



The Informant

The Official Publication of the San Diego Police Officers Association
Volume XXXIX, No. 11
November 2019

Saluting our Veterans



- In this Issue:**
- > Member Spotlight:
Officer Wende Eckard
Pg. 6
 - > Unit Highlight:
SDPD Gang Intervention Unit
Pg. 12
 - > SANDAG: Homelessness Among
Arrestees in San Diego County
Pg. 14

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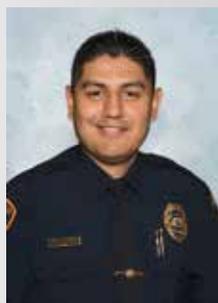
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We encourage article ideas and photographs about or of interest to our members. Article abstracts, photos, story ideas, suggestions, letters to the editor, commentaries and information may be submitted in person, by mail or by e-mail to the editor.

Freedom of expression is assured within the bounds of good taste and the limits of available space.

Our target audience is law enforcement, specifically POA members of the San Diego Police Department.

Deadline

All copy and advertising must be submitted by the tenth of the month prior to the anticipated publication month; e.g. July 10 for the August issue. Content submitted after that date may be considered for a later issue.

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In this Issue

President's Message	5
Member Spotlight: Officer Wende Eckard	6
Chaplain's Corner	11
Unit Highlight: SDPD Gang Intervention Unit	12
SANDAG: Homelessness Among Arrestees in San Diego County	14
SDPOA Discounted Tickets	16
SDPOA Store	17
UC-7: Iowa Meat Farms	19
Pension Corner	20
2019 SDPAF Softball Championships	23
In Remembrance	25
Recent Member Retirements	26
On the Road	27
Board Minutes	28
Classifieds	29
Foundation Minutes	30

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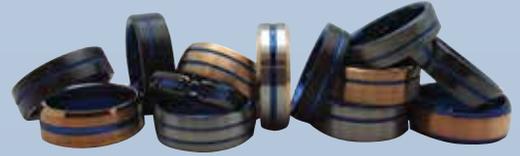
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President's Message



Thanksgiving is almost upon us! As the autumn leaves turn from green to orange and brown, I can't help but think of how quickly 2019 has flown by.

As the President of this association, I always support efforts to recognize the exceptional work of our officers. Last month, I was proud to attend Point Loma Nazarene University's (PLNU) Hope Rising event. This event benefits the anti-trafficking initiatives of the Center of Justice and Reconciliation at PLNU. One of San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) own, Acting Detective Angela Johnson, received an award for her investigation which lead to a long prison sentence on a heart-wrenching human trafficking case. Congratulations, Angela, on this well-deserved honor!

With the election season just around the corner, the SDPOA Political Action Committee (PAC) is working diligently to attempt to identify the best candidate in each individual race. I say the "best" candidate, because there is no such thing as the perfect candidate. The PAC rigorously interviews each candidate seeking our endorsement. We engage in long discussions about our existing relationships with those candidates and other issues specific to the individual candidate. After this lengthy process, we are sometimes able to come to a conclusion on who would be the best candidate for the SDPOA to endorse. Some members are often critical on who the SDPOA chooses to endorse, however, the reality in California is that super majorities exist locally and statewide. I have expressed several times that super majorities are not ideal. More important than party designation is the willingness to have open conversations about the issues our members face. If we only have strong relationships with the minority party, our message only resonates with 25%-30% of elected officials. We must be able to inject our expertise into various controversial topics, otherwise, one-sided decisions are made.

Recently, many members have retired without contacting the POA. The City/SDCERS does not notify the SDPOA of a member's retirement, so it is best that a

member is aware they must do so upon learning their official SDCERS retirement date. That said, at the very least, the SDPOA will need a two week advance notice so that there is time to complete the necessary retirement paperwork. Please be sure to communicate this to any of your cohorts that you know will soon be retiring.

The Home Buying Assistance Program should have the final o.k. by the time this issue of The Informant is delivered to your home. Keep an eye out for upcoming emails that will announce the dates and times of initial information meetings. At these meetings, the banks will explain the programs and you will be able to sign up for individual counseling sessions. At these sessions, they will determine plans that are best fit for your needs.

The SDPOA's 4th Annual Memorial Fund Golf Classic will be taking place on November 15th at the Barona Creek Golf Club. For more information and to register, you can visit the event website at sdpoa.org/memorial-golf. This tournament benefits the SDPOA's Memorial Fund, which donates to the families of fallen officers nationwide, as well as supports national, state, and local memorials, and sponsors members in order for them to attend the memorial ceremonies. Our other primary fundraiser for the Memorial Fund is our annual Steve Hobbs Charity Poker Tournament. Next year's tournament will be held on February 21, 2020. Be sure to pencil this event into your calendar as this is always an entertaining evening.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! Remember, for those who are working, the SDPOA will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving Meal in the Hall of Valor. We welcome you and your immediate families to attend.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Schaeffer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jack Schaeffer

Member Spotlight

By Erika Vroom, Editor

Officer Wende Eckard

It is no small feat to be a woman in a male dominated profession, especially when that profession is law enforcement. Officer Wende Eckard understands this and took this task in stride when she applied and was hired by the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) in March 1999. For Wende, what made the hiring process a bit less daunting was joining law enforcement during a time where there was an influx of women applying for the same line of work right beside her. Wende has successfully risen to the rank of POIII and proves that effective leadership comes from a lot of hard work and a lot of passion within.



Born in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Wende is the middle child of three girls. Her dad played a starring role in much of her childhood. As a Vietnam War Veteran, Wende's father lost both of his legs while fighting for our country's freedom. In the early 1970s, with two prosthetic legs, he became a police officer for a local police department. This perseverance over his handicap gave Wende the motivation to one day become a police officer herself. "Being very close with him and looking up to him and wanting to emulate him, was something that later in high school and early in college I decided might be something for me." For college, Wende attended Penn State prior to transferring to the University of West Florida where she graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. "I remember when

I was in college I took a class with this old grizzled up Miami-Dade cop...who had been a cop for over 40 years, and I remember hearing his stories and thinking that... that's what I want to do," recalls Wende. Just two days after graduating college, Wende moved to San Diego. As the first and only female in her family to pursue law enforcement, Wende takes pride in knowing she found her niche.

Post-academy, Wende began her career with SDPD at Mid-City division. "Mid-City was great! It is a very diverse community with over 53 languages spoken there. I got to meet people from Eritrea, Somalia, and Vietnam.

It was fascinating," Wende explains. She remained there for 10 years prior to transferring to the SDPD Air Support Unit. She went back to school and obtained her private pilot's license and became a pilot. After four months at Air Support, Wende gained a new patrol assignment at Central division where she has been for the last nine and a half years. At Central, she was promoted to POIII in 2016.

Wende has decided that she is exactly where she wants to be in her career. "I'm a natural leader and being a senior officer has been a perfect fit." Between running scenes and guiding the more junior officers below her, Wende takes great care to focus on being the best role model possible. The thing that she recounts to be most rewarding is seeing young officers who she has met along

the way do well. “I love seeing them succeed, have successful careers, and find happiness in this job like I have found,” Wende explains, “It’s seeing them and watching them grow and become better cops, and having a hand in that. I want to see everyone that comes into this organization succeed.” Wende herself recently found her success and had work pay off when she was chosen as Central division’s Officer of the Shift for May-September 2019.



Aside from her everyday work, Wende takes the time to participate in a multitude of programs throughout the department. She is a Peer Support officer, involved with the Wellness Unit, as well as participates in Police Athletic Federation league activities. Her willingness to be involved translates to just how active she is outside of work as well. Wende has two dogs, a large circle of friends, and thoroughly enjoys travelling. She has been to places like Ireland, Alaska, Maui, Big Bear, France, and Japan to name a few. She skis, kick boxes, sky dives, flies planes, dirt bikes, and so much more.



Overall, Wende emphasizes, “The passion that I have for this job keeps me here. It is a thankless job.” She goes on to state that camaraderie and close relationships are key to truly being a part of the SDPD family.

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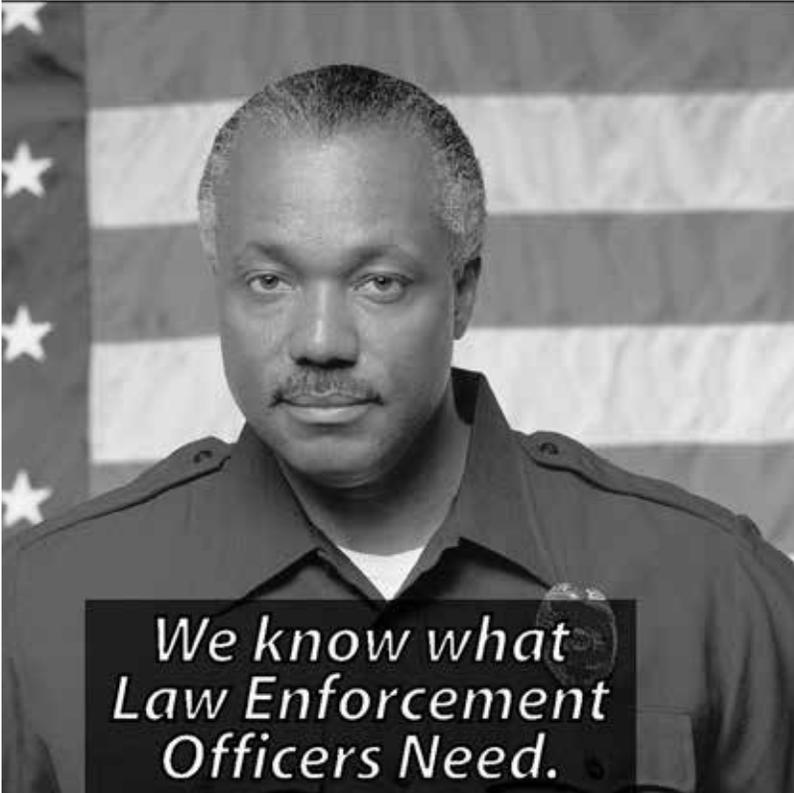
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Chaplain's

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By Chaplain Chuck Price
San Diego Police Department
Chaplain

You Don't Look Like I Feel

So Jesus spoke to them: “You are masters at making yourselves look good in front of others, but God knows what’s behind the appearance. (Luke 16:15 MSG)”

You don't look like I feel.

This is a catch-all phrase that I have coined to describe experiences that have been shared with me by more officers than I can count. Each one detailed a scene, incident or encounter that shook them to their core. While many were able to mitigate the effects of the event over time, most were mentally, emotionally and even spiritually impacted by the creative evil that they had just witnessed.

As professionals, each officer carried out their duties thoroughly and with integrity. Many struggled quietly and privately at the scene. Some, who were visibly shaken, were told to ‘get their ___it together’. Others were pulled from the scene by observant supervisors and told to stay on the call, finish their paperwork and to check in before they went back in the field. When these officers were caught up with their paper, he or she and their supervisor met and discerned what to do next. If it was determined that the officer was good to go then they went back to work. If the officer was still struggling then the supervisor might suggest that they stay on the call and grab some coffee or a meal. Maybe both would decide that the best thing for the officer would be to go home early.

The old-guard pervasive mentality of ‘you knew what you were getting into when you took this job’ is waning in modern law enforcement. That being said, this profession does require a certain amount of thick skin. However, one does not know when they will be affected by a dispatched call, traffic stop, pedestrian stop, traffic collision or any other event. It may be the first or the 137th. Whatever the circumstance or experience, if it affects the officer negatively then it is better to address the issue sooner than later.

The situation for the officer may go something like this: they are dispatched to a non-breathing child. They arrive on scene to find hysteric parents begging them to save their baby. Perhaps the family lives in squalor with the parents obviously making their addiction a priority over the care and safety of their child. The officer immediately assesses the child and finds them warm to the touch so they begin CPR. They continue to do so with one parent screaming in their ear to do more to save their baby, while another adult in the room is being restrained

by family members. That individual relentlessly lets out screams of pain that the officer can't get out of their head. Medics arrive and take over CPR, though the officer and the medics know...it is too late.

Fortunately another officer begins to collect information and a supervisor calls the Child Abuse unit to see if this is a case for them to investigate. The officer who performed CPR begins to come down from their adrenaline rush with the taste of the baby's saliva in their mouth, the smells of the stench of the home trapped in their nose, the agonizing screams of parents ringing in their ears and more.

In an instant their thoughts go from this horrible situation to their child who is about the same age and maybe wears the same ‘onesie’. They wonder if their child is okay and irrational panic sets in. All they want to do is hold their child, but something else is brewing. An anger is growing as they think of how preventable this innocent child's death was.

All of those emotions flood the officer's mind and heart in just minutes, yet when they look up and around at their peers, what they see is not what they feel. They perceive the looks on the faces of the other officers to be one of calm, control and void of the emotions racing through their soul.

Finding safe places to process the horrid images, ricocheting emotions, thoughts of ‘I'm not sure that I'm cut out for this’, the inability to relate to other officers, family & friends and so much more can be daunting. Fortunately, we chaplains, along with PEER Support officers and First Responder Mental Health Professionals provide a triangular web of care. More and more, the culture of law enforcement (including command staff and first-line supervisors) is embracing the importance of keeping our officers healthy in mind, body and spirit. We are turning the tides on, “you don't look how I feel” to “you care how I feel”.

If you are someone (or you know someone) who is experiencing any of the above symptoms or other reactions to your own trauma or cumulative stressors, please reach out to a PEER Support officer, FOCUS Psychological Services or the Chaplains. Contact information for all three can be found on the Intranet under ‘Useful Links’ and scrolling down to the bottom where you will find the Wellness Unit tab. Or you can visit the Wellness Unit on the 7th floor of Headquarters near the cafeteria.

As a reminder, psychologists and chaplains have Privileged Communication, which is protected by the California Evidence Code, with minimal mandated reporting responsibilities. Conversations with all other SDPD personnel are Confidential.

**“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”
(John 12:27 NASB)**

Unit Highlight | SDPD Gang Intervention Unit

By Erika Vroom, Editor



Officer Lujan with G.R.E.A.T. Program graduates

It is no surprise that a youth's childhood community can greatly influence upbringing and future habits. When children are raised in a neighborhood that contains an influx of gang activity, there is a higher probability that those children will become personally involved in a gang. The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Gang Intervention Unit (GIU) stands to combat against this occurrence. They instead attempt to deter children away from becoming gang members themselves.

Retitled in March 2019, the Gang Intervention Unit works with the youth across a multitude of neighborhoods in Mid City Division, Central, Southeastern and Western. GIU Officers completed a variety of research to figure out exactly what basis the unit should operate on. In conjunction with the research, officers were attending community meetings and other departmental meetings in order to narrow down what programs have been most successful in the fields that deal directly with gangs.

After taking the time to thoroughly piece together a plan for GIU, the Gang Resistance Education and Training program, more commonly known as the G.R.E.A.T. program, was brought to light. Though many of the officers in the unit hold prior training from the Gang Suppression Team (GST), averting the focus from adult gangs to youth gangs called for a different kind of program. G.R.E.A.T. is a gang, violence delinquency, and bullying prevention program provided to elementary and middle school students. According to Officer Lujan, this program, "requires a certification. The department

allowed me to take the week long class to become certified so that I could go to the schools within the City of San Diego and teach the G.R.E.A.T. program to others."

At the time the unit was retitled, more officers were hired into the unit, as well as the present GIU Sergeant. Currently, the unit includes Sergeant Errick Barnes and Gang Intervention Officers John Carroll, Kelvin Lujan, Ricardo Piñon, and Kalena Tutt. By expanding the unit, the number of officers who were available to reach out to the schools and youth increased. Sergeant Barnes explains, "When Chief Nisleit doubled the size of the unit, it showed the importance of GIU to the department and the communities we serve. Our unit is extremely proud to carry out one of the Chief's top priorities and can see the positive affects it is having on the kids."

On a daily basis, the GIU officers go to schools across various SDPD divisions and interact with children, their parents, and school staff in order to build a positive rapport amongst all involved. GIU wants the communities to understand that the officers are there to help and be a support system. The officers often wear everyday clothing so that the families can also see that though they are law enforcement, they are people, too. "I have personally seen GIU officers interact with children at school and at Boys and Girls Clubs, and there is a mutual respect between them and the children. They really look forward to the officers being on campus. They are looking for someone who they can count on being there," says Sergeant Barnes.

Though the G.R.E.A.T. program is the main focus, GIU officers are encouraged to create programs that align with G.R.E.A.T. so as to expand their impact areas on the youth. By creating this opportunity for growth, the officers can present their individual schools with courses that further hone in on diverse topics. For example, Officer Lujan describes curricula that he created called the Boys and Girls Leadership Group that focuses on mentoring and social skills as well as learning activities for leadership and teamwork skills. When the officers are not on campus, they are participating in community outreach meetings, gang commission meetings, media events, etc. They consistently show the community the positive side of the skills that GIU is looking to instill early on in the youth, rather than waiting until adulthood. The prevention of gang influence on and arrests of the youth is key for the unit.



Officer Carroll alongside two youth boxers in the Boxing and Tattoo Removal Program

Further, Officer John Carroll runs the Boxing and Tattoo removal programs. These programs have been highly successful solely due to the tireless effort John puts into them. The boxing program has been operating for approximately five years and is 100% funded by a donor here in San Diego. “I’ve attended sparing sessions and seen John in action with the kids, he’s amazing!” exclaims Sergeant Barnes. John also facilitates the tattoo removal program for individuals wanting gang related or human trafficking related tattoos removed so they can move forward with their lives and gain employment. John’s commitment to these programs is unbelievable.

Additionally, GIU is a non-enforcement unit. Sergeant Barnes describes, “When we’re on campus, it is instilled in the students and faculty that we are not there to deal with behavioral issues or to enforce conduct issues.” The overall program that GIU implements is not a short term program. One key difference between GIU and the SDPD Juvenile Services Team is the way in which each Gang Intervention Officer is embedded into a small handful of schools, which allows them to carry on with the same students each year. With a pre-established relationship, there is more success for future intervention.



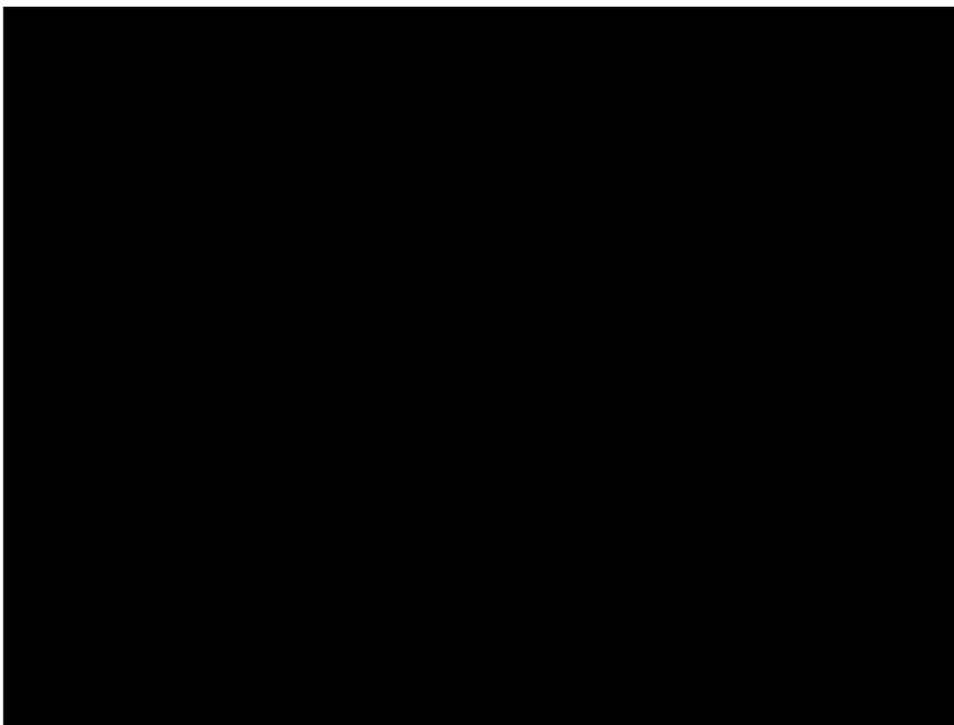
Officer Tutt speaking to an elementary class



Officer Piñon with two Montgomery Middle School students

For any officer wanting to join GIU, there are some key characteristics that one may want to possess. First, public speaking and being able to speak on-the-spot is important. There are many instances where the officers are asked to speak both on campus and off. Second, ability to engage with the youth on a regular basis is a must. Leveling with a student that may be resistant to the programs plays into the overall success of GIU. Lastly, GIU emphasizes that the capacity to be genuine in communicating with the youth is an inadmissible trait for officers within the unit. Though the elementary and middle school children are young in age, their age does not define the type of life experiences they may have already faced outside of the classroom walls.

Every day, youth are directly affected by their environments. The officers in the Gang Intervention Unit are there to promote a healthy upbringing, free of gangs and violence. They are passionate about what they do and through endless department support, they feel as though the GIU will only further evolve. As Sergeant Barnes states, “The genuine respect and admiration that is given back to our officers is what will keep them fighting for the empowerment of the youth.”

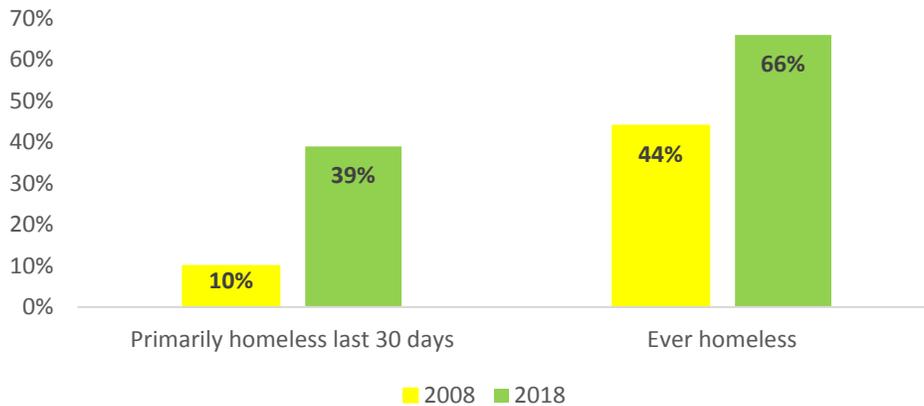


Homelessness Among Arrestees in San Diego County

By: Cynthia Burke, Ph.D., SANDAG

As part of a program called SAM (Substance Abuse Monitoring), SANDAG conducts interviews with juvenile and adult arrestees within 48 hours of their booking into a local detention facility. Questions that are asked as part of SAM relate to drug use history and other risk-taking behavior, and because a confidential and anonymous urine sample is provided, an objective measure of drug use trends over time is available. Because of the growing concern regarding homelessness in our region, additional questions about this issue (beyond have you ever been homeless) were posed to adult arrestees in 2018. What did we find?

- The percent of arrestees who reported ever being homeless and being primarily homeless in the past 30 days has gone up over time. In 2018, 39% had been primarily homeless in the past 30 days and 66% had ever been homeless (compared to 10% and 44% in 2008).



- Just over 3 in 4 (77%) arrestees who were ever homeless said they first became homeless in San Diego County, as opposed to somewhere else. The top reasons given for why they first became homeless included money issues, drugs, loss of job, loss of family, and being kicked out or running away. Males were significantly more likely to report they became homeless because of losing a job, while females were more likely to say it was because of abuse or violence.

77%
How many arrestees with a history of homelessness first became homeless in San Diego County

- Over 4 in 5 (82%) of arrestees with a history of homelessness tested positive for meth, compared to 43% who had never been homeless.

82%
How many arrestees with a history of homelessness tested positive for meth

- Seventy-nine percent (79%) of arrestees with a history of homelessness reported having a mental health diagnosis, significantly more than those with no history of homelessness (58%).
- Arrestees who reported ever being homeless were significantly more likely than arrestees with no history of homelessness to have other issues, including being a victim of a crime they didn't report, injecting drugs, overdosing, and visiting the emergency room for alcohol/drug issues.

79%
How many arrestees with a history of homelessness also have a mental health diagnosis

	Arrestees Who Have Been Homeless	Arrestees Who Have NEVER Been Homeless
Victim of crime they didn't report	40%	21%
Ever injected drugs	37%	15%
If injected, ever shared needles/syringes	41%	0%
Ever overdosed	20%	10%
Ever visited ER for alcohol/drug issue	29%	16%

- About 1 in 4 (23%) of arrestees who had been homeless in the past 12 months said they thought they would still be homeless this time next year – 58% because they can't afford housing and 42% because they like living on the street.

23%
How many arrestees who were homeless in the last year that thought they would be homeless one year from now

18%
How many arrestees who were homeless in the last year and used a shelter

- Only 18% of arrestees who were homeless in the past 12 months said they had stayed in a shelter in the past year. When asked why they didn't use a shelter, the most common responses included restrictions at the shelter, safety concerns at the shelter, and waitlists.

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FEATURED ITEM
OF THE MONTH

Back just in time
for fall!

SDPD Patch Hoodie

S-XL \$35.98

2XL \$38.20

3XL \$39.32

(+ Tax)

Great Prices On MEN'S UNIFORMS



WOMEN'S UNIFORMS



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Popular items in stock at the SDPOA Store:

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\$10.00

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\$14.00

Executive Rocks Glass
\$6.41

Items listed may be subject to tax

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ANNOUNCEMENT!
 California markets are growing at a rapid pace, the FED is holding rate hikes to trigger homeownership. Buying in or refinancing before rates go up early this year!



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- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF, **THOMAS B.**



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UC-7:

Highlighting cop-friendly eateries in the City of San Diego that provide a full meal for under or around \$10.00 using a strict 5-badge rating system.

An Anonymous Eater

Iowa Meat Farms



Photos courtesy of Yelp

6041 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 281-5766



stop. Jacob D and I opted for sandwiches on this day.

I can't say no to a beautiful brisket, so Joe's brisket sandwich with a side of cole slaw was my only choice (\$12). Yes, slightly out of price range, but this sandwich lasted me for two meals, two filling meals. It was served on a large-sized hamburger bun and the meat portion was VERY generous. The meat was smoky and juicy, and had the right amount seasoning that did not overpower the wonderful meat flavor. And oh by the way, this is not appropriate in-patrol-car food, not even for a Friday. You have been warned.

Jacob D ordered the Hotlink sandwich with a side of their baked beans (\$12). Jacob loved the hotlink, as it didn't have too much kick. Once again, thank goodness for a skilled cook who knows when to stop seasoning and let the quality of their product take center stage. This hotlink had just right amount of fat to make you smile at the delicious flavor, but not enough to make you feel guilty for not having a salad. The baked beans nearly stole the show though, theirs were homemade from what was most definitely a family recipe.

Iowa Meat Farms is a staple in San Diego, and their BBQ served every other weekend is an excellent reason to try Intermittent Fasting the week before they are scheduled to set up. It's the perfect choice for the cop, or group of cops who want to splurge a little on calories and funds, and have an excellent meal. I am giving it 4.75 badges.



Ahhhhh the joy running across unicorns in my quest for the perfect palatables for my family of blue. Writing this column, much like police work, never ceases to amaze me. The left field unknowns that pop up in my field of view, the round the corner neighborhood places, as you all know, are forces that drive me, sometimes to the point of distraction. Eating, dining, breaking bread with loved ones is such a wonderfully grounding experience. I daresay, if opposing sides of social media arguments sat together at what I consider an unconventionally powerful weapon, the Dining Room Table, society could live in more harmony. A unicornish thought, maybe, but not this place, this place exists!

Iowa Meat Farms is located at 6041 Mission Gorge Road, (619) 281-5766. They have a small parking lot attached to the building, and they take cards. There is no dining area, so be prepared for take out. "Iowa" as I have referred to them for years is open Monday-Saturday 9-6, and 10-6 on Sunday. The GET, the reason I am sending you there, is every other weekend, Joe Jones sets up his massive smokers in the front of the building, and cooks up a little bit heaven to add some sparkle to your day. I've been an Iowa customer for years, but this past weekend (Saturday October 5) I stopped in for a treat.

Joe prepares several different types of meat by the pound, so if you are in the mood for a squad lunch at the sub, or need to pick up some delicious nibbles for the river, and it's their "on" weekend, this is your

Pension

C
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By Lou Maggi
SDCERS Trustee

Explanation of San Diego's Pension Scandal

Introduction

The City's pension scandal between 1996 and the mid 2000's is no big secret. After all, most of us probably remember seeing newspaper headlines featuring indicted City officials and the New York Times designating San Diego as the new Enron-by-the-Sea. I believe we've restored our good name since then and become a leader in responsible pension management. Now that we've weathered the storm and made it through to the other side, let's talk about exactly what happened back then and what we've done since to prevent something similar from ever happening again.

So What Happened?

To set the stage, we need to go all the way back to the 1990s. If you were working in the '90s, you'll recall that the economy was on the up-and-up. Jump to 1996, when several important things were happening in San Diego: the City was in negotiations with labor unions and agreed to significant improvements in pension benefits, San Diego hosted the Republican National Convention, and the plans to build Petco Park were in the works. For these and other reasons, the City was experiencing a considerably strained budget on top of a looming pension payment. Enter: Manager's Proposal 1 ("MP1"), the first piece of the puzzle and the fuse that lit the pension scandal fire.

MP1 was introduced by the City Manager in 1996, who required SDCERS' Board to approve it before it could be passed by the City Council. At the time, the pension system was a whopping 92.3% funded, which means the actuary estimated SDCERS had 92.3% of the funds needed to pay out present and anticipated future benefits. Like today, the

City was required to make an annual contribution determined by SDCERS' actuary, who calculates the amount needed to fund the promised benefits. MP1 did the following:

- 1) Significantly enhanced pension benefits for all members (e.g., increased retirement factors used to calculate pension benefits, created DROP, added future cost of living adjustments, offered 5-year "air time" purchases of service credit), but without requiring those members who would receive the greater benefits to retroactively pay increased contributions to fund these benefit enhancements.

- 2) Kept the City's annual contribution at an artificially deflated rate by deferring a portion of its contributions to future years, so that for 10 years the City was paying less than the amount recommended by the actuary to fund the increased benefits, essentially pushing the cost of these benefits on to future taxpayers. This is the reason the City Manager needed the Board to approve MP1 before it could be enacted into law – the Board had to agree to allow the City to pay less than the actuarially determined amount.

So we have increased retroactive benefits and no immediate funding. Seems like a recipe for a funding disaster, right? MP1 did have a built-in safety net – if SDCERS became less than 82.3% funded, a failsafe would be triggered, requiring the City to make a one-time balloon payment to bring the funding level back to 82.3%.

After MP1 was adopted by the City Council, the City's pension liabilities continued to increase and

the City continued to pay less than the actuarially determined amount every year. Keep in mind that the City's temporary underfunding also meant the pension fund missed out on the interest it would have earned over the years had it received the missing contributions. So, the pension system's underfunding rapidly increased, exacerbated further by the recession in the early 2000s. Around 2002, it looked like MP1's safety net was about to be triggered. The City got cold feet at the thought of potentially paying \$40 million to restore the funding level and began looking for a way out. Enter: Manager's Proposal 2 ("MP2"), the second puzzle piece, and the can of gasoline thrown on the simmering fire set by MP1.

MP2 again increased pension benefits, albeit not as drastically as MP1, and at the same time reduced the safety net trigger from an 82.3% funding ratio to 75%. MP2 also included a provision stating that if the new trigger was reached, the City would have five years to increase its contributions up to the actuarially determined amount, rather than making a balloon payment to restore the funding ratio. With this provision, the safety net from MP1 was essentially removed.

At the public City Council meeting where MP2 was passed, an SDCERS Board Member became known as a whistleblower when she made a public statement revealing her fears about MP2 and the ethically questionable behavior of the SDCERS Board. The media picked up the story shortly thereafter and pandemonium ensued:

- The FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, and SEC launched a joint investigation into the City's finances;
- City management disclosed errors in its financial disclosures related to pension liabilities;a
- The City's credit rating fell so far that the City couldn't sell any more bonds;
- Multiple lawsuits were filed against the City and SDCERS;
 - Many key City officials resigned, including Mayor Dick Murphy;
- Felony charges were filed against six SDCERS Board and staff members; and
- Five pension officials were indicted on federal charges.

After all was said and done, MP1 and MP2 resulted in underfunding amounting to an estimated \$2 billion. The effects are still felt today, although the current amount of underfunding that is due to

MP1 and MP2 is debated.

Steps taken to keep something similar from happening in the future

We've come a long way since the scandal broke, and both the City and SDCERS have taken preventative measures to keep history from repeating itself. City of San Diego taxpayers voted to approve three propositions between 2004 and 2006, which amended the City Charter:

1) Proposition G in 2004 forbade the City and SDCERS from entering into multi-year delayed funding agreements.

2) Proposition H in 2004 changed the composition of the SDCERS Board from a majority of SDCERS members (meaning they would receive a pension from SDCERS) to a majority of non-City employees. This was important because when the Board agreed to MP1 and MP2, the Board Members who were also SDCERS members were essentially voting to increase their own benefits. Apparently, this conflict of interest did not go unnoticed by the taxpayers, who passed Prop H to change the makeup of the Board.

3) Proposition B in 2006 required a citywide vote on any future pension benefit enhancements. This took the power away from the City and labor unions and gave it to the taxpayers.

Besides changes to the City Charter, the City and SDCERS also improved their financial reporting by requiring SDCERS to sign off on the City's annual financial disclosures. SDCERS also continues to issue an independent actuarial valuation and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) every year.

As Winston Churchill said, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." SDCERS and the City learned a hard lesson in the aftermath of MP1 and MP2, one that the SDCERS Board and our local elected leaders are unlikely to forget anytime soon.

Every issue, I work with SDCERS staff to craft "Pension Corner," which is meant to pass on relevant information to department members and respond to frequently asked questions. If you have a topic you would like to read about, please email me at MaggiL@sdcers.org.

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2019 Friday Night Softball CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Michael Sweet
FNGAL Coordinator (Commissioner)

Another year of FNGAL is in the books! It turned out to be an exciting and successful season. The league welcomed two new teams this year: the Neighborhood Policing Division (NPD) and the Navy. In the beginning, Navy looked to be the odds on favorite (they were a professional travelling team) to win it all, but were upset in the first round of the playoffs by Northern. Northern moved onto the semi-finals and lost to last year's champion, Central. The other semi-final game matched Western versus Southern. Southern returned to the league after a three year layoff. Southern pulled out a close victory, which saw lead changes each inning, until they pulled out an exciting victory in the bottom of the 7th inning, scoring three runs to win.

This set the stage for the Championship game between reigning champion, Central, versus past champion, Southern. Central had too much firepower and won a decisive victory over Southern for the Championship. Congratulations CENTRAL on back-to-back Championships!

I want to thank all of the teams (Central, Southern, Northern, NPD, Eastern/Mid City, Southeastern, Navy, HQ/INV, Western and SWAT) and players who participated this year to make it a very successful season. Thank you to the staff at 32nd Street Naval Base for accommodating us (allowing adult beverages) and permitting use the base facility for the second straight year. We look forward to many more years on base.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Darren Curtis and Robbie Agerbeek for donating their time to umpire the games and those on the Police Athletic Federation Board who helped throughout the season with set-up, cooking, teardown, clean-up, umpiring and all of the behind the scene activities to make FNGAL work.

See you all next year.



SDPOA Uniform Sale Raffle Winners

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& Spyderco

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Ricardo Rivas

**Congratulations
& Thank You to Our Vendors!**

39TH ANNUAL
SDPOA CHARITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FOOD, DRINK, DANCING AND MORE!
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON.

In Remembrance

Thomas A. Keays



End of Watch: 20 November 1937

Fifteen minutes after pulling a body from beneath a streetcar, Sergeant Keays died of a heart attack.

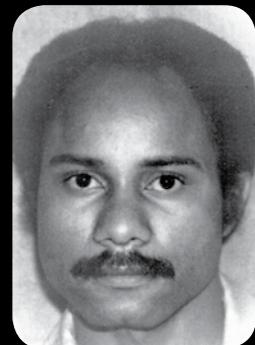
Michael J. Bushman



End of Watch: 25 November 1963

Officer Bushman died after his car left the road in a single-vehicle accident.

Archie C. Buggs



End of Watch: 4 November 1978

Officer Buggs was shot and killed during a traffic stop of two suspects under the influence of PCP.

Congratulations, Retirees!

Thank you to all of our members who recently retired between

September 16, 2019 and October 15, 2019

for your dedication and service.

We wish you the best in your new chapter in life!

Detective Steven Lincoln

Hired May 10, 2002 ~ Retired September 20, 2019

Sergeant Buddy Johnson

Hired February 18, 1992 ~ Retired October 4, 2019

Officer Gregory Lindstrom

Hired April 27, 1990 ~ Retired October 4, 2019

Officer Dave Maley

Hired June 9, 2000 ~ Retired October 7, 2019

Detective Sergeant Wesley Albers

Hired October 9, 1989 ~ Retired October 11, 2019

On the Road

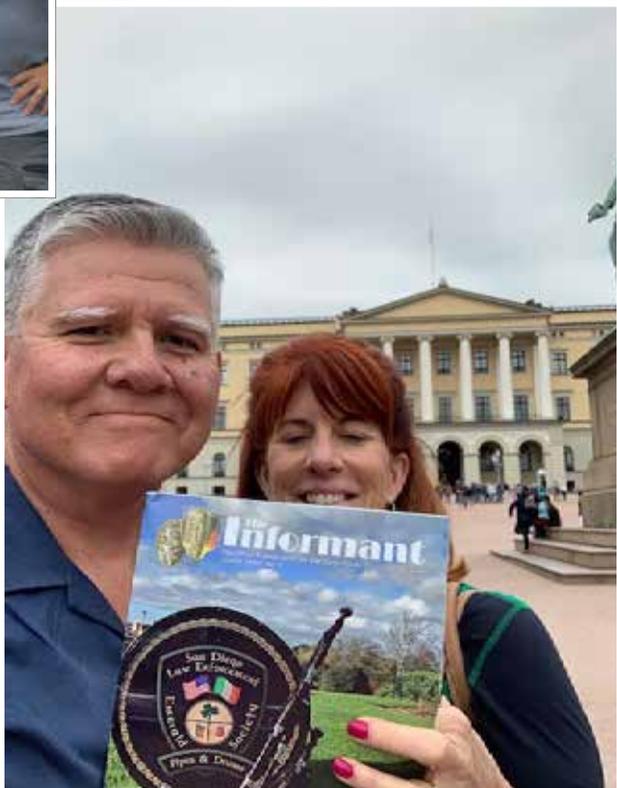
Proudly Presented by



Vice Lieutenant Andra Brown and Motor Officer Dave Root ran into Ridgeley, W.V. Police Chief Jake Ryan and Officer Edward Pfaff while at a family BBQ on the 4th of July.



Lieutenant Bill Carter and Officer Ed LaValle while on vacation with their wives in Venice, Italy.



Retired Captain Guy Swanger alongside his wife, Lora Swanger, in Oslo, Norway in front of The Royal Palace.

If you have recently taken your copy of *The Informant* on the road with you, please share your pictures! If your picture is featured, the member who sends in the photo will receive a pair of movie tickets and our appreciation! Active and retired SDPOA members should send submissions to Erika at editor@sdpoa.org.



SDPOA Board Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

September 12, 2019

Directors present: Schaeffer, Bostedt, Avera (excused 1424), Evans (arrived at 0942), Mackay (excused 1100, returned 1245), Hoskins (excused 1402), Wilson (excused 1000, returned 1104), McCullough, Paxton (arrived 1038, excused 1140)

Directors excused: None.

STATION DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:
None.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
M. Guaderrama, M. Herring

OTHERS PRESENT:
D. Summers, R. Pinckard, B. Fields, K. Smith (recorder)

OPENING OBSERVANCES
President Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 0900 hours and Director Wilson led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for the Officers killed in the line of duty in the past including those lost during 9/11. There were 9 officers killed in the line of duty Nationwide since the August board meeting. In the history of the SDPD there were 5 San Diego Police officers killed in the month of September. Henry Goodrich (9/7/1940), Kimberly Tonahill (9/14/1984), Timothy Ruopp (9/16/1984), Ronald Davis (9/17/1991), Robert McPherson (9/30/1929).

NON-AGENDA MEMBER COMMENTS:
• None.

1. MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:
• Mark Herring presented a request for POA to sponsor this year's Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament at \$1,000.
Moved to Charity

PRESENTATIONS:
• Dawn Summers presented a health plan, OPTAVIA, Summers gave an overview of this healthy life plan including healthy eating. Summers requested the POA support the program. Discussion occurred.

2. PAC
• Avera reported the SB230 signing ceremony was this morning.
• There will be a press conference for Todd Gloria to announce POA's endorsement.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
a. Informant:
• The Gang Intervention unit will be the unit highlight for November. The member spotlight for November will be Wende Eckert.

b. Website:
• No report.

c. **M/S Mackay/McCullough for up to \$300 to have a case made for the POA's Commemorative Rifle. Wilson, Paxton absent. Unanimous. 7-0-2.**

4. RETIREMENT

• Avera reported regarding the RMT.

5. MEMBER RELATIONS
• No report.

6. LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
• Chief Guaderrama answered questions regarding LMC issues.

7. LEGAL
• Discussion occurred over proposed changes in negotiations over administrative regulation AR 75.12.

8. SPECIAL EVENTS/ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
• Update on the POA Thanksgiving meal.
• **M/S Hoskins/McCullough to increase the Christmas Party ticket price to \$40 for members and their first guest and \$100 for additional guests. Mackay, Paxton absent. Unanimous. 7-0-2.**

9. BUDGET-FINANCE
• **M/S Mackay/McCullough to approve the August treasurer's report. Paxton, Avera, Hoskins absent. Unanimous. 6-0-3.**

10. BUSINESS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
a. Administrative:
• There were no email polls.
• **M/S Wilson/Keelan to add the language to the SDPOA policies Section 23: Meet and Confer listed below. Paxton, Avera, Hoskins absent. Unanimous. 6-0-3.**

Section 23: Meet and Confer Guidelines

23.1: So that all Members of the Board of Directors can properly evaluate their decisions and the implications for meet and confer process, they will be provided with all documents provided by the City or any other documents pertaining to the issue by electronic mail. Examples of these documents include, but are not limited to: electronic mail, statistical data, employee information, written communications, proposals, draft proposals and final agreements with the City. These documents shall be provided to the full Board of Directors 72 hours prior to any vote on any specific issue related to the meet and confer process.

23.2: During the meet and confer process, or any meeting with the City's lead negotiator that could result in an agreement between the City and the POA, at least one representative from the Labor Management Committee, and at least one representative from the Political Action Committee shall be invited to the meeting. These representatives shall be in addition to any E-Board Officers attending the meeting. Notice for the meeting shall be given at a minimum of 72 hours in advance.

23.3: The Secretary (or his or her designee) shall attend all meetings between the City and the POA during the meet and confer process. A written summary of the meeting shall be disseminated to the Board of

Directors by electronic mail within 72 hours of the conclusion of the meeting and shall be discussed at the next monthly board meeting. This summary shall be archived on the POA computer directors' drive and accessible for future reference by all Board Members.

c. Minutes:
• **M/S Hoskins/McCullough to accept the August 2019 Meeting Minutes. Paxton, Mackay absent. Unanimous. 7-0-2.**

11. MILESTONE REPORT
• No report.

12. OLD BUSINESS
• No report.

13. NEW BUSINESS
• Wilson briefed the board on a couple programs that give members discounts with vacations and paycheck security.
• Wilson gave an overview of the National Memorial Museum currently working to remedy the lack of income.
• By direction of the board Director Wilson will be the Area Vice-President for NAPO.
• **M/S Schaeffer/Hoskins to send the POA Area Vice-President to the 4 NAPO meetings each year. Unanimous. Mackay, Paxton absent. 7-0-2.**
• **M/S Wilson/McCullough to send Hoskins to the October NAPO seminar by paying his airfare, lodging and registration. Unanimous. Paxton absent. 8-0-1.**
• Hoskins proposed the board share the after-hours retirement presentations on a certain schedule. Discussion occurred.

14. ARMED SERVICES
• Hoskins reported the Air Force is coming up. Hoskins will write something for October 7th.

Adjourned the general meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1341.

Adjourned the Foundation meeting into General session at 1410.

Adjourned the general meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1429.

Adjourned the Foundation meeting into the general meeting at 1456.

Adjourned meeting at 1512.

SDPOA Non-Members:

Allahwardy, Deshnaey
Alvarez-Tostado, Joshua
Christman, Tyler
Crumb, Katherine
David, Antonio
Ingram, Henry
Irwin, Wade
Rawls, Kenneth
Slater, Thomas
Sterling, Trevor
Turner, Todd

Classified Ads and Vacation Rentals

Cemetery Plot for Sale

El Camino Memorial Park cemetery plot for sale. Police Officers and Firefighters Memorial Lawn; plot located near top of Memorial in Plaza. Single space with right to purchase 2nd interment. El Camino asking price: \$10,000.00. Will sell for \$6,000.00. For more information, please contact Mary at 760-294-2700 or M51thomps@gmail.com.

Cemetery Plot for Sale

El Camino Memorial Park cemetery plot for sale. Police Officers and Firefighters Memorial Lawn; plot located near top of Memorial in Plaza. Double interment. El Camino asking price: \$15,000.00. Will sell for \$10,000.00. For more information, please contact Retired Detective Steve Chelby at 619-995-9716.

K-38 Baja Mexico

One bedroom ground level condo located at the popular K-38 surf location (1 hour from San Diego, 10 min south of Rosarito). Sit on the deck and watch the surf, surfers, and sunsets. Secure, gate guarded complex. Sleeps 4, California King bed in master and a queen murphy bed in living area. Fully equipped kitchen, BBQ, fireplace, outside patio table, and large sun deck. Perfect for a romantic weekend get-away or a week of surfing. Call Eric Johnson 619-651-7600, SDPD retired.

Lake Havasu City, Arizona

New vacation home in the heart of Lake Havasu City. The home has three bedrooms and two baths with an additional detached guest house furnished as a second master suite, making it perfect for two couples plus kids/guests. Amenities include full granite kitchen, in-ground pool and Jacuzzi, fireplace, 50" TV & entertainment center, BBQ, and lots of off-street parking. The home is 5 minutes from all attractions including London Bridge and the lake, golf, desert sports, and shopping! Available by the day or get the week discount. Great law enforcement rates. Call J.K. Hudgins, CIU 858-208-7828, or Chuck Arnold, ICAC 619-890-8527.

Rosarito Beach, Mexico

Just steps from the beach, beautiful ocean view with spectacular sunsets. Gate guarded, located at K38, a world-renowned surfing spot and only 20 minutes from the border. Outside fire pit and sun deck, living room, family room both with fireplaces. Two bedrooms, sleeps eight, two bathrooms. Enjoy the clear skies and stars at night, smell the ocean air and listen to the waves. Reasonable rates, come relax and enjoy! Only \$75-95/ night! Call Sandy Redding at 619-444-9174. DirecTv/ WiFi available.



SDPOA Board Minutes

Foundation Meeting
September 12, 2019

Directors present: Schaeffer, Bostedt, Avera (excused 1424), Evans (arrived at 0942), Mackay (excused 1100, returned 1245), Hoskins (excused 1402), Wilson (excused 1000, returned 1104), McCullough, Paxton (arrived 1038, excused 1140)

Directors excused: None.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
None.

OTHERS PRESENT:
R. Pinckard, A. Bosanac, B. Fields, K. Smith (recorder)

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:
• No report.

PRESENTATIONS:
• No report.

CHARITY REQUESTS:
• Request for POA to sponsor this year's Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament.
M/S Schaeffer/McCullough for \$1,500 for the Lunch Sponsor.

Wilson, Paxton, Avera, Hoskins absent. Unanimous. 5-0-4.

• Request for POA to sponsor the 4th Annual City of San Diego picnic.
M/S Bostedt/Mackay for \$500. Paxton, Avera, Hoskins absent. Unanimous. 6-0-3.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:
• Bosanac updated regarding the venue for the upcoming Memorial Fund golf tournament.

FUNDRAISING
• Bosanac updated regarding potential sponsorships for next year's golf tournament.

MINUTES:
• *M/S Mackay/McCullough to accept the August Foundation meeting minutes. Wilson, Hoskins, McCullough, Avera absent. Unanimous. 5-0-4.*

BUDGET FINANCE:
• *M/S Mackay/Kayla to approve the August treasurer's report. Wilson, Hoskins, Paxton, Avera*

absent. Unanimous. 5-0-4.

CHILDCARE:
• Avera updated on the business side of this program. The contract has been signed with KinderCare.
• Wilson discussed some possible venues for the childcare facility to be located. Various possible options were considered.

NEW BUSINESS:
• None.

OLD BUSINESS:
• None.

Adjourned the general meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1341.

Adjourned the Foundation meeting into General session at 1410.

Adjourned the general meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1429.

Adjourned the Foundation meeting into the general meeting at 1456.

ATTENTION POA MEMBERS: Voting for the SDPOA Board of Directors Election is Coming Soon!

There are three seats up for election this year. Please take the time to review the candidate statements on the SDPOA Website under Member News.

Voting will be conducted electronically through the SDPOA Website starting

0001hrs on Monday, November 4th

through

1700hrs on Monday, November 11th

Please contact the POA office with any questions.

REMINDER:

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, November 14, 2019
at 9:00 a.m. in the POA Board Room.**

If you have a specific topic you would like to address with the board, **please email Khristina at ksmith@sdpoa.org
by Thursday, November 7, 2019** to be added to the agenda.

If you'd like to sit in and listen to the discussion, but do not have a specific topic, please feel free to drop in.

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