

**Peace Officers' Research Association
of California**

Tri-Counties Chapter

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2009

I. Call to order

President Mark Hanks called to order the regular meeting of the Tri-Counties Chapter at 6:44 pm on March 16, 2009 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) Nick Odenath, Vice-President Ventura County (VCDSA)
- 5) Chris Corbett, President (SBCDSA)
- 6) James Meter, Vice-President (SBCDSA)
- 7) Dave Brookshire, (SBCDSA)
- 8) Rene' Smit, Chapter Vice-President Santa Barbara County (SBAPOA)
- 9) Dale Strobridge, Vice-President San Luis Obispo County (SLOPOA)
- 10) Eric Meyer, Marketing Executive, Myers, Stevens & Toohey & Co., Inc.
- 11) Sonny Lopez, President (GBPOA)
- 12) Kelly Cook, (GBPOA)
- 13) Marco Blanco, Inland Chapter Director (Upland POA)

II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks

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

III. Treasurer's Report – Kent Bodin

Treasurer Bodin was not present. President Hanks advised that the Chapter had \$15,165.00 in the operating fund. On January 12, 2009 a contribution of \$500.00 from the Chapter was made to Saint Jude for Andy Schlenker's grandson.

There is \$11,889.00 in the PAC Fund and \$210.10 in the PIC Fund.

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IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant

Vice-President Durant along with members of the Executive Committee travelled to Washington, DC on March 9th through the 12th where they met with the Legislators and discussed several key issues.

Vice-President Durant advised PORAC will be providing a Shop Steward Program and he will travel to different areas in the State where small Associations that cannot travel can participate in training.

V. President's Report – Mark Hanks

President Hanks spoke of the articles published in the January 2009 issue of the PORAC magazine. One article was written by SBAPOA President Smit regarding PORAC's continued support to small associations. The article addressed the impact President Cottingham and Vice-President Durant had on Assembly Bill 376 and Thanking them for their support.

The January 2009 issue also featured an article written by SBCDSA member Brian Dickey who is the Department's Range master. The article focused on firearms training from an elevated position.

President Hanks provided contact information forms to the members. He is updating the contact information for each Tri-Counties Associations.

President Hanks requested all Association hold off on any endorsements for Geoff Gorel, who is seeking election in 2010 for the 35th Assembly District, until VCDSA makes an endorsement decision.

President Hanks attended the PORAC Board Meeting in Sacramento on February 19 and 20, 2009, in place of VCDSA Director at Large Watkins who was not able to attend. President Hanks provided an oral report about the following topics that were discussed at the meeting:

- A. California Public Safety and Law Enforcement Act.
- B. The McCauley Public Employee Pension Reform Act.
- C. Keith Richmond's Pension Reform Act and Foundation (CFR)
- D. Orange County vs. AOCDS-Motion to Dismiss granted.
- E. Binding Arbitration still going forward in Sonoma County.

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- F. LDF looking into coverage for HR218 eligible retiree's.
- G. Federal Government may enact restrictions of investments in Public Pension Plans.
- H. Universal Health Care may put PIMCA out of business.
- I. Educate our members about "Myth Busters" on PERS Web Site. 75% of Retirement funds are made from the stock market. 12 ½% contributed by employee and only 12 ½% is paid by employer.
- J. State Budget passed. Law Enforcement is funded by .15% of VLF.
- K. May 19, 2009 is Special Election
- L. Speilbauer over turned. Laubacher still takes precedent.
- M. Post Re-instatement:
 - 1. Finger Prints
 - 2. CDL
 - 3. Citizen Check

VI. Committees

Insurance & Benefits Director Odenath informed the members that associations are continuing to sign up for the insurance benefits. Eric Swartz with Myers, Stevens & Toohey spoke and said that although the open enrollment period for the Life Insurance Benefit has officially closed, association members can continue to apply. Eric told the members that there is a 99.9% approval rate.

LDF Director Stephenson was not present but provided the following written report, read by President Hanks:

I will be unable to attend the Tri-Counties meeting tonight, I apologize for the short notice. I have attached a written report that can be distributed at the meeting. By now, Associations should have received information from LDF concerning dues for the coming year. If you have any questions, please either call or e-mail me and I will try and help. just a reminder, the "base" rates for the plans did not go up this year, any increases are relate to usage(experience). For those of you enrolled in the "non-scope" option, that \$2.50 per member/per month is rolled into the rate. Any use of the non-scope option is then "experienced" to the association the following year.

The report is as follows:

- SB 440: Binding Arbitration- Sonoma County LEA v. Sonoma County

The oral argument was yesterday, 3/12. Although no decision had been announced, the overall consensus about the "feel" of the room was that we should expect an unfavorable decision. The justices may require further briefing on an issue prior to rendering a decision.

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- United States v. Hayes:
 - i. The United States Supreme Court upholds prohibition against any person (including peace officers) convicted of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. Notably, if an officer is charged with any form of domestic violence and then pleads to simple battery, assault, or disturbing the peace (thereby omitting any reference to a domestic form of violence), the federal gun act prohibition still applies. Thus, if any peace officer is charged with domestic violence, the only way to escape the federal gun prohibition would be to proceed to trial and obtain an acquittal, or otherwise have the charges entirely dismissed. Most plea agreements would now be inadequate.

- Numbers:
 - a. Membership: 82,117
 - b. Financial Reserves: \$7,158,116
 - c. Number of Intakes(case calls) this year: 908
 - d. Average amount per month paid in legal claims last year: \$889,945

VII. Director's Reports - John Snowling

Director Snowling made a motion for the Chapter to pay for the lodging, travel and meal expenses for Grover Beach POA President Sonny Lopez to attend the PORAC Symposium in La Quenta on April 21 through the 22nd. The motion was second by Dale Strobridge. Motion passed.

Executive Board Director Randy Watkins was not present.

VIII. Vice-Presidents Reports

A. San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge distributed a flyer for a BBQ Fundraiser for Assistant Chief Investigator Terry Campbell. The fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2009 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Odd Fellows Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. A \$10.00 tax-deductible donation will benefit the Campbell Family to help offset expenses incurred during Terry's treatment for Leukemia.

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B. Santa Barbara County Vice-President Rene' Smit informed the members that Assembly Bill 86 is scheduled to be heard at the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee.

C. Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath advised nothing new to report.

IX. Unfinished Business

There was a motion by Santa Barbara County Vice-President Rene Smit to send President Hanks to Sacramento in May and pay expenses to meet with our State Legislators. Second by James Meter. Director Snowling voted nay, Motion passed.

X. New Business

Inland Chapter Director Marcelo Blanco attended the meeting and requested the Tri-Counties Chapter support for the upcoming election for PORAC Treasurer. Director Blanco has worked for the Upland Police Department since 1991. Motion made by Santa Barbara Vice President Smit and seconded to support Director Blanco for PORAC Treasurer. Motion passed.

There was a discussion regarding a new Chapter Secretary. SBCDSA Vice-President James Meter stated that he would be interested in accepting this position. He advised the members that he was up for promotion to Lieutenant with his department and would have to step down when this occurred. President Hanks appointed James Meter as Tri-Counties Secretary for the remainder of this term.

Ventura County Vice President Nick Odenath made a motion for the Chapter to pay for the expenses for President Hanks to attend the PORAC Symposium in La Quinta on April 21 through the 22nd. The motion was second by James Meter. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

XI. Adjournment

President Hanks adjourned the meeting at **8:56 pm**.

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

Minutes approved by: President Mark Hanks