

**Peace Officers' Research Association
of California**

Tri-Counties Chapter

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2008

I. Call to order

President Mark Hanks called to order the regular meeting of the Tri-Counties Chapter at 6:39 pm on September 15, 2008 at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

Roll call

The following persons were present:

- 1) Mark Hanks, Chapter President (VCDSA)
- 2) Mike Durant, PORAC Vice-President (SBCDSA)
- 3) John Snowling, Tri-Counties Director (VPOA)
- 4) Dale Strobridge, Chapter Vice-President San Luis Obispo County (SLODSA)
- 5) Rene' Smit, Chapter Vice-President Santa Barbara County (SBAPOA)
- 6) Nick Odenath, Chapter Vice-President Ventura County (VCDSA)
- 7) Kent Bodin, Chapter Treasurer (SPOAVC)
- 8) Roger Stephenson, PORAC LDF Representative (El Segundo POA)
- 9) James Meter, Vice-President (SBCDSA)
- 10) Sonny Lopez, President (GBPOA)
- 11) Kenneth Yuwiler, LDF Attorney (Silver, Hadden, Silver, Wexler and Levine)
- 12) Peter Horton, LDF Attorney (Adams, Ferrone & Ferrone)

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes for August 16, 2008 meeting was approved.

III. Treasurer's Report – Kent Bodin

- a) Operating Account: \$17,105.00
- b) PAC Account \$11,545.79 as of 8/31/08
- c) PIC Account: \$2413.52

IV. President's Report-Mark Hanks

- a) President Hanks recently returned from vacation.

Peace Officers' Research Association of California

V. Committees

A. Insurance and Benefits – Nick Odenath

There is a new Group Life Insurance Plan offered by I and G effective October 2008. The plan provides coverage from \$500,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00. Under the Simplified Issue, applicants are required to answer three questions to obtain coverage. There is no blood test or physical exam required. Monthly premiums for a \$250,000 policy are as low as \$11.00 for a person under the age of 40 who is a non-tobacco user. For tobacco users, the premium is \$24.50 for the same amount.

B. Legal Defense Fund – Roger Stephenson

\$7,590,000.00 - Legal Defense Fund
76,134 - Participating Members
801 - Associations
3165 - Cases represented
21 - Criminal Cases pending
113 - Civil Case pending

A decision was made by the Courts in favor Eureka Police Chief and SWAT Lieutenant whose officer was involved in a shooting. The Judge dismissed the charges. It is unknown if the District Attorney is planning to re-file the charges.

Roger stressed that is it very important that the Associations keep their LDF members roster up to date and to keep track of payments to insure coverage when needed.

There is a proposed modification of the law that adds a mandatory 10 year enhancement for the use of a gun during the commission of a crime. The proposed modification was the result of the two Border Patrol Officers Ramos and Compean who received the additional 10 years to their sentence.

Vallejo POA lost their initial case in the Courts and lost their contract.

Two Oakland Riders are still in Binding Arbitration. One of the Officers was hired on with Indio Police Department.

There is a growing trend of District Attorneys filling criminal cases against law enforcement officers.

LDF is holding a meeting this week in Denver. They have not received any requests from the Denver members who worked the Democratic National Convention for representation as of this date.

Peace Officers' Research Association of California

VI. Open Discussion

- a) A discussion was held on the account balance of the PAC fund. The account normally fluctuates at approximately \$10,000.00. The starting balance for this year was \$9,600.00. The chapter contributed \$1,000.00 to the SLOPOA for a local election. The Chapter receives \$6,000.00 a year.

VII. Chapter Association Reports

VCCPOA

- a) Chapter President Schmidt reported that their VCPPOA is currently in contract negotiations. They are seeking Association President relief time as part of their contract. Their association is looking in to contributing to the Retiring Medical Trust.
- b) Chapter President Schmidt requested to resign as Chapter President. A motion was made to appoint Mark Hanks (VCDSA) as Chapter President. Motion was carried without objection. Hanks was appointed by the four E-Board Members that were present.

VCDSA

- a) Executive Director Watkins reported that an at-will Deputy Chief who was terminated, requested to become a Commander with his department per county rules was recently fired and that the LDF was picking up the case.

VPOA

- a) Director Snowling reported that VPOA are in the last year of their contract with the City of Ventura. The Association members will receive a 12% pay increase and that \$200.00 from each member will be paid into the Retirement Medical Trust Fund. The City of Ventura Fire Department received 3% @ 55 Safety Retirement.

SBCDSA

- a) PORAC Vice-President Durant reported that SBCDSA members received 24% pay increase for their 30 month contract extension. It is actually 19 ½ % fully rolled up with 2 ½ % going towards their benefit package. Within the

Peace Officers' Research Association of California

next years their Association members will still be 15 to 20% behind in salaries with other comparable agencies.

SBAPOA

- a) Chapter Vice-President Smit reported that Assembly Bill AB 376 that is sponsored by Assemblymember Pedro Nava and co-sponsored by PORAC is scheduled to go to the Senate Floor for a vote on Monday, August 18th. He advised that he had received two written price quotes for the design of the Tri-Counties Chapter website. One quote was for \$2500.00 and the other was for \$2480.00. A discussion was held on regarding whether Smit could design the website. He stated that he could design the website and that he had already secured the domain name of tricountiesporac.org through Santa Barbara Web Hosting at a cost of \$20.00. There is a \$9.00 monthly fee to use their ftp host site. The members agreed to allow Smit to create the website.

VIII. Adjournment

President Schmidt adjourned the meeting at **1:08 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Rene' Smit for Diane Hubbard, Chapter Secretary.

Minutes approved by: Mark Hanks, Chapter President