



# The Informant

The Official Publication of the San Diego Police Officers Association  
Volume XXXIX, No. 6

June 2019



> **Member Spotlight:**  
**Officer Todd Jager**  
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> **Unit Highlight:**  
**SD County Joint Agency Task Force (JATF)**  
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**In this Issue:**

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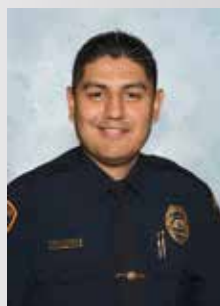
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We encourage article ideas and photographs about or of interest to our members. Article abstracts, photos, story ideas, suggestions, letters to the editor, commentaries and information may be submitted in person, by mail or by e-mail to the editor.

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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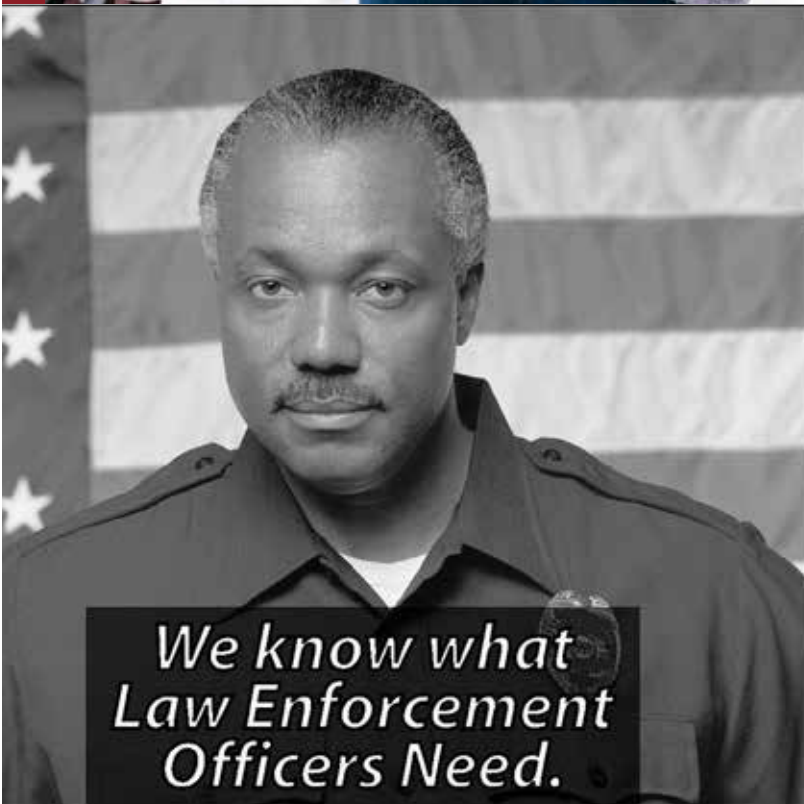
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# President's Message



With summer's arrival, the California Legislative season is also in full swing. Law enforcement groups have so far been successful in stalling AB 392 to the point where they are working together with the legislators to amend the bill. We are hopeful that the new version of the bill

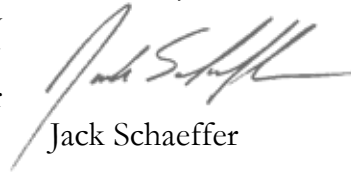
satisfies the needs of law enforcement as well as those of the community groups. On May 14, 2019, San Diego City Council prematurely voted on a resolution supporting AB 392 as it stands against the requests of the SDPOA and the San Diego Police Department (SDPD). Although City Council resolutions are nothing more than symbolic gestures, the POA believes that the responsible thing to do would be to wait for new language before blindly endorsing a bill. Six City Council members clearly chose to believe the false narrative of the local activists over factual data provided by SDPD and the POA. Our officers perform an amazing job day in and day out to keep our city safe. They exemplify the best in law enforcement. The vast majority of our residents believe this as well. We will keep our members up-to-date on progress.

For over two years, the POA has been seeking assistance for our members to buy homes in San Diego. Less than 30% of our membership live in the city of San Diego. We believe this is problematic in that many of our members face lengthy commute times, which could lead to some transferring to closer departments. Also, with more members residing in San Diego, we would have a stronger impact on local elections. Council Member Chris Cate (D-6) has been working diligently with the POA on possible solutions. Council Member Cate has obtained commitments from at least three banks and the City. I am optimistic that within the next few weeks we will be kicking off this exciting new program. This new program should provide special loans for officers as well as potential down payment assistance.

The POA child care project is progressing rapidly. This is a tremendous undertaking as it will cost well over one million dollars per year to run effectively. The POA has partnered with Kinder Care to assist with guidance and expertise. The child care committee applied for a large grant that would help with initial funding. We were successful in becoming a finalist. I will be interviewed at the end of May as the final step in the grant selection process. The POA is actively trying to find new sources of funding to get this across the finish line. Our primary goal with this project has always been to provide a child care facility with extended hours (20 hours per day) at a significantly reduced rate (half price). The POA appreciates your patience. We do not want to be too hasty in kicking off this project before we are ready.

In closing, June marks the beginning of the summer months. I hope you all enjoy a fun and safe summer with your families. To my fellow fathers, Happy Father's Day. Thank you for all you do.

Take care,



Jack Schaeffer



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# Member Spotlight

By Erika Vroom, Editor

## Officer Todd Jager



Your job versus your career. Oftentimes, we differentiate between the two. On one hand, a job is seen as more of a placeholder or a stepping stone of time before we begin our career. On the other hand, a career is the profession that we choose to pursue as a long term commitment. The career may begin as a job or it may be that we stumble upon the career that we did not realize we would one day become so passionate about.

If we are so lucky, we know exactly what we want to do for our career. Though this is not usually the case, Officer Todd Jager knew from a young age that law enforcement would be in his career plan. Since childhood, Todd reflects, "I was always the guy that watched Adam-12," a popular television show that followed two law enforcement officers as they patrol the streets of Los Angeles. The show was impactful on Todd and he knew that one day he would want to grow up to be Adam-12. This gut feeling of knowing he wanted to be a police officer never truly left him.

After taking a bit of time off from school, he dove into the world of telecommunications: radio and television. Todd worked radio on the air and television behind the scenes. During an assigned police ride-along by the station with a hometown police department in Burton, Michigan, Todd's eyes were revived with excitement at the prospect of working in law enforcement. "I thought it was so cool how they took care of each other and... I pretty much shifted

gears right there on the spot and decided I wanted to do law enforcement instead of communications." He found that his dream would be more difficult to pursue than he initially thought. Todd states, "It was tough [in the early 80s] to get a cop job in Michigan unless you had something to go with it." Naturally, Todd decided that in order to give his resume an edge, he elected to become a paramedic; something that the average person applying would not have. Unfortunately, the jobs at such a small police department in Michigan did not allow for everyone who applied to be hired. Once he placed his hat in the ring during the application process, Todd met a background investigator who was formerly with the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and she encouraged him to visit San Diego to think about if he would like to one day join SDPD where he would have a better chance of getting hired.

Thus, Todd applied for SDPD on the exact date he turned 20 and a half. He was officially hired with SDPD on December 18, 1986. He began his career with SDPD at Northern Patrol. From Northern, Todd shifted to Southeastern Patrol, and to Traffic division for 1 month, until landing in the newly formed Air Support Unit (ABLE). While originally wanting to be a K-9 officer, which was a brand new unit when Todd was hired in 1986, the ABLE unit was also new to the department after there was a seizure of several aircraft from a drug dealer. Those who created the ABLE unit wanted to get patrol officer to request more Air Support, so they encouraged ride-alongs in the helicopters. Todd was one of the few who thought

that a ride-along in a helicopter “sounded pretty cool.” His ride-along took place in the evening and from the moment he experienced the whirl of the engines, he exclaimed that that moment was one of the most exhilarating moments of his life. “The next day,” Todd reflects, “I went home, opened up the phone book, and started looking up flight schools.”

Todd acquired his private pilot’s license from Retired SDPD Officer Gary Roesink prior to attending flight school where he received his instrument and commercial rating. At the time, both certifications were the minimum standards needed to be a pilot with SDPD. Since Todd was a member of the Air Support Unit from early on in the unit’s history, he had the opportunity to fly the airplanes prior to the unit’s switch to only helicopters. He took his first official flight with SDPD on June 28, 1993. Flying in the early ‘90s was a much different experience than it is now, as the unit has greatly developed and grown. “Tactical Flight Officers (TFO) didn’t exist... everyone in the unit was a pilot.” Initially, the now TFOs were known then as Tactical Pilots. “If you were sitting in the left seat, you were the Tactical Pilot and if you were sitting in the right seat, you were the Pilot in Command,” Todd explains. He learned to work with the tools that were much less technologically advanced than they are currently and he jokes, “They were essentially a spot light and a set of binoculars.” He explains how grateful he is for the fact that he has gotten to learn the new technology from the get-go, with a stable foundation that stems from being one of the early members of ABLE. “Think of it this way,” Todd says, “the unit was still developing our FLIR tactics, so I didn’t have to learn their way, we didn’t know what we were doing, so we were figuring it out together, which made it a lot of fun!”

Now that Todd has reached his 32nd year with SDPD, he has officially retired as of May 16, 2019. When asked what one of his most memorable experiences was during his time on, he mentions the “tank chase” from 1995 where a U.S. Veteran stole an M60A3 Patton Tank and went on a rampage throughout San Diego. The driver of the tank was eventually caught by SDPD. Todd stated that at that time, he was still in training as a night pilot. Although the incident took place during the day time, Todd happened to be on that flight and was a set of eyes in the sky putting his training into action alongside his trainer, Retired Officer Ed Sergott. In reflection on one of the most rewarding aspects as his career in law enforcement comes to a close, Todd explains that as Chief Pilot, he has been able to assume a leadership role in the training of unit TFOs and pilots. He enjoys passing along his knowledge and assisting with the future members of the unit.

So what’s next on Todd’s post-retirement journey? Going back to work of course. Todd has secured a Pilot position with SkyWest Airlines. He is excited about the new chapter in his life. The opportunity to continue to learn in a new position is a thrill for Todd. Todd states that he could not have made this next step without the support of his wife and their two sons. Their oldest son is a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, stationed in Okinawa, and their youngest son is a new graduate from San Diego State University is currently going through the hiring process right here at SDPD. Todd is

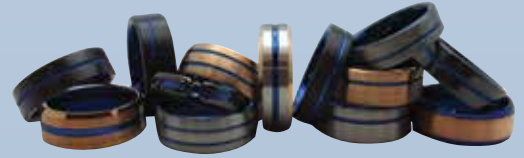
proud of his family and states, “my wife deserves all of the credit for anything that I’ve done.” From moving across the country to supporting Todd during his career and now into his second career he thanks his wife entirely. The future is bright for Todd and he cannot wait to see what it has in store for him with his family by his side.





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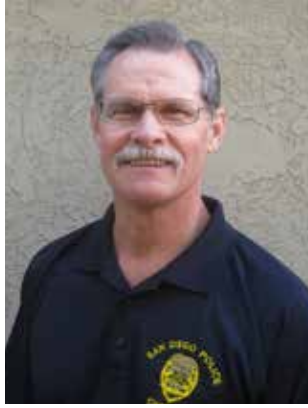
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# Chaplain's

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By Herb Smith  
San Diego Police Department  
Chaplain

**“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:16-17).**

A couple of weeks ago my wife and I visited the cemetery where our infant son, my parents, grandparents and an uncle are buried. Since I buried most of them, I also wrote the epitaphs on their headstones. On my maternal grandfather's is the declaration "A man of God, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." That quite aptly describes his life. It's a beautiful story, and one without the space here to tell it justly, only that he lived his life well. On his own from age nine, his hope and trust was always in the God of his father, also a very godly man, and he grew to be a successful businessman. His life was not without great sorrow and loss, from circumstances he had no control over. But he never lost sight of the God he knew was ever leading him forward. He never felt the victim, but always looked out for and cared for those around him. In the 24 years I knew him, I never heard him complain, and joy and laughter was his calling card. It's why people loved being around him, and why he was always looked to in crisis. He lost his first born son to battle in WWII as a B-17 pilot over Europe, and carried that sorrow with the trust of seeing him again one day. Many other adversities followed, but he never lost his stride, or his love of family and people.

As I contemplated his life once again, I returned to the same image of him, as I always do. His joy and laughter. When Grandpa was around, everything was good. We were affirmed, admired, encouraged, and we laughed. Love oozed out of every pore of his being. How does one attain to such a constant state? How did my grandfather sustain such a positive outlook, in spite of the deprivations of war (he was also a corpsman in France during WWI), and the many challenges he faced in life with his family and business?

Eleanor Roosevelt, a First Lady of the deepest character, once said "Happiness is not a goal. It's a by-product of a life well lived." A month ago I also attended the memorial service for a man similar to my grandfather. At 83, he had served in the Navy and married his Jr. High sweetheart, raised three children and celebrated over sixty years with her. Retiring in '09 from the aerospace and defense industry, he'd amassed another nine grand and eleven great grandchildren. What was recalled about him repeatedly was his infectious joy, smile and generosity. The day before he died, he attended his regular men's accountability group, and stated "It might be 55 years for you, but it might just be five days for me. We will all see the Lord face-to-face one day, and that makes it all the more urgent to spend the time with Him face-to-face every single day!"

These two great men amassed a great wealth in their lifetimes. That is, the kind of wealth that not only stays with you forever, but enhances the heart and spirit of everyone who ever knew you with the inspiration of what really matters in life. Someone else said "real wealth is when no one can afford to buy your character." Real character is what emanates from a pure heart, a clear conscience and a sincere faith, faith in a God Who transforms us by His Spirit in ways we cannot on our own. When we lose sight of, or perhaps never really look into and experience, the redeeming love and freedom of His Truth that releases us from the bondage of a corrupt and insecure nature, fear gains a foothold, contentment is lost, we tend to grow inward and the importance of people is minimized. But trusting instead in the God of all goodness Who pursues your heart, He formulates in you a heart for people that pursues good character. Someone also said "Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts." Knowing a God Who never leaves or forsakes, Who's loving kindness is everlasting, and Who longs to be gracious and waits on High to have compassion, frees me to express that to all others. What I receive back is joy...joy from a life that becomes enlarged, enhanced and enduring.

Author Diane Ackerman (One Hundred Names For Love) wrote "I don't want to live to the end of my life only to find that I have lived just the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well." The width of anything is the measure of what it can contain, and we choose through life by every thought and action what will broaden or narrow the length of our years. And in that sphere of options are often the little things, simple acts of kindness and consideration that not only expand our heart, but the heart and soul of their receiver. Norman Cousins, American author, and a healer through laughter, wrote "Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we are alive." The walking dead actually exist. The Joy of God's Character animating our life amplifies the potential of the years we're given. As Abraham Lincoln said and showed, "in the end it's not the years in a life, but the life in the years."

Back in that cemetery I also ponder an unmarked grave site next to my parents. It belongs to me. It's where I will one day, sooner than later, be buried and there will be a headstone there, on the ground, marking my name as the one who lies under it. But there will also be an epitaph; some short, poignant perhaps statement that will sort of sum up my life. It really does come down to just a thought. I hope I finish well, large and full. How about... "No White Space." Have fun! "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a workman who need not be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of Truth" (2:15). "A life, if well lived, is long enough."-Seneca

- Watch your thoughts, they lead to attitudes; watch your attitudes, they lead to words; watch your actions, they lead to habits; watch your habits, they form your character, watch your character, it determines your destiny.

- Good character is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece, by thought, choice, courage and determination/ John Luther

- Enjoy the little things in life, because one day you will look back and realize they were the big things...

# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual SDPOA Peace Officer of the Year Awards

Every day, law enforcement officers do great work keeping their communities safe. Much of this work takes place behind-the-scenes and goes without recognition. On occasion, we have the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of just a few who go above and beyond what is required. The SDPOA is proud to recognize these inspiring individuals at our annual Peace Officer of the Year Awards. From daring rescues to grueling investigations, these officers have proven their merit and demonstrated the most desired values of their respective agencies.

The SDPOA was proud to host this year's event at the Omni Hotel in downtown San Diego. We were honored to be surrounded by our esteemed guests and colleagues. We would like to thank Marc Bailey for lending his time to be the Emcee for the evening's event. We also thank Chief David Nisleit, District Attorney Summer Stephan, Chief Patrol Agent Rodney Scott, Chief Neil Gallucci, Chief Chuck Kaye, and Special Agent in Charge Karen Flowers for being our award presenters this year. The SDPOA was also proud to include the presentation of the Theodore Roosevelt Police Award in our event again this year. We were also excited to have members from several departments across the county represented in the Honor Guard's presentation of the Colors.

This evening would not be possible without the support of our gracious donors. Thank you for showing your support of San Diego's peace officers.



**Top Left:** Marc Bailey, who graciously donated his time to be the Emcee for the evening.

**Middle Left:** Honor Guard consisting of Angie Torres (SDPD), John Kelleher (Sheriff), Joey Tanglao (Coronado PD), Moises Arellano (SD City Schools PD)

**Top Right:** Grace Del Bano from Coronado P.D. singing the National Anthem.



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*Officer Enrique Bermudez*  
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL



Officer Enrique Bermudez has been selected from a pool of very dedicated officers assigned to the Oceanside Area. Officer Bermudez's commitment to the Oceanside Area's stolen vehicle program has had a profound and lasting impact on the community he serves. Officer Bermudez is an exemplary person and an exceptional officer.

*Sergeant Frank Giaime*  
CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Sergeant Frank Giaime was selected to head the new Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) when it was formed in 2016. He established the team's mission and goals as well as the strategy to achieve those goals. He identified the importance of shifting the focus from one of enforcement only to looking for ways to provide services to those in need; starting with referring to the homeless as clients.

*Special Agent Sean Lindberg*  
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION



Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent (SA) Sean Lindberg was hired by the DEA in August 2005. Operation Pacific Pipeline led by SA Sean Lindberg targeted multi-layered international drug trafficking organizations operating from Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala spanned into Central and Southern America, Europe, Mexico, and the U.S.

*Officer Thomas Fidel*  
ESCONDIDO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer Tom Fidel was hired by the Escondido Police Department in July of 1999. His extensive, prior military service as a Combat Veteran in the United States Marine made Tom the perfect fit for the Department. His natural leadership style and abilities were apparent early on. He quickly garnered respect and admiration from his peers and supervisors, both for his high degree of professionalism and his acumen as a practical joker. Tom has uncanny ability to put people at ease, and to help them find the best in themselves.

*Corporal Raziel Quiroga*  
NATIONAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



On February 3, 2018, National City Police Corporal Raziel Quiroga responded to a report of a critically wounded male suffering from multiple stab wounds. The suspect, who fled the scene and had not been located, attempted to murder the victim by stabbing him 10 times in his torso and head. The victim was rushed to a trauma center with severe internal injuries and significant blood loss. The prognosis was bleak but the victim defied the odds and was able to recover.

*Corporal Travis Anderson*  
CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Corporal Travis Anderson worked tirelessly to develop expertise as an Accident Investigator. This preparation allowed Corporal Anderson to take the lead on three fatal collisions and three serious injury collisions during 2018. By the summer of 2018 Corporal Anderson was the team's veteran accident investigator able to handle the most complex of serious collisions.

*Detective Kovahn Vlach*  
CORONADO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Detective Kovahn Vlach was hired in August of 2015. In January of 2018, he was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Investigations Division. He is responsible for providing diligent follow up on his assigned cases as well as for managing the Department's Remotely Monitored Bike Program.

*Detective Jesse Sandoval*  
EL CAJON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Detective Jesse Sandoval was hired by the El Cajon Police Department (ECPD) in July 2006. He is being recognized for his outstanding investigative work throughout 2018. One highlight of Detective Sandoval's work includes the investigation where Detective Sandoval acted on information from a Credit Union regarding a subject making several fraudulent loans and purchasing high end vehicles. Detective Sandoval obtained and executed search warrants for multiple locations where several fraudulent identifications, loan applications with various victim's identification information, other stolen property, as well as a stolen handgun were recovered.

*Detective Ryan Gremillion*  
LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Detective Ryan Gremillion was hired by the La Mesa Police Department in October 2006. Detective Gremillion has been assigned to the Investigations Unit since 2014 and has recently concentrated on cold case homicides. Detective Gremillion was selected as the La Mesa Police Department's Peace Officer of the Year based on his hard work, tenacity, and dedication in a murder case.

*Detective Brent Keys*  
OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Detective Brent Keys was hired August 26, 1997 and is currently assigned as a Homicide Investigator in the Crimes of Violence Unit. Brent was assigned to the Crimes of Violence unit in January of 2016 and immediately proved to be a dedicated and tenacious investigator. In a very short period of time, Brent shouldered the responsibility of solving three high profile murders.

*Continued on Pg. 15...*

# Unit Highlight | S.D. County Joint Agency Task Force (JATF)

By Erika Vroom, Editor



The Joint Agency Task Force team

The City of San Diego holds a special place in the hearts of its residents and the tourists that are consistently making their trek to the city's beaches, attractions, or are simply moving about in their everyday lives. No matter the reason, many of these individuals spend time on public transportation throughout the city. In a metropolitan area such as San Diego, the crowds of people who are concentrated in one location can be overwhelming and sometimes dangerous. Threats of crime or criminals who decide to target public transportation, such as the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) trolleys, are not to be taken lightly. Recognizing an opportunity to bring neighboring agencies together to address a mutual interest in the security and safety of citizens on the trolley system, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided a grant to fund the Joint Agency Task Force.

The Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) is the unit responsible for ensuring the safety of travelers at MTS trolley stops throughout Central Division in San Diego. Originating in 2015, the unit began through funds from a federal grant through DHS. Due to increase in bombings along train stations at major cities all over the world, Homeland Security ensured that San Diego had a designated team to assist with crime prevention and safety at major public transportation hubs. Other cities such as San Francisco and New York City had already created teams, or even full police departments that focus on public transportation safety. After seeing the success from those law enforcement entities, JATF was born. While the grant was only supposed to last two years, Officer Walfrido Giovanetty of the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) mentions, "The unit was so successful that the department [SDPD] decided to keep it going."

That said, the makeup of the team is a bit different than one would think. From SDPD, Sergeant Kristopher McAndrew who oversees the unit which includes SDPD Officers Sean Bunch and Walfrido Giovanetty, Code Compliance Inspector (CCI) Steward, Transit Systems Security (TSS) Officer Joaquin, and Deputy Beatty. In its original configuration, the task force also consisted of officers from the following police departments: La Mesa, Chula Vista, National City, and El Cajon. Additionally, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department had two deputies on the team as well. With a dedicated sergeant and two officers from SDPD, as well as two deputies from the Sheriff's Department, the other agencies would rotate their officers in three to four month periods. When the grant ran out, JATF was narrowed down to just an SDPD Sergeant, 2 SDPD Officers, 1 SDO Deputy, a Code Compliance Inspector and a Transit Systems Security Officer from MTS.

So what exactly does JATF do? Put simply, they enforce the law through contacts, citations and arrests, while working to address crime at the trolley stations. Whether the crime comes from a random trolley rider, a probationer or parolee, or even if it is from an individual who is acting strange, JATF investigates it all. Working from one trolley station can lead the team to a web of connected crimes that expands far beyond San Diego such as a triple homicide suspect from Arkansas who was contacted and arrested at the Harborside Trolley Station in Central Division. Though JATF is small, their ability to work efficiently in a small team environment makes an impact. Thanks to an advancement in the current equipment, the JATF unit is more mobile than ever. Aside from their new vests now clearly displaying that they are police officers and

not MTS enforcement, they now have ARJIS phones that are capable of scanning fingerprints, contain facial recognition technology, and can access everything that a computer in a police cruiser allows, while giving the officers full mobility to ride the trolleys and not be confined to one location.

On a typical day, JATF contacts over 400 people, issues over 20 citations and makes an average of 6 arrests. During a Special Enforcement Detail (SED), JATF can have over 3,200 contacts, over 98 citations, and double digit arrests in a four hour period. In one year, the team averaged 1,100 arrests. Those numbers are primarily only Central division and the Sheriff's area. Officer Bunch states, "The command saw how successful the unit was, not just effecting the MTS property itself, but also...they have mentioned that we [JATF] are assisting in reducing radio calls for patrol by intercepting the criminal element before they disperse into the city." Oftentimes, the unit runs into a suspect from a crime that may not have taken place in Central division, but since the suspect decided to use the trolleys as a means of transportation, they increase the likelihood of getting caught by crossing paths with JATF. Sergeant McAndrew further explains, "For example, a park ranger was robbed in the Gaslamp Quarter, but thanks to Operation Safe Rails (a grant funded operation), we were working at the Old Town Trolley Station in Western Division and came across a suspect who was in possession of the Rangers property." The JATF unit has the ability to receive grants that can temporarily expand their area of operation with assistance from neighboring divisions. If one officer from each division from SDPD were to be assigned to JATF, it would create the ideal situation as it would expand the area of operation for the team. Their impact could be even more significant.

Aside from catching those who don't want to be caught and addressing crime, the JATF unit also has to be personable. In order to do their jobs in policing the transit locations, they must be able to say hello to tourists and go from action to kindness. To be on the unit, Officer Giovanetty states, "You have to be a hard charger... You have to be willing to get into peoples' business and make contact." With that, the combined efforts of the San Diego Police Department, San Diego

Sheriff's Department and the Metropolitan Transit System has helped ensure crime is reduced and ultimately maintain public safety along the trolley lines.

## READY TO RETIRE?

Whether you plan to play golf, travel the world, or spend more time with your family, determining your retirement needs is the first step in defining how the assets you've worked hard to build, keep working for you.

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*Officer Matthew Torres*

SD COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer Matthew Torres began his Law-Enforcement career with the San Diego Community College Police Department on July 10, 2006. Matt has consistently displayed his positive attitude, professional conduct, and remarkable work ethic.

*Corporal Thomas Bland*

HARBOR POLICE DEPARTMENT



Corporal Thomas Bland, is the epitome of a hard working Harbor Police Officer. Throughout his eight-year career he has been relentlessly driven to help others. This drive earned him a promotion to Corporal and an assignment to Investigations in 2018.

*District Attorney Investigator  
Sandra Oplinger*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS



District Attorney Investigator Sandra Oplinger has served 34 years in law enforcement and was hired by the San Diego District Attorney's Office on November 4, 2011. She is assigned to the Cold Case Homicide Unit.

*Officer Shawn Boggeman*

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer Shawn Boggeman was hired on February 21, 2014. In a notable incident, Officer Shawn Boggeman and Officer's Bihum and Roman, responded to a report of a disturbance. While standing outside the doorway, they attempted to make contact with the resident inside when the suspect opened up fire on them with an AR-15.

*Senior Deputy Probation Officer Meaghan Hardy*

SD COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Senior Deputy Probation Officer (SrPO) Meaghan Hardy was hired on July 16, 2004, and through promotion, has risen to the level of SrPO. She is currently assigned to the Central Gang and Adult High-Risk Unit, a hybrid unit consisting of officers with various assignments. She is the sole Juvenile Gang Officer for the Central region. She is also a Field Training Officer. As a senior officer, she welcomes opportunities to lead.

*Officer Marcos Gobbi*

SD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT



Marcos Gobbi is a Campus Police Officer with the San Diego Unified School District Police Department who was hired on March 1, 2016. He was assigned to Morse High School during the 2017-2018 school year. During that time, Officer Gobbi began investigating a series of over 25 cell phone thefts from his students.

*Detective Dylan Haddad*

SD COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Detective Dylan Haddad was hired in June 2010. In 2017 and 2018, Detective Dylan Haddad was assigned as the gang detective for the city and county areas of Vista. This area of San Diego County has the highest concentration of gang members in Sheriff Jurisdiction and the only area in the county serviced with a single gang detective. Due to the high concentration of gang-related crime, Detective Haddad was assigned a very high caseload. Despite being faced with the challenges of being a sole gang detective in an area of high gang activity, Detective Haddad acted above and beyond what was expected of the position to seriously impact gang-related crime.

*Officer Douglass Miller*

UCSD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer Douglass (Doug) Miller joined the UCSD Police Department on April 4, 2016 after a distinguished career with the California State University Police. Officer Miller was chosen as Peace Officer of Year for saving the lives of two individuals – in one instance at great risk to his safety. One occurrence is displayed below.

*Border Patrol Agent  
Fernando Estrada-Flores*  
United States Border Patrol



Agent Fernando Estrada-Flores entered on duty with the United States Border Patrol September 4, 2006, and is currently assigned to the Imperial Beach Border Patrol Station Strike Team. Prior to starting his Border Patrol career, Agent Estrada-Flores honorably served in the United States Navy for nine years. His nomination is based upon his valiant off-duty actions in rendering assistance to members of his community who begged for help against a man attempting to stab a victim with a machete.



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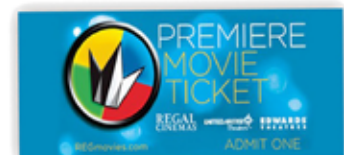
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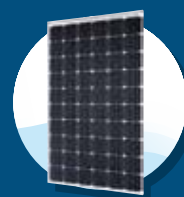
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# UC-7: An Anonymous Eater

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.

## MG Liquor and Deli



**5865 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 858-4444**



S U M M E R summer summer is nearly here and I couldn't be happier. Winter over stayed it's welcome and almost bullied spring into a corner. The glistening sands by the ocean are now free to shine in the sun and light the way for family picnics, road trips, suntans and squad barbecue dinners. This month I felt it was time to get back to one of my personal favorite food genres. You all know how much I swoon over a good liquor store deli, and I found a new one to show everyone.

MG Liquor and Deli is located at 5865 Mission Gorge Road (619) 858-4444. They take cards and there is a small parking lot in front of the building. The deli hours are Monday-Saturday 9-5. There is not a dining room, so plan on taking your lunch to-go. MG Liquor and Deli is ideally located near the 8 freeway, right off the Mission Gorge exit, and smack between Mid-City and Eastern Division. Jacob D and I ate here (for the first time!) on one occasion, but we will definitely go back.

I love a proper and well-made tuna salad sandwich, so that was the obvious choice for lunch on this day. MG's tuna salad (\$7.49) was made with a touch of relish, and topped with Swiss cheese,

tomato, and red onion. This sandwich was piled high and made for a very satisfying lunch on what turned out to be a very busy day. The kicker was the red onion. Tuna salad is kind of a reliable lifetime favorite of mine, and I pleasantly surprised by the twist of red onion. It gave my standby just a little snap to round up the Swiss cheese and tomato.

Jacob D decided to sample a sandwich from MG's hot side, so he chose the Reuben served on Rye (\$6.99). This Reuben was stacked to the max with Boar's Head corned beef, sauerkraut, Swiss cheese, and Thousand Island dressing. Jacob was impressed with their Reuben. The meat was good quality; nice and lean and not too salty. The Thousand Island dressing was used with a little restraint, so it did not turn the meal into a soggy mess. Like my tuna salad, this sandwich was not a dainty affair and made for a solid meal to fuel the day.

MG Liquor and Deli is the perfect choice for the cop who needs a quick meal for a busy day for the right price. I am giving MG 3 1/2 badges.



# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Widows & Orphans Fund Charity Golf Tournament

On April 4, 2019, the SDPOA proudly hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Widows and Orphans Fund Charity Golf Tournament. We returned to the scenic Grand Del Mar Golf Club. This is one of our premiere fundraising events and this year's tournament was yet another success! The event included a tournament and reception following with raffles and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event help support the families of fallen San Diego Police Officers and officers grievously injured in the line of duty. It is always such an honor to be amongst so many of our members and supporters in the community who share our passion for helping the families of our fallen heroes.

This year, Team Jorgensen, which included Erik Jorgensen, Jeff Diltz, Tim Daley, and Paul Fanta, won the tournament and will have their names permanently inscribed on the Memorial Cup Trophy.

We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors who helped make this event possible. We would like to also recognize Bocks Awards for donating the tournament awards. We greatly appreciate everyone who showed their support and we hope to see even more of you on the course next year!



# 2019 Memorial Ceremonies



1. SDPOA Directors Tom Bostedt, Kayla Evans, and Brian Avera. 2. Two SDPD Honor Guard members at the San Diego County Fallen Officer Memorial. 3. Detective Cory Gilmore rings the Memorial Bell. 4. San Diego County Fallen Officer Memorial. 5. San Diego Police Department Memorial.



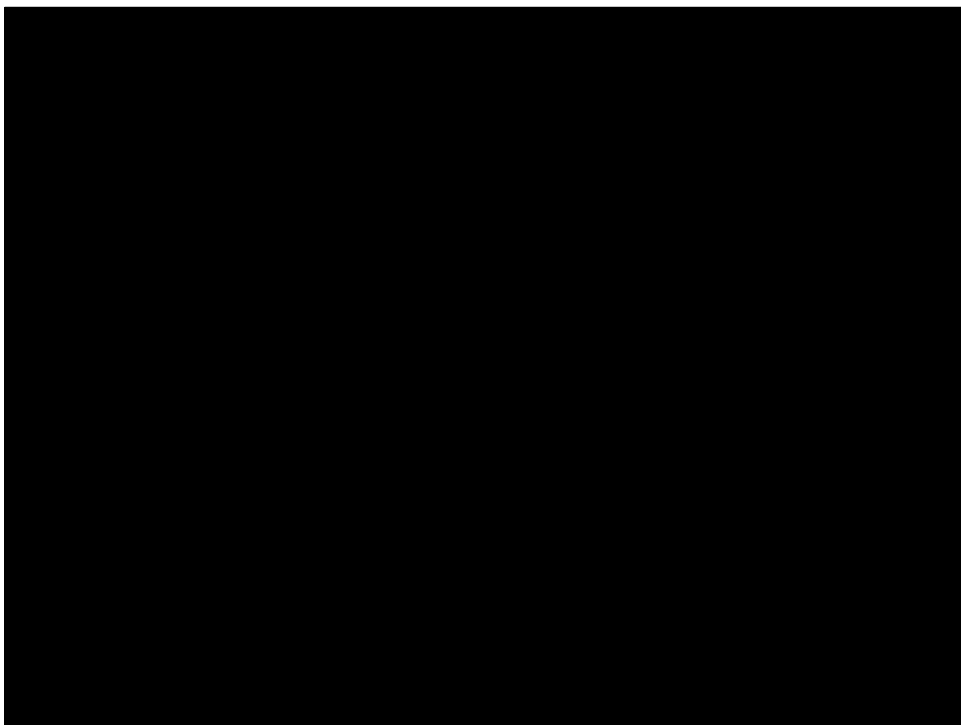


1.



2.

1. Representatives from the San Diego Police Department in front of the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. 2. SDPD fallen police cruiser door in memory of Officer Jeremy Henwood (EOW: 8/7/11) at the National Law Enforcement Museum.



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**John McKean**  
Marine Veteran and Police Officer in Oceanside, Calif.

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# *In Remembrance*

**Robert L. Powers**



**End of Watch: 16 June 1928**  
Officer Powers was killed in a traffic accident.

**Dennis G. Gonzales**



**End of Watch: 25 June 1979**  
Officer Gonzalez was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver during a traffic stop.

**H. Keith Tiffany**



**Ronald R. Ebeltoft**



**End of Watch: 6 June 1981**  
Officers Ebeltoft and Tiffany were ambushed and killed by rifle fire while investigating a neighborhood dispute.

**Terry W. Bennett**



**End of Watch: 26 June 2003**  
San Diego Motor Officer Terry Bennett was killed while in pursuit of a stolen vehicle when the driver turned and deliberately struck Officer Bennett.

# *Congratulations, Retirees!*

Thank you to all of our members who recently retired between

**April 16, 2019 and May 15, 2019**

for your dedication and service.

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



*Detective Cindy Meyer*

Hired May 10, 2002 ~ Retired April 25, 2019

*Officer Scott Santagata*

Hired May 16, 1993 ~ Retired April 30, 2019

*Detective Thomas Boerum*

Hired December 5, 1985 ~ Retired May 9, 2019

*Sergeant Gaylon Sells*

Hired May 7, 1987 ~ Retired May 9, 2019

*Detective Sergeant John Clark*

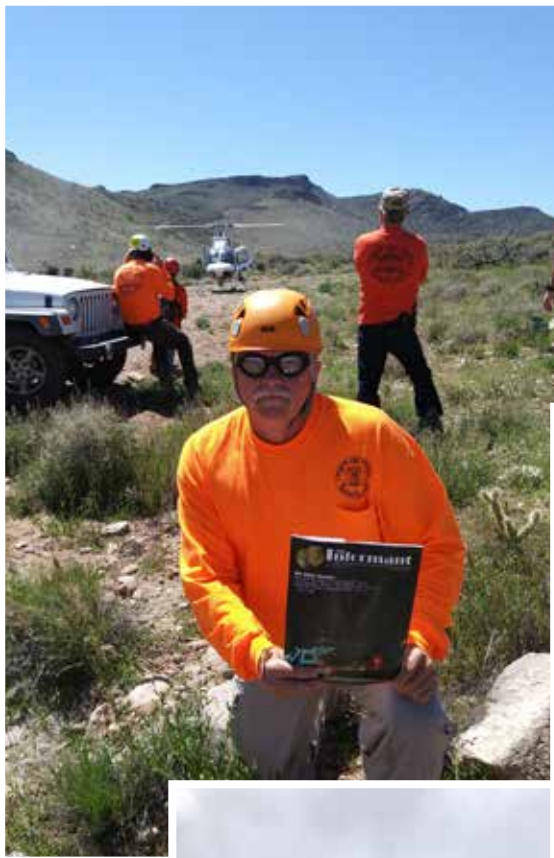
Hired February 2, 1990 ~ Retired May 9, 2019

*Officer Jaime Alvarado*

Hired August 24, 1988 ~ Retired May 14, 2019

# On the Road

Proudly Presented by



Retired Sergeant David E. Williams near Kingman, Arizona during a Helicopter Operations training. David and his wife Denise are volunteers for the Mojave County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team.



Retired Detective Mel Lofftus climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro while in Tanzania, Africa on an environmental expedition.



Detective Zuzana Drahosova and Retired Sergeant Phillip Schneider trekking the Salkantay Pass (15,100 ft) in Peru.

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](mailto:editor@sdpoa.org).



# SDPOA Board Minutes

## Board of Directors Meeting

April 11, 2019

**Directors present:** Schaeffer, Avera (arrived 0910), Wilson (arrived 1140), Mackay, Evans (arrived 1140), McCullough, Paxton, Hoskins

**Directors excused:** Bostedt

STATION DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:  
None.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  
None.

OTHERS PRESENT:  
B. Fields, K. Smith (recorder)

**OPENING OBSERVANCES**  
President Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 0900 hours and 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. There were 7 officers killed in the line of duty Nationwide since the March board meeting. In the history of the SDPD there were 4 San Diego Police officers killed in the month of April. Dennis Allen (4/2/1977), Charles Harris (4/3/1927), Michael Anaya (4/10/1979), Gerald Griffin (4/25/2003).

NON-AGENDA MEMBER COMMENTS:  
• None.

1. MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:  
• None.

PRESENTATIONS:  
• None.

2. PAC  
• McCullough updated on recent PAC meetings with a couple candidates.  
• Discussion occurred regarding AB 392 and the Use of Force issue.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
• Mackay discussed next month's UCOPS meeting.  
• *M/S Mackay/Hoskins for \$1,000 to purchase director travel PR items. Unanimous. 6-0-3. Wilson, Evans, Bostedt absent.*

a. Informant:  
• The member spotlight for June will be Todd Jaeger. JATF will be the unit highlight for June. The member spotlight for July will be JaDeric Davis. The member spotlight for August will be Ben Stanley, the member spotlight for September will be Efren Peregrina / Officer Matthew Paniagua.

b. Website:  
• The POA App is up and running. If you use an Apple product you should avoid using the following characters for your password as they will not be accepted. &, #, +, <  
• Discussion occurred regarding several items on the App.

4. RETIREMENT  
• Avera reported regarding the Corbett issue.

5. MEMBER RELATIONS  
• Discussion occurred regarding SDPEBA regarding member benefits offered.

6. LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
• Discussion regarding call back pay issues surrounding OCDEF grant payments.  
• Northwestern Division supervisor staffing update.  
• The prisoner transport issue was discussed.

7. LEGAL  
• No report.

8. SPECIAL EVENTS/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
• Update regarding the upcoming Peace Officer of the Year event.  
• This years Christmas Party will be at a new venue for 2019.  
• The Scholarship program is underway.

9. BUDGET-FINANCE  
• *M/S Hoskins/McCullough to approve the March 2019 treasurer's report. Unanimous. 6-0-3. Wilson, Evans, Bostedt absent.*

10. BUSINESS & GOVERNANCE

### COMMITTEE

a. Administrative:  
• There were 2 email polls.  
• Discussion on additional cameras installed for security at the POA building.  
• *M/S Mackay/Hoskins for up to \$3500, including labor and shipping, to replace the upgraded UPS' for the POA servers. Unanimous. 6-0-3. Wilson, Evans, Bostedt absent.*

c. Minutes:  
• *M/S Paxton/McCullough to accept the March 2019 Meeting Minutes. Unanimous. 6-0-3. Wilson, Evans, Bostedt absent.*

### 11. MILESTONE REPORT

• No report.

### 12. OLD BUSINESS

• No report.

### 13. NEW BUSINESS

• Discussion for an Informant meeting to discuss updates to the publication.

### 14. ARMED SERVICES

• Hoskins discussed a member issue regarding returning from deployment requirements.

*Adjourned the closed meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1251.*

*Adjourned Foundation meeting into closed session meeting at 1258.*

*Adjourned closed session into the Foundation meeting at 1315.*

*Adjourned the Foundation meeting into closed session into at 1449.*

*Meeting adjourned 1502.*

#### SDPOA Non-Members:

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

## Classified Ads and Vacation Rentals

**Big Bear Lake Vacation Home** – A modern 3-bedroom, 2-bath home furnished with rustic/mountain decor. Amenities include WiFi, fireplace, 4 cable TVs/ DVD players and a full kitchen. The cabin has a hot tub and BBQ on the deck. It is next door to Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain and a short walk to the lake, Village, shops and restaurants. Call Teresa at 619- 249-9284 for booking at discounted rates of: \$175 - \$250 a night, depending on requested dates. Or you can visit [WWW.BIGBEARCOOLCABINS.COM](http://WWW.BIGBEARCOOLCABINS.COM) “TC’S CABIN” for photos and approximate availability.

**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 \$6,500.00. For more information, please contact Mary at 760-294-2700 or [M51thompso@gmail.com](mailto:M51thompso@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

April 11, 2019

**Directors present:** Schaeffer, Avera, Wilson, McCullough, Evans, Paxton, Mackay, Hoskins

**Directors excused:** Bostedt

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

None.

OTHERS PRESENT:

B. Fields, A. Bosanac, K. Smith (recorder)

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:

- No report.

PRESENTATIONS:

- No report.

CHARITY REQUESTS:

- Request for POA to sponsor the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs Memorial Golf Tournament.

**Declined.**

- Request for POA to sponsor the United Cerebral Palsy 2019 Life without Limits event.

**Declined.**

- Request for POA to sponsor the Lynch Foundation for Children 3rd Annual Rays of Hope fundraising dinner.

**M/S Mackay/Hoskins for \$1,000. Unanimous.**

**8-0-1. Bostedt absent.**

- Request for POA to sponsor the Chicano Federation of SD County 50th Anniversary Ball.

**Declined.**

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

- Evans reported on the SDPD headquarters memorial monument. Discussion occurred. A decision on the direction the POA will go in has been tabled for further review.

- Discussion occurred regarding those attending the National Memorial.

FUNDRAISING:

- Bosanac updated regarding the recent Golf Tournament.

MINUTES:

- **M/S McCullough/Evans to accept the March 2019 Foundation meeting minutes. Unanimous.**

**8-0-1. Bostedt absent.**

BUDGET FINANCE:

- **M/S Hoskins/McCullough to approve the March treasurer's report. Unanimous. 6-0-3. Bostedt, Evans, Paxton absent.**

CHILDCARE:

- Avera reported on new findings for this project. There is an upcoming meeting for this project next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

**Adjourned the closed meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1251.**

**Adjourned Foundation meeting into closed session meeting at 1258.**

**Adjourned closed session into the Foundation meeting at 1315.**

**Adjourned the Foundation meeting into closed session into at 1449.**

**REMINDER:**

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for  
Thursday, June 13, 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](mailto:ksmith@sdpoa.org) by Thursday, June 6, 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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**San Diego Police Officers Association Staff**



**Khristina Smith**  
Manager  
Executive Assistant



**Erika Vroom**  
Communications Coordinator  
Editor, *The Informant*



**Arni Page**  
Store Clerk



**Crystal Millburn**  
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**The SDPOA wishes you a  
happy & safe Summer!**

