

STAR & SHIELD

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

**18th Annual Peace Officer
Memorial Golf Tournament**

MONDAY, JUNE 1

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**ADVANCING KEY
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

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**REMEMBERING SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE**

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**CELEBRATING
C/A CLASS #118**

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PPOA Office

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info@ppoa.com
www.ppoa.com

POPA Federal Credit Union
(800) 369-7672
www.popa-fcu.org

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.

Star & Shield subscription: \$12

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PPOA Legislative Priorities: Turning Efforts Into Results

Our proud organization has the honor of representing thousands of our dedicated members. For nearly eight decades, PPOA has fought to protect the rights, safety and well-being of our members through smart, effective legislation. Thanks to the tireless work of our full-time lobbyists in Sacramento and our committed Legislative Committee, hundreds of laws have been passed that directly benefit PPOA members.

In addition to my role as PPOA president, I serve as the second vice president of the California Fraternal Order of Police. This position gives our union a seat at important state and national tables, ensuring that the voices of PPOA members are heard well beyond Los Angeles County. I want to share a few key legislative priorities that demonstrate our union's commitment to protecting your rights and safety.



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

Initially, some members of the Civilian Oversight Commission believed meet-and-confer discussions were not required under AB 847. After legal analysis, that view was reversed. PPOA is now actively meeting and conferring with the County to ensure that our members' legal protections, including rights under *Lybarger* and POBR, are fully respected. I personally met with the office of Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins (the author of this bill) on March 4 and received assurances that the bill's spirit and intent include these protections. During this visit, PPOA Board directors and I also met with numerous members of the California Assembly and Senate.

LOCAL AND COUNTY FOCUS: BINDING ARBITRATION

On March 17, PPOA representatives joined fellow public safety union officials at the weekly Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting. I'm pleased to report the supervisors voted to continue moving forward with a motion for binding arbitration, bringing us one step closer to placing this measure on the ballot for L.A. County voters in November.

Binding arbitration gives an independent arbitrator the authority to determine fair compensation for our members. Our members face dangerous work every day. They deserve fair pay, proper benefits and adequate staffing to do their jobs safely. Binding arbitration ensures they receive just treatment while keeping the public protected.

Binding arbitration helps create a fair negotiation process that keeps politics out of the discussion. Most importantly, it ensures that public safety employees have a fair path to the compensation they deserve.

STATE-LEVEL FOCUS: AB 847

At the state level, PPOA is actively engaged with Assembly Bill 847, which was signed into law in October 2025 and went into effect on January 1 of this year. This law allows civilian law enforcement oversight boards and county inspectors general to access certain confidential personnel records of peace officers. While L.A. County may argue that this effort strengthens oversight while maintaining accountability, PPOA conversely argues that the privacy protections afforded to released confidential materials may be adversely impacted.



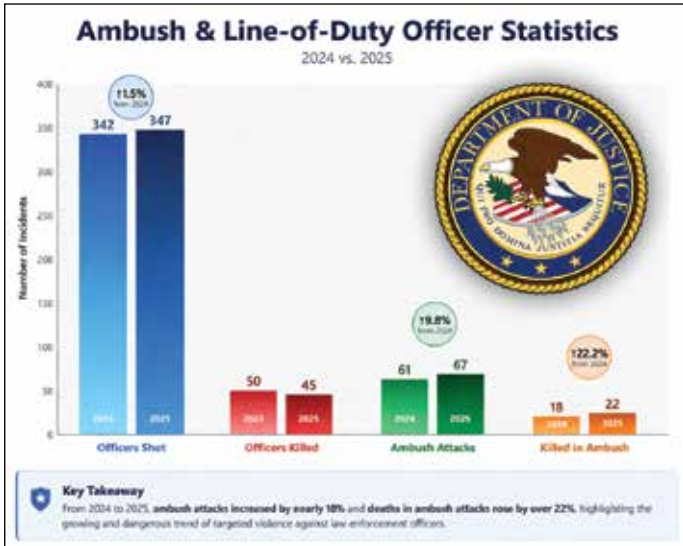
PPOA Board members with Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, who previously served on the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

NATIONAL FOCUS: PROTECTING OUR OFFICERS AND SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

In February of this year, I went to Washington, D.C., with a contingent of FOP representatives, where we met with more than a dozen members of Congress. We discussed several legislative initiatives that impact our profession.

One of the initiatives we proudly endorsed was the Protect and Serve Act. With ambush-style attacks on law enforcement rising, this law would create a federal offense for those who deliberately target officers. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, in 2024, 342 officers were shot in the line of duty, 50 of whom were killed. In 2025, 347 officers were shot, with 45 fatalities. The legislation has strong bipartisan support and addresses a critical threat to public safety professionals.

Another national priority is the Homes for Every Local



The HELPER Act would help first responders, including law enforcement officers, obtain first-time home loans with no down payment.

CONCLUSION

PPOA's legislative efforts — from local initiatives like binding arbitration to state laws such as AB 847 and national programs like the Protect and Serve Act and the HELPER Act — demonstrate our unwavering commitment to protecting our members. We fight not only for fair pay and working conditions but also for the safety, rights and dignity of every member.

For nearly 75 years, PPOA has proven that a strong union is a powerful voice. As your president, I promise to continue leading with courage, compassion and dedication, ensuring that those who protect our communities are always protected in return. 🛡️

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Honoring Our Fallen

Each year in the April issue of *Star & Shield* magazine, PPOA honors and pays tribute to our California peace officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the previous year and who will be memorialized in May at national, state and local memorial services.

In 1962, President Kennedy signed a joint congressional resolution proclaiming May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week.

Three fallen peace officers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) were submitted for inclusion in the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. — located at Judiciary Square, adjacent to the National Law Enforcement Museum — where more than 24,400 names of officers who died in the line of duty throughout American history are engraved on its walls.

This May, three LASD Detectives will have their names engraved on the memorial wall, and also added to the California and Los Angeles peace officer memorial monuments:

- Detective Joshua Kelley-Eklund (EOW: July 18, 2025)
- Detective Victor Lemus (EOW: July 18, 2025)
- Detective William Osborn (EOW: July 18, 2025)

Shortly after 7:30 a.m. on Friday, July 18, 2025, an explosion occurred at the Department's Biscailuz Regional Training Facility, where Detectives Kelley-Eklund, Lemus and Osborn lost their lives. The incident transpired in the parking lot of the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) at the facility. The Detectives were part of the prestigious LASD Arson and Explosives Detail. This incident tragically represents the largest loss of life for the LASD since 1857.

Detective Kelley-Eklund began his LASD career in March 2006, graduating from Academy Class #348. He worked nearly four years in Custody before transferring to Lennox Station. He was an outstanding Training Officer at South Los Angeles Station and was promoted to Detective at Narcotics Bureau in 2016. In 2022, he joined the SEB's Arson and Explosives Detail, where he was a well-respected and highly knowledgeable Arson Investigator and Bomb Technician. Detective Kelley-Eklund is survived by his loving wife and their seven children.

Detective Lemus began his LASD career in July 2003, graduating from Academy Class #339. After his assignment at Twin Towers Correctional Facility, he transferred to Century Station, where his relentless work ethic led to assignments



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

as a Senior Training Officer and Patrol Detective. In 2020, he was selected to serve in the elite SEB, contributing to both the K-9 unit and Arson and Explosives Detail. Detective Lemus is survived by his loving wife and their three children.

Detective Osborn began his LASD career in 1992, graduating from Academy Class #278. After his Men's Central Jail assignment, he transferred to Pico Rivera Station in 1998 as a Patrol Deputy. He transferred to Industry Station in 2001, working patrol and then as a Detective for over a decade. In 2016, he transferred to Training Bureau as an Emergency Vehicle Operations Center Instructor. In 2019, he joined SEB as an Arson and Explosives Investigator, partnering with his explosives

detection K-9, Kimber, and had recently become a member of the Dive Team. Detective Osborn is survived by his loving wife and their six children.



Since 1977, California has memorialized our state's fallen heroes during the California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremonies at the State Capitol in May. The annual Los Angeles County Memorial Ceremony is also held in May. It is PPOA's hope that our members attend at least one of the following memorial ceremonies to publicly affirm that our fallen officers and the families they left behind will never be forgotten:

- May 3–4: California Peace Officers' Memorial Candlelight Vigil and Enrollment Ceremony, Sacramento
- May 13: National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund Candlelight Vigil, National Mall, Washington, D.C.
- May 15: National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, West Front of the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.
- May 20: Los Angeles County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony, Biscailuz Regional Training Center

This May, let us respectfully remember the brave men and women who died in the line of duty safeguarding our county, our state and our great nation. May we never forget those five words etched with the names of over 24,400 peace officers on the granite walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial: *"In valor there is hope."* 🇺🇸

Reflecting on the Difference-Makers in My Four Decades With LASD

When I was first elected to the PPOA Board in 1992, I knew very little about unions or the Department. I was voted on and off several times afterward, but one thing that made the ride so amazing was the incredible men and women I encountered along the way. In this article, written as I am about to retire with 39 years and 10 months (I missed the 40-year mark!), I would like to reflect on my colleagues from the Sheriff's Department whose involvement with me made the ride so much more enjoyable and, actually, made it possible.

When I was hired as a Communication Operator at SRC in 1986, I was lucky enough to be assigned to an amazing dispatcher trainer named *Craig Bender*. He introduced me to the Sheriff's Department culture and the highly complex nature of dispatching. I am eternally grateful to him. While at the Radio Room, I became acquainted with a wonderful woman named *Lori Douglass*. She guided me through the process of promoting to the newly created position of Crime Analyst. If not for her, I would never have entered the profession I did. Lori, I can never thank you enough.

I have worked with some amazing sworn supervisors. *Robert Pettit*, my first DB Sergeant at Firestone Station, took me under his wing and helped me understand the technology of crime fighting and how to assist patrol and detectives. He was a "cop's cop," and his leadership touched thousands of deputies and even officers in other departments, as he later became chief of police of at least two other departments. Bob, thank you.

Another amazing leader at Norwalk Station was a big, tall intimidating guy named *John Aerts*. I really had a rough time with him at first, and it was definitely mutual. But he pushed me in ways that helped me so much. While rough and gruff to many, he had a huge heart and truly cared about his people.

The same could be said about the best cop I ever met in the Sheriff's Department, *Kevin Lloyd*. Kevin cared about his folks and the citizens he was sworn to protect. I know he's looking down on us from Heaven, continuing his watchful eye on us.

I was truly blessed to have several amazing Crime Analysis supervisors. If I had to narrow it down to three, they would be *Lisa Marie Morrisette*, *Teresa Husseon* and *Henry Gill*. All three could easily slide into the Crime Analysis job in a second, but each grew into an amazing leader. It was not always so easy between Lisa Marie and me. She was a perfectionist, and there were times when I did not rise to her expectations. She was firm, but



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

kind, and I could not be more grateful. Teresa was my supervisor through COVID and as I began having more and more difficulty getting to work. She had tremendous compassion, and the Department is blessed to have her. Henry, my final supervisor, made sure that my last year, dealing with all the legal complexities of pending retirement, was handled with dignity and class. I am so lucky to have known him.

Finally, my last two Detective Bureau Sergeants — *Paul Gonzales* and *Dave Pantoja*. These two amazingly compassionate ELA guys saw that I was having an increasingly difficult time getting to work and keeping up. Age was rearing its ugly head. They allowed me to adjust my schedule — when they didn't

have to. They allowed me to work a lighter load — when they didn't have to. I believe they both have moved on and promoted — very well deserved. So often, when we think the



Department got things wrong, we also see the Department get things right. I love that so much, recently, has gone right.

It has been an ultimate honor to serve on the PPOA Board, but also an incredible honor to serve under six Sheriffs and work more assignments than I can even count.

Finally, a quote. Articles like this always need quotes!

"In the end, only three things matter: how much you loved, how gently you lived and how gracefully you let go."

— Buddha

Please feel free to reach out to me at LAHistoryWriter@gmail.com if any of you need anything. 🍷

The Debrief

Earlier this year, we wrapped up our 12-month leadership series in partnership with Echelon Front. I hope every Unit 612 member had the opportunity to read *Extreme Ownership*. If not, it should be at the top of your reading (or listening) list this year. The leadership principles covered in our webinars are simple, practical and applicable both on the job and at home with our families.

We understand that attending the live webinars was challenging. Operational demands and mandatory overtime — required of so many of our brothers and sisters — made participation difficult. However, many of you were able to access the recordings on the PPOA website. If you have not yet seen them, I strongly encourage you to prioritize this training and take advantage of the archived sessions.

So, what did we learn?

Effective leadership is not a fixed skill — it is a journey shaped by evolving challenges. At different stages of our careers, we face different struggles: handling failure, managing performance, guiding teams through adversity or maintaining direction when circumstances deteriorate. Lessons that may not resonate today can become critical months later when conditions change. The key is to revisit core principles consistently, remain open-minded and recognize that growth often occurs when prior lessons suddenly become relevant.

At the center of lasting impact is the concept of cultural shift through “extreme ownership.” While some research suggests that organizational change requires 8%–12% of a group to alter direction, the deeper truth is simpler: meaningful change begins with one person. Cultural transformation does not wait for consensus. It starts when an individual chooses to execute, to embody the standard and to positively influence their immediate sphere.

Leadership is not defined by rank, title or tenure. Even those at the lowest level of an organizational chart possess influence — among peers, within teams and throughout daily interactions. When exercised deliberately, that influence sets tone and direction.

This understanding reframes leadership as responsibility rather than authority. In rank-structured professions such as law enforcement, the fire service, EMS and the military, leadership is often associated with insignia. The reality, however, is that everyone leads. Each person has a sphere of influence, and within that sphere



Jay Chapman
PPOA Board Member
Sergeant, LADA
jchapman@ppoa.com

lies the opportunity to model and reinforce core principles.

At the heart of this philosophy are the “laws” that guide execution.

Cover and Move emphasizes collective success over individual gain. When leaders consistently prioritize mission and team, trust deepens, relationships strengthen and discretionary effort increases. Culture shifts when personnel genuinely care for one another rather than viewing colleagues as interchangeable parts.

Simple underscores the power of clarity. Leaders must strive to keep communication and planning clear, concise and easily understood. Complexity creates confusion, and confusion degrades execution.

Prioritize and Execute challenges the myth of effective multitasking. Leaders often believe they can manage multiple competing demands simultaneously; however, divided attention weakens decision-making. Instead, leaders must identify the highest priority and address it first. This requires detachment — not from responsibility, but from emotion. By stepping back and assessing situations objectively, leaders can determine what truly matters and act decisively.

Decentralized Command represents the ultimate objective: a culture in which leadership is empowered at every level.

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A Difficult Transition for Sheriff Security Officers

By now, all of us have gone through the job fair process following the end of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) contract. For many Sheriff Security Officers (SSOs), this wasn't just another administrative change — it felt personal.

The Department decided not to renew the DMH contract due to deputy vacancies throughout the Department. We understand that staffing shortages are real and that the Department has to prioritize its resources. But understanding the reason doesn't make it any easier.

For many of us, DMH wasn't just an assignment. It was home. Some of us worked at the same facility for years. We built relationships with staff, clinicians, nurses and administrators. We got to know the daily flow, the challenges and even the personalities that made each location unique. We weren't just uniforms standing watch — we were part of the environment. We helped create a safe space for people who were often going through some of the hardest moments of their lives.

It is definitely hard to move from a location you were so used to after working there for so long. There's a comfort that comes with familiarity: knowing the layout without thinking, recognizing faces, understanding how to de-escalate situations before they escalate. That kind of experience can't be replaced overnight.



Vardan Kasabyan
PPOA Board Member
Sheriff Security Officer, LASD
vkasabyan@ppoa.com

hospitals or new facilities, the same integrity and work ethic we brought to DMH will follow us.

The DMH contract may have come to an end, but the impact we made there does not disappear. The relationships we built mattered. The incidents we handled mattered. The quiet moments where our presence prevented something from happening mattered.

As we move forward, we carry that experience with us. We may be stepping into new buildings, new teams and new routines, but we are not starting from zero. We are bringing years of knowledge and professionalism into whatever comes next.

Change is hard. But SSOs are resilient. As the locations and contracts shift, our commitment to serving this county and protecting those within it remains the same. 🇺🇸

SSOs ARE ADAPTABLE BY NATURE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T FEEL THE WEIGHT OF CHANGE.

Many of us walked into the job fair carrying more than just paperwork. We carried memories, pride and uncertainty about what comes next.

Transitions like this remind us how deeply we invest ourselves in our assignments. SSOs are adaptable by nature, but that doesn't mean we don't feel the weight of change. It's OK to acknowledge that this shift is difficult. It's OK to feel disappointed, unsettled or even frustrated.

But what hasn't changed is who we are. We are professionals. We are trained. We bring stability into environments that rely on our presence. Whether reassigned to courts, county buildings,

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YOUR CAREER

**BECOME A
PPOA DELEGATE**



PPOA is represented by more than 100 delegates at work locations around the county. The role of the delegate is crucial in facilitating effective communication between the union's board, staff and membership. Topics ranging from contract negotiations to grievances or lawsuits are discussed at quarterly meetings held midweek at locations throughout L.A. County.

In addition to meetings, PPOA also calls upon delegates when input is needed on classification-specific topics or when opportunities arise to serve on a committee or attend union-related events.

If you are interested in being an actively participating delegate, please send an email with your name, employee number and work location to: info@ppoa.com.

C/As Showing Up for C/As

My fellow Custody Assistants, we are in a time when every person's voice and involvement can make a difference. The PPOA elections were a prime example of the impact every vote can hold. This alone is proof that we, as individuals, hold more power than we often realize. But together, acting with altruism and uniting our voices and choices, we can accomplish so much more. While some of us have the ability to succeed individually, the real power is in our numbers. When we all show up, especially for each other, we make things happen. Whether in a professional capacity, in support of our partners' personal struggles or loss, Custody Assistants (C/As) show up for each other when it matters the most.

On February 7, PPOA was on location in San Pedro and Santa Clarita with our union partners — ALADS, Firefighters Local 1014, L.A. County Lifeguard Association and LA/OC Building and Construction Trades — to collect signatures to support getting the Safer L.A. County Binding Arbitration initiative on the upcoming November ballot. We spoke to many L.A. County registered voters, many unionized workers themselves, who were in support of our efforts. I want to give a special shout-out to the C/As who showed up to both locations for signature collections, and also to the Hall of Administration on February 10 for the first reading of the proposed initiative. I often say if you



Melissa Rodriguez
PPOA Board Member
Custody Assistant, LASD
mrodriguez@ppoa.com

aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem. These dedicated PPOA members consistently show up to be part of the solution. I am grateful for their contribution of personal time and effort and look forward to working side by side with them on future endeavors.

Our efforts did not go unnoticed — our day of collecting signatures yielded a response from the Board of Supervisors (BOS), as they voted to have County Counsel draft ballot language for the Binding Arbitration initiative. There was a second reading of the proposed ballot language at the BOS meeting on March 3, in which the supervisors voted to move forward with the motion. Our fight is far from over, but this is a huge step in the right direction!

On February 18, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation had the honor of sponsoring a fundraiser at Men's Central Jail to benefit one of our partners, Custody Assistant George Ezeh. This event was coordinated with facility operations at MCJ to provide support for C/A Ezeh as he recovers from an unfortunate accident that resulted in unforeseen circumstances. PPOA staff member Richard Escalante was the grill master, assisting the efforts of feeding more than 250 people who turned out to support their friend and partner. It was a beautiful day and a great turnout. I want to thank everyone who made this event a success for C/A Ezeh. He was recently recognized for his 25 years of service and is

described by his peers as being a solid partner with a great attitude and a willingness to help. PPOA wishes him all the best on his road to recovery.

On March 5, PPOA was notified of the tragic loss of one of our own, Custody Assistant Diego Zamora. His career spanned over 22 years with LASD, working multiple assignments, including Twin Towers, IRC and his most recent



PPOA was honored to assist with the fundraiser at MCJ for C/A George Ezeh (center)



C/A Diego Zamora
(EOW: 3/5/26)

→ continued on page 12

Reunions, Registration and Respect for the Men and Women Still Wearing the Badge

As I write this, I am packing up to attend the LASD Retiree Roundup in Laughlin. Like many of you, I've enjoyed this event for many years. Moon puts on a great show. I especially look forward to PPOA hosting the annual cigar night, a crowd favorite on the pool patio.

We have lost a lot of really good friends over the last year, and that always hits home at the Roundup. So take care of yourselves. Get your annual skin cancer and medical exams, have bloodwork done regularly and get those colonoscopies!

I need you all to make sure you are registered to vote online for all PPOA elections, polls and other matters. Simply visit *PPOA.com* and scroll down until you see Online Voting (see image below). Click "PPOA Members Register Here" and follow the prompts.

Right now, we have about 300 retired PPOA members registered out of several thousand. That needs to increase. We need input from retirees on occasion regarding legislation, health care and other issues. You have a wealth of information we will need in the future. If you need help, please call PPOA at (323) 261-3010 or ask your grandchildren to walk you through it. Believe me, I understand



Jim Schallert
PPOA Retiree Representative
LASD retired
jschallert@ppoa.com

how tough modern tech can be! My son just switched hats from rocket science to a mod-retro gaming company that is bringing back handheld, non-internet-connected games (the Game Boy kind where you insert a cartridge)! I love it. It brings me back to Asteroids and Tetris. It's easy and helps with brain health!

Sergeants and Lieutenants in Unit 612 are still working without a contract. It expired in January 2025, and the PPOA negotiations team has met with County executives more than 25 times over the last 18 months in pursuit of a sensible contract. The County has really shown that it does not value law enforcement. Recruitment is almost impossible in this profession these days, and the work is not as appreciated by the public. We really need to stand behind the guys and gals in uniform. If you ever see one, you don't need to identify

yourself, but maybe offer a simple "Thanks for what you do" or buy them lunch.

With that, I hope to see many of you at the Roundup again. Until next time! ❤️



PPOA members (retired and active): Please register to vote in online union elections!



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.

This cannot be achieved without mastering the preceding principles. Strong relationships, clear communication and disciplined prioritization create the foundation for trust. Once trust is established, authority can be shared appropriately. In a decentralized culture, everyone leads regardless of rank or seniority. However, empowerment requires context. Leaders must consistently explain the “why” behind decisions, because understanding purpose drives ownership. When personnel understand why they are doing something, they are far more capable of executing independently and effectively.

Ultimately, sustainable cultural change does not begin with sweeping reform. It begins with personal accountability. It starts with one individual choosing mission-first thinking, clear communication, emotional discipline and the empowerment of others through trust and transparency. Leadership starts with each of us.

I would like to thank the members of the PPOA Training Committee who brought this vision to fruition, including PPOA President Steve Johnson; former PPOA Board members Kevin Ahsmuhs (LASD ret.) and Walter Arcos; LASD Sergeants John Strosnider and Oscar Rodriguez; and LADA Sergeant Jason Hosch. I also want to acknowledge our PPOA Board, professional staff and sworn personnel who assisted with the initial book distribution to our members. We are stronger leaders because our PPOA Board chose to invest in our membership and in the development of leadership at every level. ♥

assignment, PMB/CTU. My path first crossed C/A Zamora’s while I was a trainee at IRC. He was then assigned to IRC Oldside but working overtime on the line, as he often did. He often shared words of wisdom to trainees. I recall him preaching the importance of knowing Department policy and taking accountability for your actions. He said that when it was time to stand tall for our actions, sometimes you’ll take your lumps, but you keep moving forward. He was an old-school C/A who provided excellent relief religiously, insisted on staying busy and was always willing to help. I had the opportunity to visit his family, and we shared stories, laughs and tears as we reflected on his life. He was a doting father and loving husband who was taken too soon from a family that adored him. He will be missed and remembered by many.

Lastly, a brief update on our contract negotiations. The Unit 621 negotiations team has met multiple times preparing our noneconomic proposals in anticipation of finally beginning the process of securing our next contract. We appreciate everyone’s patience, as this delay has been 100% out of our control. Given the circumstances of what has transpired with every other open contract yet to be ratified in the county, it is best that we concentrate on what we can control, and that is our ability to prepare. ♥



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

(February/March 2026 issue — the hidden word appeared on page 7)

Linda Torres, Custody Assistant

Kelly Walper, Law Enforcement Technician

Glenn Winther, retired member

IMPORTANT UPDATE DEVIL PUPS YOUTH PROGRAM

The application process must now be submitted online at DevilPups.com. The new physical exam form must be completed by a physician prior to the physical testing at Biscailluz Center on April 26, and it must also be submitted online.

The citizenship/leadership camp runs July 8–18 at Camp Pendleton. The Sheriff’s Department will again be able to send exemplary boys and girls ages 14–17, and PPOA is proud to support this worthy program.



Questions?

Please contact **Chuck Norris** at (818) 381-7649 or **Patty Norris** at (818) 381-7698.

PPOA



2026 College Scholarship Program

We are proud to announce that 12 scholarships will be available to help further the education of PPOA members and their dependents.

Criteria and applications available at PPOA.com.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 17.



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Support for Custody Assistant Class #119

P POA representatives were proud to meet with 18 newly hired Custody Assistants at Biscailuz Center in March during the first day of orientation for Class #119. ♡



Support for Temple Station and OSS Bureau

P POA was proud to donate two treadmills recently — one for OSS and one for Temple Station. 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 for employee gyms at facilities throughout the county. The commercial, refurbished machines are purchased by the Foundation at discounted pricing and delivered to select

units where members have an expressed need for exercise equipment.

To date, five additional units are on the wait list for treadmills. That list is now full for the remainder of the year, but please know 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 info, call Discount Fitness at (562) 531-7767 and tell them you're a member of the Professional Peace Officers Association. ♡



Support for New Sergeants

P POA Board and staff members met with 29 Sergeants attending Supervisory School at STARS Center. 🇺🇸



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Support for PPOA Member in Need

PPOA was honored to tow our barbecue trailer to Men’s Central Jail in February to provide grilled lunch for a fundraiser supporting Custody Assistant George Ezeh (see page 10 for more info), who suffered a serious injury in an off-duty accident. ❤️



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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 April 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

This month's hidden word is:

Degrades

To lower to an inferior or less effective level

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

PPOA Podcasts: New Episodes Delve Into L.A. County Budget Priorities and Critical Insurance Coverage

Two more episodes of the PPOA video podcast are now online. Episode five features an interview with Tami Omoto-Frias, senior budget deputy for L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis. Discussion topics include Supervisor Solis’ priorities, public safety and preparation for upcoming global events.



Senior Budget Deputy Tami Omoto-Frias of Supervisor Hilda Solis’ office with President Johnson

Episode six features an informative discussion with Justin Feldman, senior partner with Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin & Lee. He explains the importance of being honest with doctors about your health and the significance of uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. ♡



Attorney Justin Feldman with President Johnson

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PPOA Members Spotted on the Socials

It's officially retirement season! PPOA congratulates all our members who are wrapping up their careers as dedicated public servants. We wish each of you a happy, healthy retirement. *Images courtesy of social media.* 🇺🇸

mdrlasd

mdrlasd Yesterday, we said farewell to Jailer Maldonado and extended our heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved retirement. We sincerely appreciate the years of dedicated service.

avalonstationlasd
Catalina Island

avalonstationlasd Congratulations Sergeant Kline on your well-earned retirement. Thank you for 35 years of service, leadership, and dedication to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. You've made a lasting difference—enjoy every moment of this next chapter. #lasd

lasdtransit
🎵 Junko Ohashi · I Love You So

lasdtransit Honoring 31 incredible years of dedicated service 🇺🇸 Today we celebrate the retirement of a true leader Sergeant Pedroza from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Throughout his career, he set the standard with unwavering commitment, integrity, and professionalism —earning the respect of everyone who had the privilege to work alongside him.

His presence, guidance, and sense of humor will be deeply missed around the station, and his impact will continue to be felt for years to come. Thank you for the sacrifices you've made and the lives you've touched along the way.

Wishing you nothing but happiness, relaxation, and new adventures in this next chapter—you've more than earned it. 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

waldblasd

waldblasd Join us in congratulating our station jailer Guidinger on his 37 years of service. Thank you for your service and commitment. We wish you the best on this new chapter of your life. Retirement!

sdmlasd

sdmlasd 🥳 Congratulations on retirement to Custody Assistant, Figueras after 26 years of service. 🍋

Retirement isn't the end of the road-it's the beginning of a new adventure. May your days be filled with laughter, family, friends, and everything that brings you joy. You've worked hard for this moment-now it's time to enjoy it!

Wishing you the best! ⭐

FOLLOW LAPPOA ON FACEBOOK




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

www.facebook.com/LAPPOA



Congratulations to Custody Assistant Class #118

PPOA representatives were proud to attend the graduation ceremony for Custody Assistant Class #118 in February at Biscailuz Center. We wish them every success as they begin their promising new careers with

the Sheriff's Department. These photos, along with many more from the ceremony, can be viewed on the LAPPOA Facebook page. *Photos by Greg Torres/PPOA.* 







RETIREE EVENTS



HR 218 Qualification at Rio Hondo

April 26 at 7–8 a.m.
(one hour only)
Must be retired LASD sworn employee, and CCW needs to be up to date

Southern Idaho LASD Taco Luncheon

June 13 at 11:30 a.m.
Thatcher residence
47 River Ranch Road,
Garden Valley, Idaho
RSVP to methatch@icloud.com

Law Enforcement Serra Retreat

September 25–27
Serra Retreat House, Malibu
Info: Patty Norris,
(818) 381-7698

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: ricks Summers@verizon.net



LAW ENFORCEMENT SERRA RETREAT

September 25–27,
Serra Retreat House, Malibu

RETIRED FEMALE DEPUTIES (RFD) SOCIAL CLUB

Biannual May Luncheon, Meeting and 40th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY, MAY 2

11 a.m. social hour, 12 p.m. luncheon

MALONE RESIDENCE

18 La Torre Drive, Phillips Ranch, CA 91766

No cost for members who have paid yearly dues (\$20);
\$25 for guests

Hosted Friday Night Reception

May 1, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Malone residence

Please RSVP to msemenegerg@gmail.com by April 24.

No payment accepted at the door.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

- Alicia Malone,
purpelrose@msn.com, (909) 967-4078
- Gladys Maddin,
gemaddin@sbcglobal.net, (626) 641-8839
- Diane Stone,
didilynne@aol.com, (626) 482-2300
- Michelle Emenegerg,
msemenegerg@gmail.com, (714) 293-3891
- RFD President Roberta Abner,
roberta58@aol.com, (805) 422-2635

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PPOA

18TH ANNUAL

Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, June 1

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- Two (2) years of full time, permanent law enforcement experience (as defined under CA 830.1 PC)
- An associate degree or higher from an accredited college or university
- Possession of a valid CA POST Basic Certificate or higher



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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.

April 17

Deadline for PPOA Scholarship Applications
Visit PPOA.com for details

May 4

California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation Enrollment Ceremony
Capitol Mall, Sacramento
Visit camemorial.org for details

May 13

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



May 20, Biscailuz Center Training Academy

May 20

Los Angeles County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony
Biscailuz Center Training Academy

May 25

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

June 1

18th Annual Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament
Friendly Hills Country Club, Whittier
Visit PPOA.com for details

May 15

45th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service
U.S. Capitol, West Front, Washington, D.C.



PPOA Committees and Staff

2026 STANDING COMMITTEES

Associations

› Chairman Johnson

Awards

› Chairman Ramos

Bylaws

› Chairman Weber

Communications

› Chairman Kasabyan

Delegates

› Chairman Walker

Election Update

› Chairman Walker

Finance Committee

› Chairwoman Kato

Insurance

› Chairman Lee

Legislative

› Chairman Johnson

Membership

› Chairman Ramos

Retiree Liaison

› Chairman Schallert

Scholarship

› Chairwoman Rodriguez

Star & Shield Foundation

› Chairman Johnson

Unit 612 Contract Negotiations

› Chairman Johnson

Unit 614 Contract Negotiations

› Chairman Lee

Unit 621 Contract Negotiations

› Chairman Walker

Unit 631/632 Contract Negotiations

› 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

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.

END OF WATCH

PPOA extends our sincere condolences to the families of the following PPOA members who passed away in January 2026:

Retired Sergeant
Kenneth Sutherland
EOW: January 2, 2026
LASD 1967-1997
Academy Class #115
Last assignment: Court Services East (Rio Hondo Court)
U.S. Army veteran
Condolences may be emailed to the family: sherridullaart@gmail.com

Retired Sergeant
Roberta Lemming
EOW: January 5, 2026
LASD 1964-1985
Academy Class #103
Last assignment: West Hollywood Station
Condolences may be emailed to the family: runnrov@gmail.com

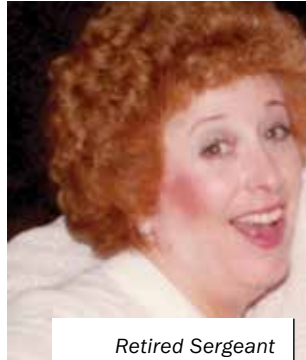
Retired Custody Assistant
Richard Ojeda
EOW: January 7, 2026
LASD 1987-2015
Last assignment: Inmate Reception Center

Retired Sergeant
Ken Kyle
EOW: January 13, 2026
LASD 1979-2009
Academy Class #195

Retired Lieutenant
Lawrence Martindale
EOW: January 21, 2026
LASD 1981-2006
Academy Class #206
Last assignment: North County Correctional Facility
U.S. Army Air National Guard veteran



*Retired Sergeant
Kenneth Sutherland
(EOW: 1/2/26)*



*Retired Sergeant
Roberta Lemming
(EOW: 1/5/26)*



*Retired Custody
Assistant Richard Ojeda
(EOW: 1/7/26)*



*Retired Sergeant
Ken Kyle
(EOW: 1/13/26)*



*Retired Lieutenant
Lawrence Martindale
(EOW: 1/21/26)*

By Bob Giroux

Lang, Hansen, Giroux & Kidane, PPOA Legislative Representatives

PPOA Advocates for Members as Legislative Session Accelerates

The California Legislature has officially begun the second year of the 2025–26 legislative session, and PPOA continues to actively monitor developments that could affect peace officers and public safety professionals across Los Angeles County. With the February 20 deadline for introducing new bills now behind us, lawmakers have introduced 1,897 measures this year — the lowest number of bill introductions in nearly two decades following new limits on the number of bills each legislator can author.


As the legislative process moves forward, attention will shift to the next set of deadlines in March and April, when “spot bills” are amended with substantive policy proposals and committee hearings begin in earnest. PPOA’s Legislative Committee will begin reviewing and taking positions on relevant public safety legislation this spring as these proposals take shape.

PPOA and its legislative advocates at Lang, Hansen, Giroux & Kidane have also been closely tracking the state budget process, which began earlier this year when Governor Gavin Newsom released his proposed 2026–27 spending plan. Administration officials have described the proposal as a “workload budget” with limited new spending, while acknowledging that California faces projected structural

deficits of \$25 to \$35 billion annually beginning as soon as the 2027–28 fiscal year. Legislators have raised concerns about the timeline for addressing these challenges, particularly given the June 15 constitutional deadline for passing a state budget.

In early March, PPOA leadership traveled to Sacramento for a successful two-day legislative advocacy visit to meet directly with lawmakers and staff. Discussions focused on several key issues impacting PPOA members, including recruitment and retention challenges facing law enforcement agencies, the fiscal health of Los Angeles County and its potential implications for labor negotiations, and updates related to the implementation of statewide policing reforms such as SB 2 (2021) and AB 847 (2025).

PPOA members will recall that SB 2 established a process at the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) for decertifying officers found to have engaged in serious misconduct. AB 847 addresses the authority of civilian oversight commissions, including expanding subpoena powers in certain circumstances.

The meetings provided PPOA an opportunity to reinforce the important role peace officers play in protecting public safety while ensuring legislators understand the challenges facing the profession. As the legislative session unfolds and major policy debates begin to take shape in the coming months, PPOA will continue engaging with lawmakers and monitoring legislation to protect the interests and working conditions of its members. 



PPOA Board members and Legislative Representative Kiana Valentine with Senator Laura Richardson, who serves as chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation



PPOA Board members with Assemblymember Tom Lackey, a former California Highway Patrol officer and Palmdale City Council member



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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)

1965 PORSCHE SPEEDSTER REPLICA 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)

BASS BOAT

'08 Tracker Pro Team 17.5, Merc. 75, Mtr. guide t/m, Lowrance electronics, new upholstery and cover, lots of extras, low hours. \$12,500. Contact Wayne at (626) 422-0555 or email waw296@gmail.com. (0925)

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Queen bed, flat screen TV, Wi-Fi and streaming services, kitchenette with sink, refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, window A/C, power recliner, large bathroom with shower. \$1,250/month, including utilities. Contact MikeMartinez2000@gmail.com or (408) 693-9404. (0225)

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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)

1999 PORSCHE "911" CARRERA

2-door convertible, black/black, 6 cylinder, manual transmission. Asking price \$18,000 OBO. Contact tiffanyjoiner26@gmail.com. (0725)

BULLHEAD CITY CONDO FOR SALE

Condo in Bullhead City, Arizona. 2 bd., 2 ba., fully furnished. Complex located on Colorado River, five miles south of Laughlin. \$189k or best offer. Leave message for Robert at (562) 756-4721 or email gmt49@ca.rr.com. (0226)

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Laguna Surf Resort: 1 bedroom plus Murphy bed. Sleeps 4. 2 baths, fireplace, kitchen. Walk to beach, town and restaurants. 9/11/26-9/18/26; 10/23/26-10/30/26; 10/30/26-11/06/26. Contact jasewards@me.com or (360) 301-0277. (0426)

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)

ATTENTION WOODWORKERS

Shapeoko XXL carbide 3D router. It cuts wood, plastic, aluminum and more. Asking \$1,500. Leave a message at (626) 392-8507. (0425)

RIFLE SCOPES FOR SALE

Gently used: 1. Burris, 3x9 - 40mm Fullfield II. 2. Eagle Eye optics red dot tubular. Both scopes come with mounts. \$125 for both, I pay for shipping. Also have considerable amount of reloading stuff: dies, scales, blocks, etc. Call for list. Diagnosis of low vision forces me to give up hobby. Contact: Ron at (661) 317-7671 or nybakken.john@gmail.com. (0725)

RV CAMP HOST WANTED

June Lake RV Park, California. 3 days a week. Hours: 12-5. Monthly or summer. Walk to lake and stores. Must have RV. Call (818) 700-9262. May-Oct: (760) 648-7967. (0426)

FREE POLICE HATS

I have approximately 12 police hats from various countries. If interested, please contact John at jb009090@yahoo.com. (0126)



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.

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