

**Peace Officers' Research Association  
of California**

***Tri-Counties Chapter***

***Meeting Minutes***

September 21, 2009

**I. Call to order**

President Mark Hanks called meeting to order at 6:40 pm at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

Roll call

The following members were present:

1. Mike Galvan, Secretary/Treasurer (PHPOA)
2. Ryan Bates, Vice President (PHPOA)
3. Eric Swartz, Marketing Executive, Myers-Stevens & Toohey
4. Kevin Baysinger, Treasurer (OPOA)
5. Rick Marquez, Director (OPOA)
6. Greg Herbert, President (OPOA)
7. Judy Goche, Member (VCDSA)
8. Karen Sedillos, Secretary (VCDSA)
9. David Brookshire, Vice President (SBCDSA)
10. Matt Findlay, President (VCDSA)
11. Nick Odenath, PORAC I&B, Director (VCDSA)
12. Elizabeth Dill, President (VCCCDPOA)
13. Jim Schmitt, Vice President (VCPPOA)
14. Rene Smit, President (SBAPOA)
15. Eric Beecher, Vice President (SBPOA)
16. Charlie McChesney, President (SBPOA)
17. John Snowling, Chapter Director, President (VPOA)
18. Mark Hanks, Chapter Director, Treasurer (VCDSA)
19. Diane Hubbard, President (VCPPOA)
20. Ken Yuwiler, Silver Hadden Silver Wexler & Levine
21. Roger Stephenson, PORAC LDF, (ESPOA)
22. Mike McGrew, PAC President (SBPOA)
23. Marlene Houlihan, Member (VCPPOA)
24. James Meter, Chapter Secretary (SBCDSA)
25. Gary Wyatt, AFLAC Representative

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## II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks

A motion was made by Nick Odenath to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 Tri-Counties Chapter meeting held at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara. Kent Bodine seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## III. Treasurer's Report – Kent Bodin

Treasurer Bodin advised the Chapter had \$13,264 in the operating account as of September 1, 2009.

Director Snowling reported PAC Fund at approximately \$14,000 and the PIC Fund at approximately \$100.

## IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant

PORAC Vice President Mike Durant had other obligations and was not able to attend the meeting.

## V. President's Report – Mark Hanks

No report for sake of time. Notable items were mentioned throughout meeting.

## VI. Committees

*Insurance & Benefits* – Nick Odenath mentioned the website [www.poracinsurance.org](http://www.poracinsurance.org) as a resource for basic insurance questions as well as additional contact information.

AFLAC Representative Gary Wyatt conducted a general presentation reminding chapter members of the availability of AFLAC benefits. ALFAC and Gary work closely with PORAC.

Eric Swartz with Myers, Stevens & Toohey spoke about San Francisco DSA just came over to PORAC with 900+ members, one of the deciding factors was problems they were having in regards to preexisting claims with their past insurance company. Eric also reminded members to contact him if they have any questions or issues.

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*LDF* - Director Roger Stephenson reported membership at 85,398 as of 09/01/09, 851 Associations, 31 states. Net assets \$6.95 million. Additional statistics are as follow; Intakes 2,023 administrative, 66 civil and approximately 40 active criminal cases.

Roger passed on an information sheet regarding social networking websites and the concerns and challenges they are bringing for law enforcement personnel. Specifically members posting on-line and association websites which have open forums. He strongly encourages monitoring content of these postings as they could expose your members to discipline.

BART case update given, still a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder case. Several officers who were at the scene and were supportive of main officer involved have been terminated by BART. LDF is actively fighting these cases. Roger reminded chapter to contact LDF if you are sued civilly as LDF will monitor civil lawsuit cases. Roger reminded chapter to contact him any time if they need any assistance.

Ken Yuwiler advised an increase in internal affairs cases. He reminded members to be leery of cases that seem to be "nothing" or minimal in nature. Many times these "nothing" cases turn into something of significance. Ken also reminded the chapter that any internet use on employer computers is not private. Do not use these computers as if they are for your personal use. Be very cognizant these computers can be audited, reviewed and you do not have a right to privacy. This is an area it is easy to get in trouble and cases of this nature are increasing. Ken also reminded members to be cognizant of off-duty behavior. He cautioned members to be "professional witnesses" while off duty unless a life or death situation. Reminded chapter to contact him any time a member has a question.

*RMT* – John Snowling, nothing notable to report.

*RAM* – Tom Snook unable to attend. No Report.

*PAC* – We had two candidates address our chapter for endorsement for the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District; Das Williams and Susan Jordan.

Legislative proposal introduced by Jim Schmitt to amend sections 202 and 208.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code; housing violent adult wards in juvenile facilities. Handout presented and discussed. Jim outlined the notable issues and requested PORAC to support these amendments.

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Motion by Jim Schmitt for chapter's support of the W&I amendments; seconded by Charlie McChesney. Discussion regarding the percentages involved if amendments pass. General consensus this would have minimal impact on adult facilities and they are more equipped to house these violent adult wards. Motion passed unanimously, chapter endorses.

Dale Strobridge unable to be present but requested an issue relating to Workers' Compensation be presented to chapter. Letter authored and submitted by Dale was read by James Meter. Requesting chapter support for AB1227 which is attempting to rectify 4850 issues for SLODSA and other 1937 Act counties. Requesting the chapter associations write a letter of support. E-mail regarding this was sent out to chapter earlier on date of meeting. Please submit letters of support as soon as possible. Mark Hanks addressed some of the issues relating to this piece of legislature and encouraged letters of support.

Attorney General race update by John Snowling. John advised PORAC's endorsement of Albert Torrico. Only 2 chapters did not want Torrico; LA North and LA South, who supported Ted Lieu. John mentioned the Tri-Counties chapters' recommendation to endorse Pedro Nava. John mentioned Nava having fundraising issues in relation to the other candidates and not much happening on his website. John cast chapter vote for Torrico.

Discussion ensued as to why Director Snowling's vote was different that what chapter recommended. He stated Nava did not have a chance to win and cited the following as "issues:" Our chapter by-laws have problems and are not in line with state by-laws. He passed out a by-law proposal to "clean up" our problems. Stated our chapter does not have the power to make endorsements on the state level as stated in our by-laws. John reiterated anything we do have to comply with the state by-laws. John proposed we clean up the by-laws to address the problems with voting. He stated what has happened in the past is "whoever is present gets to vote," referring to the Director position. He also addressed the concern of the amount of individual association members who attend chapter meetings to vote having an impact on voting. He said united endorsements are more beneficial for the association. Matt Findlay stated there will be endorsements where there is a split in the chapter and this inherent due to the nature of geography and local politics, essentially stating this can't be avoided in all cases. Matt cited numerous examples of geographic differences within the chapter and sometimes a split will be the result of these differences. Matt cited a concern that John's suggested changes to the chapter by-laws will not allow members to be directly involved in member benefit issues specific to where they live and work and this would present a bigger issue.

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Mark Hanks reminded chapter the obligation to not be in conflict with PORAC's endorsements on statewide endorsements. He also stated there are other levels of politics in which we can make our own chapter endorsement.

John Snowling restated he felt his suggestions would clear up the issues with our by-laws. Charlie McChesney inquired as to why the chapter recommendation was not followed in terms of the chapter's vote. Discussion ensued as to why our Director did not vote according to chapter's recommendation. John's rationale for voting for Torrico was the overwhelming votes for Torrico at the meeting. Further discussion was had as to what the role of our representative is and if attempts to communicate with chapter should be required if a significant change is made. John's defense was that the by-laws do not mandate the Director to vote as the chapter requests and suggested a by-law change to clearly articulate this. Remainder of discussion surrounded casting future votes in line with the chapter's desire.

John Snowling made a motion to endorse Measure "A" Ventura City, ½ sales tax increases of which 40% would go to public safety. Second by Matt Findlay. Brief discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

John Snowling made a motion to endorse the following Ventura City Council candidates; Brian Brennan, Jim Monahan, Ed Sommers and Mike Tracey and give \$275 per the three incumbents and \$175 for Tracey from chapter PAC. Second by Jim Schmitt. Brief discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Charlie McChesney made a motion to endorse the following candidates for Santa Barbara City Council; Helene Schneider for Mayor, Diane Shanning, Frank Hotchkiss, and Michael Sell. He also requested \$500 per candidate from the PAC account. Second by John Snowling. Motion passed unanimously.

### **VII. Directors' Reports**

Tri-Counties' Director John Snowling reported our region had four applications from small associations for scholarship to the annual conference. The scholarship was awarded to Port Hueneme POA from our association. Congratulations to PHPOA!

Executive Board Director Randy Watkins not present. Mark Hanks reported there was a unanimous endorsement for Barbara Boxer for Federal

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Congressional Senate by PORAC. Mark mentioned Boxer's continued support of PORAC and law enforcement in Washington and her willingness to always meet with PORAC representatives.

PORAC leadership was informed Vice President Biden has expressed interest in meeting directly with PORAC representatives during their Washington D.C. visit next year.

## **VIII. Vice-Presidents' Reports**

San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge unable to attend as previously noted. No report other than request for letters of support.

Santa Barbara County Vice-President Rene' Smit reported AB86 still moving forward. Also mentioned article submitted to PORAC.

Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath reported VCDSA's endorsement of Geoff Dean. Should be a heated campaign as the other candidate is endorsed by current Sheriff. Discussed insurance renewals. VCDSA receive their insurance outside the county. Looking at a 5% reduction in their PPO. Offered contact information for their broker, Hernandez and Company. Modest increases across the board. VCDSA has endorsed Susan Jordan for the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly Seat; felt she was more prepared for position.

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

Mark Hanks discussed the desire of numerous past presidents to update our chapter by-laws. Mark will be appointing a committee. All by-law changes will be reviewed by PORAC and will be in line with PORAC. Mark requested volunteers for committee. Most of this business can be conducted via e-mail. Everyone in agreement of this need.

## **X. New Business**

Mark Hanks advised he was contacted shortly after the July chapter meeting about sponsoring a foursome for the CNOA Golf Tournament which we have sponsored in the past. Mark contacted the chapter executive board who in turn voted to donate \$500 for a foursome for this tournament. The proceeds go towards assisting families of slain peace officers. Mark asked for

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confirmation of executive board's vote by chapter members present. Motion by Matt Findlay. Second by Jim Schmitt. No discussion; motion passed unanimously.

Mark Hanks reminded everyone of the annual conference in Reno, Nevada and congratulated Ryan Bates and PHPOA for being awarded the small association scholarship.

Mark Hanks reminded chapter of past practice of sending chapter Treasurer to annual conference. Motion by Charlie McChesney. Second by Matt Findlay. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Elizabeth Dill to cover travel and food costs for chapter president's attendance at annual conference. VCDSA to cover registration and hotel costs. Second by Diane Hubbard. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Hanks reminded chapter of intent for an abbreviated chapter meeting at conference. Mark also advised the January meeting would be moved from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with the executive board and holiday.

No nomination was made for SLO Co. chapter Vice President. Deferred to November meeting at conference.

Dave Brookshire nominated Chris Corbett for the SB Co. chapter Vice President. Second by Rene Smit. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Rene Smit nominated John Snowling for chapter Director. Second by Elizabeth Dill. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **XI. Good of the Chapter**

Charlie McChesney and Mike McGrew gave some additional background on Das Williams and reiterated SBPOA's support of Das. Also mentioned on-going issues with City Council.

Ken Yuwiler offered another reminder of ensuring members are utilizing representatives and LDF when the subject of an I.A. Also be cognizant of the potential need even if only being called as a witness. Ken also advised this is a good environment to focus on beneficial language changes during negotiations due to the current financial climate.

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Ryan Bates mentioned some changes going on with the PHPOA Board of Directors. Thanked all who assisted in getting PHPOA the conference scholarship. Also recently worked with Susan Silver to update their antiquated by-laws.

Diane Hubbard mentioned VCPPOA's endorsement of Geoff Dean for Ventura County Sheriff. She also briefed on on-going staffing issues and health insurance increases.

James Meter requested permission to dispose of chapter's old copy/fax machine. Kent Bodine also requested permission to dispose of chapter's old laptop. Permission granted and consensus was there was no need for motion/vote.

OPOA asked chapter for recommendations of a Worker's Compensation attorney to assist them with various issues they were dealing with. Ken Yuwiler advised on two firms used by Silver Hadden Silver. Brief discussino ensued.

Matt Findlay reiterated VCDSA's support of Pedro Nava and Susan Rose.

John Snowling volunteered to represent Ventura County on the by-laws committee. James Meter will represent Santa Barbara County on the committee. Mark Hanks will contact SLO associations for a representative. Jim Schmitt was also recommended as he recently updated VCPPOA's by-laws.

Rene Smit donated digital recorded to chapter and his service to the chapter was acknowledged by all in attendance.

## **XII. Adjournment**

President Hanks adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 pm.  
Minutes submitted by: James Meter, Chapter Secretary  
Minutes approved by: