

**Peace Officers' Research Association  
of California**

***Tri-Counties Chapter***

***Meeting Minutes***

January 25, 2010

**I. Call to order**

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

First item was speaker Mike Stoker, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District candidate

**Roll call**

The following members were present:

1. Dan Calderon, Director (SBCDSA)
2. Ryan Bates, Vice President (PHPOA)
3. Eric Swartz, Marketing Executive, Myers-Stevens & Toohey
4. Mike Durant, PORAC Vice President (SBCDSA)
5. Roger Stephenson, PORAC LDF, (ESPOA)
6. Rick Marquez, Director (OPOA)
7. Greg Herbert, President (OPOA)
8. Jaycee Hunter, Director (SBPOA)
9. Chris Corbett, Chapter Vice President, President (SBCDSA)
10. Doug Kresky, Director (SBPMA)
11. Nick Odenath, PORAC I&B, Director (VCDSA)
12. Randy Watkins, Chapter Director, Vice-President (VCDSA)
13. Rene Smit, President (SBAPOA)
14. Kent Bodin, Chapter Treasurer (SPOAVC)
15. Dale Strobridge, Chapter Vice-President, President (SLODSA)
16. John Snowling, Chapter Director, President (VPOA)
17. Mark Hanks, Chapter Director, Treasurer (VCDSA)
18. Diane Hubbard, President (VCPPOA)
19. Marlene Houlihan, Director (VCPPOA)
20. Ken Yuwiler, Silver Hadden Silver Wexler & Levine
21. Mike McGrew, PAC President (SBPOA)
22. Maria Miller, Director (SPOAVC)
23. James Meter, Chapter Secretary (SBCDSA)
24. Sara McMullin, California Casualty

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## II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks

A motion was made by Dale Strobridge to approve the minutes of the September 2009 Tri-Counties Chapter meeting held at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara. Second by Rene Smit. No discussion, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Randy Watkins to approve the minutes of the November 2009 Tri-Counties Chapter meeting at annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. Second by Maria Miller. No discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

## III. Treasurer's Report – Kent Bodin

Treasurer Bodin advised the Chapter had \$12,193 in the operating account as of December 31, 2009.

Director Snowling reported PAC Fund at approximately \$14,915 and the PIC Fund at approximately \$896 as of January 1, 2010.

## IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant

PORAC Vice President Mike Durant spoke briefly about his availability for questions and assistance to all associations in the Tri-Counties Chapter. Mentioned FOP actively recruiting and attempting to pull associations from PORAC. Also briefed on approximately seven (7) associations which have recently joined PORAC or are in the process. PORAC is in the process of changing and updating the membership process and data base. Monthly PORAC mailers will start to be sent electronically in the near future verses a mailed hard copy. **\*\*Request for all association leadership to update e-mail addresses with PORAC for this purpose\*\*** Going to this format will be a significant cost savings. Ron Cottingham sent his regards, Mike and Ron will not be able to make the March meeting due to trip to Washington D.C., but will make every effort to attend the May meeting.

## V. President's Report – Mark Hanks

Mark Hanks reported on the following; update on the Geoff Dean for Sheriff Campaign activities. He attended a PORAC board meeting in Sacramento on behalf of VCDSA on January 15 and 16. Brief on CSSA working with various

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entities to maintain bailiff staffing in courtrooms via sheriff deputies, PORAC is actively involved in this. Update on retirement attacks and issues at the state level. CALPERS to have a forum discussing and supporting the position that pensions are sustainable, see website for more. CALPERS already seeing positive changes in the retirement funds yet will take time for full recovery. Miscellaneous state budget issues briefed on. Spoke about the cost to fight pension attack initiative on a ballot, approximately \$30 million to effectively fight. Cities are hiding monies by taking their taxes and putting them into "redevelopment" agencies which allows them to keep them from being exposed in their general fund. LDF is working on a policy for retirees for their HR-218 privileges, not finalized at this time. Cost of approximately \$6 a month to cover a retiree's liability if they ever have to use their weapon. Mentioned a new packet being put together to give prospective retirees to make them aware of benefits available to them. PORAC's annual budget briefly discussed. 2010 Annual Conference in November will be at the J.W. Marriott in Las Vegas. Mentioned Orange Co. DSA and San Diego Co. DSA now have 3@55 retirement formula for all new hires. Talks/rumor of Alameda Co. ratifying a contract that would bring new hires back to 2@50 formula with the ability of the member to buy into, over a five year period, a 3@55 retirement formula.

## VI. Committees

*Insurance & Benefits* – Nick Odenath reported PORAC I&B investments doing well and membership at approximately 17,000 members. Reminded chapter about website, [www.poracinsurance.org](http://www.poracinsurance.org), for questions. Feel free to contact Nick with any questions.

Eric Swartz with Myers, Stevens & Toohey clarified options offered up to \$1million. New flyers are out, rates about 30% better. Briefed on long term care coverage and offered assistance to individual associations interested in pursuing making this type of coverage available to their members. Also briefed on LTD changes/info.

Sara McMullin, Field Marketing Manager for California Casualty Insurance reported she covers Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. She spoke about recent 12% rate reductions. Looking to work with chapter members more closely over the coming year.

*LDF* - Director Roger Stephenson reported membership at 86,010 of 01/25/10, 868 associations, and 31 states. Net assets as of 12/31/09, just under \$6.10 million. Roger spoke about a notable increase in claims from

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2008 to 2009 as a result of increased discipline and criminal cases, on and off duty. Rates will increase across the board due to this increase/experience. LDF is financially sound and investments have been doing well. Roger passed out a copy of El Segundo City's policy regarding political activities and spoke about potential issues to be aware of and inform association members, especially your younger members. Make sure your membership is aware of the tactics used by the media and politicians. Roger also briefed on HR-218 and qualifications for retirees. Suggested individual associations look at the feasibility of getting "errors and omissions" insurance for the association, highly recommended if you do not have this coverage already.

Ken Yuwiler – reminder members should be aware of their rights. Ken also reminded membership of issues stemming from use of social networking websites. Ken mentioned non-scope coverage available and cited increasing incidents where this coverage would be highly beneficial for minimal cost to members.

*RMT* – John Snowling briefed there are now four associations in the trust which is good considering the current economic times. Reminder RMT also has individual accounts which may be of benefit to your members.

*RAM* – Tom Snook unable to attend. Report by Mike Durant. RAM membership at approximately 3,700. PORAC moving forward with LDF for RAM. Some kinks being worked out at this time before the rollout. RAM is a great way to retain membership in your association upon retirement.

*PAC* – President Hanks briefed on PORAC endorsements, see website for list.

Decided to wait until March to hear recommendations on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District from San Luis Obispo county members.

Decided to wait until March meeting on the 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District as there was no recommended endorsement from Ventura county members at this time.

L.A. North / Simi Valley POA referred 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District endorsement to us – recommended Cameron Smith. Motion by Randy Watkins to endorse Cameron Smith for 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. Seconded by Chris Corbett. No discussion, vote passed unanimously.

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VCDSA requesting monetary assistance for mailers to support the Geoff Dean for Sheriff Campaign. Motion made by Nick Odenath for a \$2500 donation for an Independent Expenditure specific to PORAC mailer. Seconded by Dale Strobridge. Brief discussion, check to be written directly to PORAC. Motion passed unanimously.

*By-Laws* – James Meter, Chapter Secretary briefed on status of by-law update process. Reminded members to submit input by the end of February. By-Law Committee will meet prior to March chapter meeting to go over input submitted. Goal is to have update<sup>3</sup> completed and reviewed by PORAC by the end of July.

## **VII. Directors' Reports**

Tri-Counties Chapter Director John Snowling had nothing additional to report.

Executive Board Director Randy Watkins covered notable items earlier in meeting.

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

San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge reported updated on association issues within SLODSA and move to a unit modification/decertification. Spoke about break away group and actions they have taken to start a new association to represent deputy sheriffs. Due to their involvement in this issue, and involvement with another decertification of another labor group in SLO Co, it appears as though COPS has become a union busting group. SLODSA is working on a temporary restraining order in this case.

Santa Barbara County Vice-President Chris Corbett reported on the heated Santa Barbara County District Attorney race between Josh Lynn and Joyce Dudley. Also mentioned the county wanted to discuss current MOU for concessions.

Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath reported article in VC Star slamming Simi Valley POA, recently agreed to 18 month retro contract, decreases salary of 3.34%. Past 100% retirement medical coverage after 25 years, now 2 tiers for new employees. Simi Valley city council looking to attack SVPOA's pensions. Ventura County BOS going to all employee groups and asking 3% towards retirement from current employees and 4% from future employees.

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## **IX. Unfinished Business**

SLO VP seat on chapter board -- Motion by Nick Odenath to nominate Dale Strobridge for San Luis Obispo chapter Vice-President. Motion second by Chris Corbett. No discussion, motion passed unanimously.

## **X. New Business**

Kent Bodin announced his pending retirement to the chapter. A HUGE thank you to Kent for his 13 years of service to the Tri-County chapter. Per by-laws, President Hanks appointed Ryan Bates as the new Treasurer for the remainder of this year as a result of Kent Bodin's retirement.

Motion by John Snowling to donate \$500 towards Officer Ron Davis. Seconded by Dale Strobridge. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mike McGrew initiated discussion about chapter endorsement for 35<sup>th</sup> District Assembly seat due to individual associations endorsing various candidates. Mike Durant advised chapter can only recommend, not endorse on state seats. Discussion ensued about how soon the chapter should make a decision on recommendation. Mike McGrew made a motion to not recommend at this time. Diane Hubbard seconded the motion. Discussion: Maria Miller voiced she felt the chapter should make a decision. Randy Watkins explained voting procedure at PORAC Executive Board meetings. Motion Passed, with SBCDSA and OPOA in opposition.

## **XII. Adjournment**

President Hanks adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 pm.  
Minutes submitted by: James Meter, Chapter Secretary  
Minutes approved by: