1959-1988
Last assignment:
Wayside Ranch Facility
U.S. Air National Guard veteran

Retired Deputy III
John Plavala
EOW: September 13, 2024
LASD 1970-1979
Academy Class #142
U.S. Army veteran

Retired Chief
Frederick Gustin
EOW: September 16, 2024
LASD 1952-1980
Last assignment: Administration
U.S. Navy veteran

Retired Deputy
Gary Spallino
EOW: September 16, 2024
LASD 1966-1990
Academy Class #113
Last assignment: Court Services
West
U.S. Air Force veteran
Condolences may be emailed to the
family: sspallino@roadrunner.com

Retired Detective
John W. Sullivan Jr.
EOW: September 20, 2024
LASD 1971-1988
Academy Class #133
Last assignment: Organized
Crime Unit
U.S. Air Force veteran
Condolences may be emailed to the
family: bobby.sullivanbhc@yahoo.com

Retired Sergeant
Paul Bayer
EOW: September 25, 2024
LASD 1962-1992
Academy Class #81
Last assignment: Industry Station
U.S. Air Force Reserves veteran

Retired Lieutenant
Vienna Wilson
EOW: October 1, 2024
LASD 1975-2012
Promoted from Custody Assistant to
DST in 1988
Was married to the late Sergeant
Brian Wilson (EOW: 2007)
Last assignment: Pitchess Detention
Center

Retired Sergeant
John Yarbrough II
EOW: October 3, 2024
LASD 1971-2000
Last assignment: Homicide Bureau
Was married to the late Sergeant
Jacqueline Yarbrough (EOW: 9/27/20)

Retired Sergeant
Joseph Acevedo
EOW: October 5, 2024
LASD 1986-2020
Academy Class #234
Last assignment: Emergency
Operations Bureau
Condolences may be emailed to the
family: acevedo.mary22@gmail.com

Retired Sergeant
Samuel Patrick
EOW: October 6, 2024
LASD 1966-1991
Academy Class #116
U.S. Marine Corps veteran

Retired Sergeant
Clay Landenberger
EOW: October 15, 2024
LASD 1958-1994
Academy Class #71
Last assignment: Transportation
Bureau
U.S. Army veteran

Retired Sergeant
Rufus Horne III
EOW: October 26, 2024
LASD 1955-1983
Last assignment: Lakewood Station
U.S. Navy Reserves Veteran

Retired Lieutenant
Kendell Fowler
EOW: November 2, 2024
LASD 1972-2003
Academy Class #153
Last assignment: Malibu/Lost Hills
Station

Retired Sergeant
Armando Sainz
EOW: November 6, 2024
LASD 1955-1989
Academy Class #52
Last assignment: Industry Station
U.S. Army veteran
Condolences may be emailed to the
family: bajabruin@gmail.com

Retired Captain
Miguel Gutierrez
EOW: November 15, 2024
LASD 1952-1978
Academy Class #34
Last assignment: East L.A. Station
U.S. Navy veteran

Retired Sergeant
Harry Allmoslecher
EOW: November 20, 2024
LASD 1960-1989
Academy Class #82
Last assignment: Arson and Explosives Detail
U.S. Navy veteran

Retired Sergeant
John Buck
EOW: November 25, 2024
LASD 1956-1984
Academy Class #59
Last assignment: Men's Central Jail
U.S. Marine Corps veteran

Retired Captain
Bert Cueva
EOW: November 22, 2024
LASD 1960-1994
Academy Class #86
Last assignment: Internal Affairs Bureau

Retired Deputy
Wayne Hilliard
EOW: November 28, 2024
LASD 1972-1998
Last assignment: Homicide Bureau



Retired Lieutenant
James Walgren
(EOW: 9/5/24)



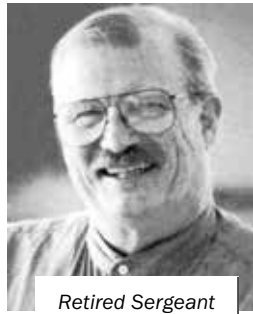
Retired Chief
Frederick Gustin
(EOW: 9/16/24)



Retired Lieutenant
Vienna Wilson
(EOW: 10/1/24)



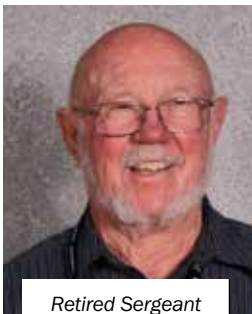
Retired Sergeant
John Yarbrough II
(EOW: 10/3/24)



Retired Sergeant
Samuel Patrick
(EOW: 10/6/24)



Retired Sergeant Clay
Landenberger
(EOW: 10/15/24)



Retired Sergeant
Rufus Horne III
(EOW: 10/26/24)



Retired Sergeant
Harry Allmoslecher
(EOW: 11/20/24)



Retired Captain
Bert Cueva
(EOW: 11/22/24)

Sheriff Security Assistant **Antonio Cruz Jr.**

EOW: December 9, 2024



→ Sheriff Security Assistant Antonio Cruz Jr. was a 23-year LASD veteran and was assigned to Whittier Court at the time of his passing. He is survived by his son.



Sergeant **Nelson Collado**

EOW: December 28, 2024

→ Sergeant Nelson Collado was a 24-year LASD veteran and was assigned to the Food Services Unit at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife and two children.



DMV CONFIDENTIALITY REQUEST

The DMV Confidentiality of Home Address covers LASD retired peace officers holding a valid California driver's license. The Request for Confidentiality of Home Address (INV 32) forms are not available at local DMVs. They are available only through qualifying agencies.

LASD retired peace officers can request the INV 32 form by contacting:
LASD Personnel Administration — PPC Unit
211 West Temple Street, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: DMV Confidentiality Coordinator

For more info, please contact Jean Marie Lewis
(DMV Confidentiality Coordinator) at (213) 229-1731.



PPOA Committees and Staff

2025 STANDING COMMITTEES

Associations

> Chairman Johnson

Communications

> Chairman Chapman

Finance

> Chairwoman Kato

Insurance

> Chairman Lee

Legislative

> Chairman Reddy

Membership

> Chairman Arcos

612 Negotiations

> Chairman Johnson

614 Negotiations

> Chairman Lee

631 Negotiations

> Chairwoman Kato

632 Negotiations

> Chairwoman Kato

Retiree Liaison

> Chairman Schallert

Scholarship

> Chairwoman Kato

STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Quint Jr.

Executive Director

Richard Escalante

Field Representative

Clare Franco

Administrative Assistant

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

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Lang, Hansen, Giroux & Kidane

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



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

(October issue — the hidden word appeared on page 8)

Patrick Begley, Medical Examiner Trainee

Paula Fong, Lieutenant (DA)

Michael Valdez, Retired Member



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.

Preparing for the 2025–26 Legislative Session

The new California State Legislature was sworn in for the 2025–2026 session December 2 in Sacramento. With election results final in each county, Democrats will retain legislative supermajorities, controlling 75% of the seats in both the Assembly and the Senate despite slight Republican gains. And, for the first time in the state’s history, the Senate will have a female majority. Governor Newsom has called special elections to fill two vacancies created by a senator’s resignation and an assemblymember’s election to Congress. The primaries for those safe Republican districts will be held in February, with the special elections falling on April 29.

Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas were re-elected to their leadership positions on the first day of session.

Both leaders have announced leadership and committee chair appointments, including new leadership for the respective public safety committees. Taking over for now-Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty, freshman legislator Nick Schultz was appointed chair in the Assembly. McGuire also appointed a newcomer, Senator Jesse Arreguin, to lead the Senate Public Safety Committee, a position formerly held by Senator Aisha Wahab. Schultz is a former prosecutor and mayor of Burbank, and Arreguin hails from Berkeley, where he served as mayor for eight years. The top post over public safety policy is often seen as a difficult, thankless task, with chairpersons having to find a balance between criminal justice reform advocates and law enforcement and victims’ rights.

In California, Senator Alex Padilla will continue to serve in the U.S. Senate, and Democratic Representative Adam Schiff will join him, beating out Republican candidate Steve Garvey. In the lower house for California, Democrats have 43 House seats and Republicans have nine.


Finally, the juxtaposition of a Trump White House and Governor Newsom at the helm in California makes for an uncertain environment in Sacramento going into a new two-year session. Just two days after the 2024 general election, the governor called another special session to approve funding



for the Department of Justice and other state agencies to “immediately file affirmative litigation.” The special session was held in December when legislators returned for the swearing-in for the 2025–26 legislative session.

Governor Newsom traveled to Washington, D.C., after the election to meet with California’s congressional delegation, the Biden administration and various executive agencies to advocate for action prior to President-elect Trump being sworn in. At the top of his list of requests is approval of eight clean-air rules awaiting approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, including a rule that would allow California to phase out the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035.

Other issues of concern to the governor and the Legislature include Trump’s threats to cut off federal disaster aid for wildfires, access to reproductive health care despite state protections and how the president-elect’s proposed tariffs hit California.

While the governor continues to protect and advance to the degree possible his progressive agenda, there is already speculation of his 2028 presidential run. In addition to Republicans making gains with California voters, this could have a cooling effect on overall aggressiveness of progressive policies in the next legislative session. But only time will tell. 

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.

February 12

PPOA Board of Directors Meeting

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members are invited to attend

with RSVP: (323) 261-3010

February 17

Presidents Day

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

February 18

PPOA Delegates Meeting

Location TBA

March 12

PPOA Board of Directors Meeting

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members are invited to attend

with RSVP: (323) 261-3010

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day

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



RETIREE EVENTS



Lakewood Annual Retiree Luncheon

January 22

Chili's, Lakewood

11 a.m.

Info: romeopm7227@gmail.com

HR-218 Qualification at Pitchess Detention Center

January 25

PDC Wayside Range

8 a.m.–noon

Info: pabner54@gmail.com

HR-218 Qualification at Rio Hondo

February 9, 16

7 a.m.–noon

Must be retired LASD sworn employee. No appointments, walk-in only.

Annual LASD Retiree Roundup

April 6–9

Riverside Resort & Casino
Laughlin, NV



ANNUAL LASD RETIREE ROUNDUP

April 6–9, Riverside Resort & Casino, Laughlin, NV

Cigar Night Hosted by PPOA at LASD Retiree Roundup

April 8

Riverside Resort Poolside Patio
Laughlin, NV

RSVP: moon5252@gmail.com

25th Annual Former L.A. Deputy Sheriffs in Texas Luncheon

May 17, at 11 a.m.

Kreuz Meat Market in Lockhart, TX

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

Temple Station Monthly Alumni Luncheon

Last Thursday of each month

(except Nov./Dec.) at 11:30 a.m.

Peppertree Café, Glendora

Info: ricksummers@verizon.net

Shape Up Your Finances

Improve your financial fitness and manage your wealth. Get your finances in shape by taking these steps:

- **Bulk up your emergency fund.** Having a backup fund may prevent you from having to tap or max out credit cards if your refrigerator dies or your car needs major repairs. Start by putting \$5 each month into the fund and increase it when you can.
- **Improve your credit score.** Having a clean credit history is more important than ever. First, obtain your free credit reports from annualcreditreport.com, review them and dispute any errors. Next, work to improve your score: Pay all bills on time, maintain a healthy mix of credit, use less than 25% of your credit limit and be sure to pay all fines and tickets — even unpaid library fines or parking tickets may be viewed negatively by potential lenders.
- **Stay on top of your accounts.** To avoid overdraft fees, account closures or other unexpected events, regularly monitor your credit card and other account balances.
- **Create a spending plan — and stick to it.** Bottom



ONCE YOU GET YOUR DEBT UNDER CONTROL, MAKE IT A GOAL TO PAY OFF THE BALANCE EACH MONTH TO AVOID ACCUMULATING INTEREST.

line: Expenses should not exceed income.

- **Get organized.** Consolidate accounts, organize financial documents (paper and digital) and use online banking, which can simplify your finances and reduce the likelihood you will miss a payment. Personal finance websites and apps make it easy to track your spending and manage your records, some with services that alert you when bills are due or balances are close to their limit.

- **Pay down debt.** Attack your high-interest credit cards first by paying more than the minimum balance each month. Once you get your debt under control, make it a goal to pay off the balance each month to avoid accumulating interest.
- **Use direct deposit.** If you still get paper checks, think about switching to automatic deposit. By having all or some of your payroll check directly transferred to your credit union account, you'll be less tempted to spend what you could be saving.
- **Take control of your investments.** Regularly review and organize your portfolio and talk to a financial professional about rebalancing it.

If you have any questions regarding any of these options, please contact the credit union from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (562) 229-9181. Remember, it all adds up!

Mark your calendar: All members are cordially invited to POPA Federal Credit Union's 47th annual Membership Meeting and Board Election on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

It will take place at the Cerritos Sheraton located at 12725 Center Court Dr., Cerritos, CA 90703. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting will commence promptly at 6 p.m.

If you plan to attend, please call your closest POPA FCU office to RSVP. (Only account holders are invited.) 🗳️



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)

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)

S&W SHIELD 9MM/SIG P229 9MM

S&W: CA model w/ Kydex holster and 4 mags: \$450. Sig: CA model w/ Kydex holster and 3 mags: \$850. (323) 597-6059. (0724)

BACK HOUSE STUDIO FOR RENT

A 690-square-foot addition, which features studio living, a bathroom with a shower, walk-in closet, washer/dryer and one driveway parking space. One occupant, and no pets are allowed. Rent is \$1,950, which includes water, gas and trash. Call (323) 236-1739 or email dgathright1984@me.com. (0724)

ROSE HILLS PLOT FOR SALE

Rose Hills (Whittier) cemetery plot located in the Garden of Prayers near the main entrance. \$15,000 or OBO. Call (909) 243-3002 or email rjramirez0618@gmail.com. (0824)

16" SCROLL SAW FOR SALE

Central Machinery 16" variable speed scroll saw table tilts 45 degrees for bevel cuts. Table size: 10" x 16" — pre-drilled holes for table mount. Air pump function. \$60 (was originally \$80). Call Pat: (909) 596-3508. Pictures available upon request. (0524)

1965 PORSCHE SPEEDSTER FOR SALE

Convertible, replica. 2-door, black with tan interior and tan top. 4-speed manual transmission, 1600cc, build of a Volkswagen Karmann Ghia chassis. Asking price \$25,000. Contact (626) 484-8301 or mianico5@gmail.com. (0924)

1957 CHEVY BEL AIR FOR SALE

Good running condition with original paint. 4-door, new white walls, seat upholstery. Too much to list. Needs someone to finish minor restoration. \$18K. Photos can be emailed. Call/text Sam at (562) 572-2462 and mention *Star & Shield*. (0924)

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)

2020 FORD RANGER FOR SALE

XL Super Crew. 37,000 miles. Excellent condition. New tires. \$28,500 obo. Contact: steveday212@yahoo.com. (0924)

LAGUNA OCEAN FRONT RENTAL

For Laguna Surf Resort: Ocean front unit for rent. Check in: 06/20/25 Check out: 06/27/25 Check in: 10/10/25 Check out: 10/17/25 1 bedroom, plus Murphy bed, sleeps 4, 2 baths, fireplace, kitchen, 1 covered parking space. Visit LagunaSurf.org for pics. Contact: (360) 301-0277 or jasewards@me.com. (1024)

RIVERFRONT VACATION RENTAL

Stunning riverfront views from a Parker Strip, Arizona, 4-bedroom 2-bath home, featuring a full kitchen, ice maker, washer-dryer, boat ramp, private boat and jet ski dock, and much more. First responder and military discount. Call Robert at (858) 688-3670 or Chuck at (323) 470-9827, or email rmos@mosmag.com. (0125)

TIRES/RIMS FOR SALE

Four BF Goodrich (white letter) radial tires mounted on American Racing mag rims. Two 215-60-15 and two 255-60-15 tires – 3 years old with only 1,000 miles. \$850 or best offer. Call Richard at (562) 858-8936 and leave message. (1024)

SLOT MACHINE FOR SALE

Mills "Break the Bank" nickel slot machine. Good working condition with stand. \$1,500. Contact Wayne at (626) 422-0555 or email waw296@gmail.com. (0924)



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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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.