

**Peace Officers' Research Association
of California**

Tri-Counties Chapter

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2009

I. Call to order

President Mark Hanks called to order the regular meeting of the Tri-Counties Chapter at 6:40 pm on at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

First item of business was the introduction of Sgt. Dave Wareham from VCDSA, Region 3 appointee to the PORAC Scholarship Committee, to explain the selection process for the eventual recipients of the annual PORAC scholarships. 183 applications were received. 24 scholarships were awarded, 4 of which were represented by the Tri-Counties Chapter: Heather Erickson, Madeline Crilly, Katherine Avila and Timothy Barroca II. Thanks again to Dave Wareham for his participation on this committee.

Roll call

The following persons were present:

- 1) Mark Hanks, Chapter President (VCDSA)
- 2) Mike Durant, PORAC Vice-President (SBCDSA)
- 3) Randy Watkins, PORAC Region 3 Director, Vice President (VCDSA)
- 4) John Snowling, Tri-Counties Director (VPOA)
- 5) Matt Findlay, President (VCDSA)
- 6) Chris Corbett, President (SBCDSA)
- 7) James Meter, Tri-Counties Chapter Secretary (SBCDSA)
- 8) Roger Stephenson, PORAC LDF Region 3 Trustee
- 9) Rene' Smit, Chapter Vice-President Santa Barbara Co. (SBAPOA)
- 10) Dale Strobridge, Vice-President San Luis Obispo County (SLOPOA)
- 11) Kent Bodin, Tri-Counties Chapter Treasurer (SPOAVC)
- 12) Mike McGrew, Member (SBPOA)
- 13) Patrick MacAuley, Member (VCDSA)
- 14) Dave Wareham, Member (VCDSA)
- 15) Mike Scherbarth, Member (VCDSA)
- 16) Ryan Bates, Member (PHPOA)
- 17) Mike McKendry, Member (VCDSA Ret.)
- 18) George Fitzgerald, Member (VCDSA Ret.)
- 19) Nick Olguin, Guest (VCDSA)
- 20) Elizabeth Dille, Member (VCCCDPOA)
- 21) Ken Yuwiler, LDF Attorney, Silver, Hadden, Silver, Wexler & Levine
- 22) Eric Schwartz, Marketing Executive, Myers, Stevens & Toohey

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II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks

A motion was made by Chris Corbett to approve the minutes of the May 18, 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 advised that the Chapter had \$12,105.00 in the operating fund as of June 30, 2009.

Director Snowling reported PAC Fund at approximately \$14,000.00 and the PIC Fund at \$443.00 as of July 1, 2009.

IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant

Vice-President Durant reported that he and Director Watkins, along with members of the Executive Committee, traveled to Washington DC a few days prior on a lobbying trip where they met with the Legislators and discussed several key issues. Updates provided on the state budget issues and the positive resolution of recent communication issues with Assemblyman Gallegly. VP Durant reported the trip to be very successful.

V. President's Report – Mark Hanks

President Hanks brief of the Ventura County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony he attended on May 21, 2009. The ceremony was well attending and properly acknowledged those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. A reception was held at VCDSA following the ceremony.

VCDSA is celebrating their 50th year in business, incorporated in May 1959. VCDSA provided challenge coins honoring their 50th year anniversary for all attendees of the meeting.

June 25, 2009 VCSD Commander Dean made an announcement in Camarillo he will be running for the office of the Sheriff for Ventura County. President Hanks was in attendance and said this event was very well attended by the public.

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President's Report continued:

June 27, 2009 President Hanks attended a fundraiser for Geoff Dean for Sheriff at a private residence of a retired Chief Deputy from VCSD. The event was well attended and hosted by former Ventura Police Chief Mike Tracy. VCDSA presented a donation of \$700.00. On July 12, 2009 another fundraiser was held in Oxnard.

VI. Committees

Insurance & Benefits - Director Odenath unable to attend – no report.

Eric Swartz with Myers, Stevens & Toohey passed out updated flyers on the simplified Life Insurance being offered to PORAC members. Eric explained some of the basic details, rates and benefits of this benefit to the members present. He also spoke briefly about long term care programs available. He said the enrollment period had been extended again and offered his assistance to anyone who may have questions. VP Durant reiterated the importance and superior quality of these benefits based on his exposure and experience on PORAC's Insurance and Benefits Board, as well as his travels all over the state.

LDF - Director Roger Stephenson reported membership at 84,030 as of 07/14/09, 845 Associations, 31 states. Net assets \$6.97 million. Recent trend is an increase in criminal cases brought against members which is keeping them very busy, currently 42 active cases, which is three times the amount of cases in July of 2008. Roger also provided details of a few case updates, HR218 and on-going legislative issues.

Ken Yuwiler noted there has there has been a dramatic increase in LDF cases and believes the economic times may be contributing to this for a variety of reasons. Many complaints being filed are not legitimate and agencies, although required to investigate, may reconsider how serious they treat some of these complaints filed. Negotiations environment remains the same due to economy. Look for non-monetary language changes that may be beneficial to your association, examples cited such as reviewing your MOU/MOA's current disciplinary appeals process. Ken also offered P.O. rights cards to any association in need; contact SHSW&L and they will mail them to requesting party.

RMT – John Snowling report four associations have joined: Huntington Beach, Chula Vista, Riverside Management and another unnamed association. The economy has definitely had a negative impact on the growth of the RMT.

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RAM – Tom Snook unable to attend. Report sent to and read by James Meter as follows; RAM membership is currently in excess of 3200 and still growing. We are actively trying to contact those who have not yet transitioned to RAM so that there is no break in benefits. The directors of RAM are working with PORAC and their board of directors to review and make changes to the products available to the members. We have directors in all 4 regions available to answer questions and/or assist in any issues that members have arisen. If you have any questions or retiree members from your association that need assistance, please feel free to contact Tom Snook and he will do his best to assist you. (909) 720-9429

PAC – We had two candidates addressed our chapter for endorsement for State Attorney General and spoke at the meeting: Pedro Nava and Ted Lieu.

President Mark Hanks reported Alberto Torrico, Attorney General Candidate, was unable to make the meeting due to an important meeting he had to attend with the UAW relating to some plant closures.

A motion was made by Matt Findlay to donate \$700 contribution to the campaign of Geoff Dean for Sheriff (Vta Co), second by Chris Corbett. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Rene' Smit for a chapter recommendation to endorse Pedro Nava for Attorney General. Second by Dale Strobridge. Chris Corbett (SBCDSA President) advised SBCDSA would have to abstain from voting on the motion to recommend endorsing due to his association not having had the ability to interview Pedro Nava. Mike Durant advised an endorsement by PORAC for the Attorney General position will be made at September meeting in San Diego. Motion passed with one abstention.

VII. Director's Reports

Director John Snowling reported he will be attending a meeting in August in San Diego. Was contacted by Das Williams who is running for Pedro Nava's current Assembly seat. Advised we will probably have Das Williams and Susan Jordan addressing our chapter for an endorsement at the fall meeting. Snowling encouraged associations to get endorsement request to the chapter no later than the fall meeting.

Executive Board Director Randy Watkins reported PORAC Executive Board met the week prior, mostly housekeeping items. Attorney General candidates will be interviewed at the September 19th board meeting to be held in San Diego. Asked chapter to be prepared to make A.G. endorsement as soon as possible.

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Reminded chapter of the upcoming conference in Reno, Nevada. Brief description of location and entertainment for this conference.

VIII. Vice-Presidents' Reports

San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge reported SLOPOA recent 1 year contract with no increases, no takeaways. SLODSA wage increases mentioned as well as their ability to dodge lay-offs. SB490 passed.

Santa Barbara County Vice-President Rene' Smit reported AB86 recently passed the Senate floor.

Vice Presidents' Reports continued:

Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath not present. Matt Findlay reported VCDSA I&B coming up for renewal and gave some details. Initial bids started at 17.5% increases, waiting on second return. VCDSA has endorsed Pedro Nava unanimously. Initiated discussion about an independent expenditure for Geoff Dean for Sheriff.

IX. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business discussed.

X. New Business

John Snowling reported on-going issues with City of Ventura, discussions of two tiered retirement system. More pension attacks to come. San Diego city managers have met and come up with a two tiered system as well, new trend we will see more of these attempts to move in this direction. Discussed on-going contract issues and trends.

Kent Bodin initiated a discussion for a new chapter laptop to be utilized by chapter Secretary. Motion by Dale Strobridge for up to \$750 to purchase a laptop. Second by Matt Findlay. A discussion occurred. Motion passed with two "no" votes. James Meter will work on purchasing laptop.

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XI. Good of the Chapter

James Meter reported Sonny Lopez (Grover Beach POA President) sent his thanks to the chapter for providing him an opportunity to attend some training which he was attending at the time of the chapter meeting.

Kent Bodin reported possible furloughs to occur for Ventura District Attorney Investigators. Stated this financial environment is the worst he's experienced in 35 years. Reiterated the public being against our pension benefits and the importance of fighting to keep these benefits in place.

Mike McGrew (SBPOA) reported a decrease in SBPD personnel from 151 to 140. Discussed on-going issues with city administrator and SBPOA was gearing up for public campaign to address issues. Shared details of audit of city's finances. Spoke in support of Das Williams for Assembly seat, SBPOA has endorsed him for Assembly.

Rene' Smit thanked the chapter and PORAC for the on-going efforts and support for AB86.

Mike Durant reported on the recent hiring of Rachelle Pitts to perform public relations for PORAC through Aaron Reed and Associates.

Elizabeth Dille (VCCCDPOA) thanked the chapter for the scholarship and the ability to attend the PORAC conference in Monterey.

Mark Hanks expressed his appreciation for everything Rene' Smit has done over the last year including the chapter website.

Matt Findlay thanked Mark Wareham again for his service on the Scholarship Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2009 at 4:00 pm, location TBD at Reno conference. January meeting to be held on Monday the 25th at 6:30 pm, location the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

XII. Adjournment

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