

**Peace Officers' Research Association
of California**

Tri-Counties Chapter

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2009

I. Call to order

President Mark Hanks called to order the regular meeting of the Tri-Counties Chapter at 6:39 pm on May 18, 2009 at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

Roll call

The following persons were present:

- 1) Mark Hanks, Chapter President (VCDSA)
- 2) Randy Watkins, Region III Director- at- Large (VCDSA)
- 3) Nick Odenath, Vice-President Ventura County & Insurance and Benefits Director (VCDSA)
- 4) Dale Strobridge, Vice-President San Luis Obispo County (SLOPOA)
- 5) Rene' Smit, Chapter Vice-President Santa Barbara County (SBAPOA)
- 6) Kent Bodin, Chapter Treasurer (SPOAVC)
- 7) Roger Stephenson, Region III LDF Trustee, (El Segundo POA)
- 8) Diane Hubbard, President (VCPPOA)
- 9) Marlene Houlihan, Treasurer (VCPPOA)
- 10) Chris Corbett, President (SBCDSA)
- 11) Javier Atunez, Vice-President (SBCDSA)
- 12) Dave Brookshire, (SBCDSA)
- 13) Jason Smit, (SBCDSA)
- 14) John Krohta, Vice-President (SBAPOA)
- 15) Joe Mulrooney, Director (VCDSA)
- 16) Rick Shimmel, Executive Director (VCDSA)
- 17) Sonny Lopez, President (GBPOA)
- 18) Ryan Bates, President (PHPOA)
- 19) Michael Galvan, Secretary/Treasurer (PHPOA)
- 20) Eric Meyer, Marketing Executive, Myers, Stevens & Toohey & Co., Inc.
- 21) Ed Fishman, LDF Administrator
- 22) Steve Silver, LDF Attorney, Silver, Hadden, Silver, Wexler & Levine
- 23) Geoff Dean, Ventura County Sherriff's Candidate
- 24) Gena Quarantello, AFLAC Representative
- 25) Bruce Quarantello, AFLAC Representative

President Hanks introduced the following distinguished guests; PORAC Legal Defense Administrator Ed Fishman, Commander Geoff Dean from the Ventura Sheriff's Department and Ventura County DSA Executive Director Rick Shimmel.

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President Hanks introduced the following AFLAC Representatives Gena and Bruce Quarantello who made a presentation on the benefits provided by AFLAC.

II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks

A motion was made by Nick Odenath to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009 Tri-Counties Chapter meeting that was held at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara. Kent Bodin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report – Kent Bodin

Treasurer Bodin reported to the Chapter that there was \$15,231.00 in the operating fund.

IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant

Vice-President Durant was not present to a prior commitment in Northern California.

V. President's Report – Mark Hanks

President Hanks on April 21 & 22 attended PORAC Symposium in La Quinta, California. The following subjects were presented the by LDF Panel Attorneys:

- Federal Charges Obstruction of Justice
- Internal Affairs
- Worker's Compensation
- Contract Bargaining and Interest Arbitration
- Meyers-Millias-Brown Act
- Defending Federal Civil Rights Litigation
- Freedom of Speech and Privacy Rights

Rob Wexler did a fantastic job on this presentation.

PORAC President Ron Cottingham presented a Legislative Update.

The training was very good and important and gave President Hanks the opportunity to meet other Tri-Counties PORAC members who attended the Symposium.

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On April 22nd President Hanks attended a luncheon with Tri-Counties PORAC members. The lunch was provided by the Santa Barbara County DSA. He expressed his appreciation and thanked the DSA.

On May 6th, under the direction of the Tri-Counties Chapter, President Hanks went to Sacramento for the PORAC Legislative Day. Senator George Runner was out of town, but he was able to meet with his Chief of Staff Will Smith. Senator Abel Maldonado was in committee hearings and met with his Chief of Staff Brian Lansa. Senator Fran Pavely was also in committee hearings and he met with Daniel Seaman in her office. He met with Assembly Member Julia Brownlee.

President Hanks attended the PORAC briefings before going to meet the Legislators. PORAC prepared a hand out to give the Legislators that had four main priorities. He thought it was notable that the first item on the handout was AB 61 sponsored by Assemblymember Pedro Nava which lists additional sex offenses, including lewd and lascivious acts with a child under fourteen. This is a very important Legislative proposal. This Chapter generated this Legislation and Jim Schmitt was very instrumental in getting this bill through the legislative process. The other Legislative Proposals on PORAC's handout were; interlocking devices for DUI offenders, Municipal Bankruptcy proceedings, procedures for Peace Officers Bill of Rights, May vs. the City of Los Angeles, basically did away with the statue of limitations for internal affair investigations. PORAC is trying to pass Legislation to clear this up by making the statue of limitations, which is currently one year instead of having an internal affairs investigation that drags on for two to three years.

After going over the PORAC handout with the Legislators, President Hanks discussed the four Legislative proposals that were generated by this Chapter; .AB 61 – Juvenile Sex Offenders, AB 86 – Public Employees Retirement for Santa Barbara Airport Police Officers, AB 586- Worker's Compensation for medical conditions to added presumptive for University Police Officers and California State University Police Officer and SB 490 - Sponsored by Senator Abel Maldonado, Peace Officer Status for San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Correctional Officers.

After the briefings, President Hanks attended the PORAC Legislative reception. The Legislators and their office staff were invited to attend at 5:30 pm. President Hanks met and spoke with Michael Miller and Jillena Eifer for Assemblymember Pedro Nava's office. He met with Senator Fran Pavely who approached him regarding PORAC sponsorship of legislation for credit card fraud. Senator Julia Brownlee also approached him regarding legislation for human trafficking and

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whether PORAC would support this legislation. President Hanks took the information and forwarded it to Aaron Read Associates who will review the legislation. He told the members that this was a very productive trip that included networking. President Hanks went to Sacramento to lobby hard for the four legislative proposals that were generated by this Chapter. It was money well spent and very good trip.

On May 7th President Hanks attend the candle light vigil at the Peace Officer's Memorial in Sacramento. The ceremony was very touching and if you have not had a chance go, he recommends that every single member should attend the candle light vigil ceremony. It is a very important ceremony that honors our fallen partners and fellow officers that have given the ultimate sacrifice.

On May 8th President Hanks attended the Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony. There were 19 names added to the list of fallen officers. There were 9 from previous years. The names of the 10 fallen officers for the year of 2008 were added to the memorial wall.

At 4:00 pm President Hanks attend the PORAC annual barbeque where he had the opportunity to meet with other Associations and Chapter members

VI. Committees

A. Insurance and Benefits

AFLAC already presented their presentation

Eric Swartz with Meyers-Stevens & Toohey provided pdf handouts with Insurance and Benefits. Three programs being offered. Eric discussed the 1950 Plan that protects your income. I & B added the Premier Plus Plan a year ago Current benefit 66 2/3 % raised up to 70%, also raised the maximum benefit from \$7,000.00 to \$9,000.00. Eric told the members that new brochures and applications are coming out. He discussed the difference between AFLAC and I & B Plans.

The simplified Life Insurance Plan has come and gone. They now offer I & G Reliance Star Life Insurance up to \$1,000,000.00. They are an "A" rated company. You can get a 5-year term where the rates go up every 5 years, a 10-year term or a 20-year term. Members have to be under the age 50 to get the 20-year term, but you can lock in a decent rate. Eric provided a flyer with AD & D Program and discussed the benefits of purchasing whole life insurance policies

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and backing it up with AD & D policies due to changes in tax breaks. Eric told members to contact him by email if they want the pdf format information to post on their Association websites.

B. Legal Defense Fund – Roger Stephenson

1. Legal Defense Administrator, PORAC LDF Ed Fishman

LDF Administrator Ed Fishman spoke about issues regarding funding and prosecution of cases and how the fund is doing. Ed has been working to improve work on the relationship between PORAC and LDF. He described that LDF can be the legal arm of PORAC. That legislation at times needs the backing of litigation. He spoke on Binding Arbitration and the history of SB 440.

LDF membership is the highest it has ever been: 83,500 members. There is over 7 million dollars in financial reserves, criminal cases (actively openly prosecuted case, indictment has been issued and a complaint has been filed) 38 open criminal compared to 2 years ago 16, cases open in 2009, 1550.

LDF is an amazing program that provides members with the best quality legal representation by the best attorneys in the business without ever having to worry about a cap or spending too much. After each case the member completes an evaluation comments on the LDF service they received.

2. Silver & Sliver – Steve Silver

LDF Attorney Steve Silver spoke and was pleased to be present at the Chapter Meeting. President Hanks expressed that he was honored to have Steve attend the meeting. Diane Hubbard, President of the Ventura County Professional Peace Officer's Association told the members that her Association began using Steve Silver's Law Firm four years ago and it has made a world of difference to their members. She thanked Steve for his service to their Association.

C. Retiree Medical Trust – John Snowling

Director John Snowling was not present

D. Retired Associate Members (RAM) – Tom Snook

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Tom Snook was unable to attend and provided an email to President Hanks with information for the Chapter members. There is an online application for RAM at the PORAC website. Tom provided a phone number and email address that can be obtained by contacting President Hanks for any questions regarding the transition from RPORAC to RAM or the benefits that RAM provided.

E. Political Action

1. Ventura County Sheriff's Election Commander Geoff Dean

President Hanks told the members that Ventura County has not had a contested election for Sheriff for over thirty years. VCDSA conducted a survey of their membership for the four candidates running for Ventura County Sheriff. Two candidates were from outside, Oxnard Police Chief Crombach, former Simi Valley Police Chief Randy Adams who is now Glendale Police Chief. There were two candidates from inside department, Chief Dennis Carpenter and Commander Geoff Dean. Overwhelming response from the survey, over 75% that were returned from our membership indicated that they would like to see Commander Geoff Dean as the next Ventura County Sheriff. The VCDSA held a candidate forum. The VCDSA Board met and voted to endorse Commander Geoff Dean for Sheriff.

Commander Geoff Dean spoke and explained his campaign for Ventura County Sheriff for the upcoming election to the members. Commander Dean expressed his thanks to LDF and the article that was published in this month's issue of the PORAC magazine. He also expressed his appreciation to Silver, Hadden and Silver for their services. Commander Dean discussed his experience with the department.

VII. Director's Reports

A. Tri-County Director – John Snowling

Director Snowling was not present

B. Executive Board Director – Randy Watkins

Randy advised that there is a current RPORAC lawsuit, but could not discuss

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the details. For retired members who have questions about RAM are instructed To call him or the PORAC Vice-President Mike Durant.

VIII. Vice-Presidents Reports

A. San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge

Dale told the members that the SLOPOA is currently in negotiations with the City of San Luis Obispo over the prospect of their 10 million dollar short fall, during the two-year budget cycle. The City requested that the SLOPOA extend their contract for one year. The offer was taken to their membership. The contract was ratified and the City guaranteed that there would be no lay offs during the current budget cycle.

Dale discussed the SLODSA situation with the deputies and correction officers. There is a new association that has been formed by sworn personnel that has 35 members.

B. Santa Barbara County Vice-President Rene' Smit

Rene' told the members that Assembly Bill 86 recently passed the Assembly Floor, there were 79 aye votes and 0 noe votes. AB 86 it is now scheduled to go before the Senate Committees.

He sent out an email regarding the renewal of the Tri-Counties PORAC website domain name and received a response from Chapter Vice-President advising to renew the name for five years. He renewed the domain name for 5 years at a cost of \$75.00.

Rene' attended the PORAC Symposium on April 21st and 22nd. He also attended the lunch provided by the SBDSA with President Hanks.

His members recently received a 17% pay increase for the next 18 months. 4% was a cola and the other 13% was for pay inequities.

C. Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath

Nick thanked Port Hueneme POA for attending. VCDSA completed their negotiations with the County and thanked Steve Silver. Their members received a 1 ½ % pay increase the first year and increased the bi-lingual pay, 1% pay increase the second year. He also discussed the membership survey that lead to the VCDSA's endorsement of Commander Geoff Dean for Ventura County Sheriff.

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IX. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. New Business

Region III Director- at- Large Randy Watkins made a motion for the Tri-Counties Chapter to endorse Commander Geoff Dean for Ventura County Sheriff. Chapter Vice-President Nick Odenath seconded the motion. The motion passed with Port Hueneme Vice-President Ryan Bates and Treasurer/Secretary Michael Galvan abstaining until they meet with their Association.

President Hanks discussed the suggestion of a barbeque at the next Tri-Counties where Chapter meeting and members could bring their spouses. Due to the logistics of a barbeque the idea was not pursued.

XI. Good of the Chapter

Members made various positive comments regarding tonight's meeting.

XII. Adjournment

President Hanks adjourned the meeting at **8:36 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Rene' Smit, Santa Barbara County Vice-President for James Meter, Chapter Secretary.

Minutes approved by: