



Star News

Official monthly publication of the Sheriffs' Relief Association of Los Angeles County, California, Inc.

VOL. 71 NO. 10

FEBRUARY 2011

We Love LA!



Trustees Monthly Meeting

The regular meeting of the Sheriffs' Relief Association convened on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 11515 Colima Road, Whittier. The following officers and trustees were present: Paul Drake, President; Joseph Fennell, Vice-President; Jake Katz, Secretary-Treasurer; Trustees Bernice Abram, Arthur Herrera, Thomas Laing, John McBride, Andrew Thompson and Robert Wachsmuth; Robert Ciulik, General Manager, and Carrol Leonard, Assistant General Manager. Trustees not present: Edward Godfrey, William McSweeney and Richard Maradiaga.

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. A motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Katz and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2010, meeting and the October Foundation expenditures.

COMMUNICATIONS

General Manager Robert Ciulik reported that communications were received from the following during the month of November:

From Valerie McCorkle, widow of Richard McCorkle, "I want to thank you very much for your help and kindness. It helped very much."

From Gloria Green, "The flowers are so beautiful. Thank you for thinking of me — it helped a lot."

BENEVOLENT REPORT

MORTUARY BENEFITS PAID DURING

NOVEMBER: \$64,000.00

MORTUARY BENEFITS PAID YEAR TO DATE: \$658,577.13

LAWS & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Wachsmuth, seconded by Trustee Herrera and unanimously carried to approve the following slate of officers for the Sheriffs' Relief Association for the year 2011. They are: Joseph Fennell, President; Jake Katz, Vice-President; Andrew Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer. A motion was made by Trustee Laing, seconded by Trustee Herrera and unanimously carried for the same slate of officers and the following Trustees: Bernice Abram, Paul Drake, Arthur Herrera, Thomas Laing, John McBride, William McSweeney, Richard Maradiaga and Raymond Peavy, to serve as the Board of Directors for the Sheriffs' Loan Corporation.

A motion was made by Trustee Laing, seconded by Trustee Herrera and unanimously carried for the same slate of officers and above listed Trustees to serve as the Board of Trustees for the Sheriffs' Relief Foundation.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A total of 20 new membership applications were received during the month of November. A motion is required to accept these new applications. A motion was made by Trustee McBride, seconded

by Trustee Thompson and unanimously carried to accept the following new members: Patience Akanno, Deanna C. Castellanos, Carlos Flores, Jose G. Garibay, Otto E. Gordillo, Tsun G. Gou, Steve Lopez, Christina A. Machado, Dinorah G. Maya, Jessica N. Mendoza, Tim Nguyen, Javier Reyes, Hector M. Rodriguez, Ruben Rodriguez, Darrin B. Russell, Ramon C. Samonte Jr., Tamu Umoja, Vincent G. Vicario, Lashell S. Washington and Luis F. Yanes.

There were 15 new retirees, 2 deaths of active members, 10 deaths of retired members, 2 cancellations of active membership, 3 cancellations of retired membership, 2 new honorary associate members, 2 deaths of honorary associate members and 14 members who resigned, were discharged or transferred from the Sheriff's Department during the month of November.

PUBLICATION REPORT

The *Star News* caption contest was won by Evelyn Bustos, "I'm here to report to the K-9 Academy."

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Ciulik handed out the 2011 budget and asked the Board to call himself or Carrol if there were any questions or concerns. ☆



Retired Deputies

By Chickee Nelson, Vice President, and Don Fandry, President

Retired Deputies of LASD

24 W. Winnie Way

Arcadia, CA 91007

(626) 447-6962 or Fax (626) 447-9442

E-mail: Chickee1@netzero.com or djfandry@sbcglobal.net

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, April 21, 2011
@11:30 a.m. Cost \$13
Glendale Elks Lodge
120 E. Colorado Street
Glendale, CA
(818) 242-2105

On December 1st, the Hi-Desert Retired Deputies got together for their monthly luncheon at *Carrows* restaurant on Main Street and I Avenue at 11 a.m. Those present were Gilbert Sherwood, Joe and Sheila Ortiz, Judy Greenwood, Bill and Marie Eden, Veronica May, Beth Combs, Dick and Lue Obney, Ron Bridges, Edward and Shirley Sznaper, Joseph Bowyer, Woody and Liz Polidore. We had an enjoyable gathering. Listed are a smattering of conversations that were overhead by the observer.

1. It hurts when I walk. Response: It's because you're getting old. 2. Ed Sznaper received a job application, hand delivered from *Carrows* restaurant. 3. Gambling is better (winning) in the Indian Casino than in Las Vegas.

Huh? 4. An attendee bought a new car because someone beat him driving. Are we back to drag racing? 5. Someone had a mile-high sandwich with a big plastic sign on it that said "Mile High Club." Does that mean that the consumer can join the "Mile High Club?" 6. Lastly, there was a conversation regarding "pajamas in the refrigerator." Is this because of a temporary mental lapse or because part of the body has a tendency to become too warm? Shirley Sznaper. Thank you Shirley for sending me this article. We missed the luncheon because we were on the Holland America Oosterdam cruising to the Mexican Riviera. The Oosterdam has a little fewer than 2,000 passengers.

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COPY DEADLINE: 1st of the month for the following month. Send copy to: starnews@lasd.org or carrolleonard@sheriffsrelief.org.

OFFICERS

Chairman of the BoardLeroy D. Baca
President.....Paul Drake
Vice PresidentJoseph Fennell
Secretary-TreasurerJake Katz

TRUSTEES

Bernice Abram, Rich Maradiaga, Art Herrera, Ed Godfrey, Bill McSweeney, Andy Thompson, Bob Wachsmuth, Tom Laing and John McBride

General Manager Robert Ciulik
Assistant Manager Carrol Leonard

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By Augie Pando

Transit Services Bureau

GET WELL

Sergeant Brenda Gibson, who is off sick and on bed rest, recently received some coworker visitors. Information from a protected source, also known as a CRI, revealed that the visitor(s) went to visit Brenda and brought her the latest issues of *Road & Track*, *Car and Driver* as well as *Motor Trend* magazines. In addition to these get-well gift offerings, a crossword puzzle book with NO pencil or pen, and to add insult to injury, they were placed in a plastic bag across the room out of her grasp.

When queried about the oversight, Tony Del Pinto said, "Those magazines were for her husband. I thought he might need them while Brenda was asleep; the *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan* and *National Enquirer* were for her ... the lack of a writing instrument was meant to make the crossword puzzles be more challenging for her."

Brenda, we wish you a speedy recovery.

SPORTS CHAMPS

Pictured below are the undefeated "Southern California Dodge Ball Champs" led by team captain Wilfredo Mullings. The team consisted of Sergeant Craig Walker, Guadalupe Rivas, team captain Wilfredo Mullings, and Rene Gonzalez.



FROM THE PAGES OF WHATTHA' ...

An anonymous source informed us that, while walking through the administrative offices of North Bureau, he/she saw an unnamed Lieutenant, recently transferred from a Region I station sounding similar to Palmdale, hacking and coughing as he was walking. Thinking he was possibly choking on something and that the Heimlich maneuver was urgently needed, responding personnel quickly learned that this unnamed Lieutenant had just discovered the "Press here" button on the "Freeze +P" canister was meant to be used on suspects and not while dressing in the men's room. For example, if you see this container.



MORE "WHATTHA..."

And from an anonymous e-mail: "Breaking news... Sergeant Clifford Yates, the hardest workingman on EMs, was stuck in the elevator at Union Station Gateway for more than one hour (it's still ongoing — maybe he will be there all night). He didn't forget his keycard — it just decided to stick between two floors. Lucky for him, he had his trusty cell phone to save him. The rest of the EMs Sergeants set up a Command Post at the briefing room, watching EM infomercials and eating popcorn ... while the Rail Operations Center personnel argued over who will get his car."

P.S. We suspect he may have done this in an attempt to get added publicity. ☆



42st Annual Los Angeles County Peace Officers' Memorial

Wednesday, May 25, 2011,
at 1000 hours.

Location is STARS Center,
11515 Colima Road, Whittier, CA 90604.

COUNTY SERVICES BUREAU

By John Coleman
County Services Bureau

MISSING CRITICAL

Not long ago at Harbor UCLA Medical Center, the family of a missing critical patient walked into the office, worried about a missing family member. It appeared she had wandered off and suffers from Alzheimer's. Deputy Clifton Lott began a search of the area around the hospital and soon found her in one of the nearby parking lots. She instantly took a liking to Deputy Lott. She was offered a ride back to the hospital in a patrol car by another deputy; however, she refused saying, "No way." She subsequently grabbed Deputy Lott's hand and walked the rest of the way back to reunite with her family, never letting go (as you can see in the accompanying pic.). I think he made a friend for life. He obviously made a great impression on her and her family. A job well done for sure.



GREAT HOOK

A few short months ago our Deputy Personnel and Sheriff Security Officers arrested a dangerous sex offender in downtown Los Angeles.

To back up and give you a little history, Michael Shaun Butler is a convicted high-risk sex offender who absconded from California State Parole in May of 2009. He was considered an armed and dangerous fugitive. He is a career criminal whose previous charges include lewd and lascivious acts with a child, sodomy, rape by force, numerous drug possession charges, firearms and other weapons charges, prostitution and numerous parole violations. Back in 1995, he was arrested by the Los Angeles Police Department for felony lewd acts with a child. Butler admitted to the crime and he was mandated to register for life as a high-risk sex offender.

Butler absconded from Parole after removing his GPS ankle monitor and began living life on the streets without parole supervision. As his whereabouts were unknown, Deputy U.S. Marshals began an intensive search to put him back behind bars. Getting assistance from our Department's Detective Information Research Center (DIRC) and witness sightings, they placed Butler somewhere in a three-mile radius within the downtown Los Angeles "skid row" area. U.S. Marshals distributed "wanted" flyers in the area, including the Civic Center DPSS building, which is located at 813 4th Place in Los Angeles.

On September 1st, Sheriff's Security Officers recognized Butler as he walked through the metal detector at the DPSS building. They quickly alerted Deputies, who arrested Butler as he attempted to run out the front door. The Sheriff's Security Officers did an outstanding job in recognizing Butler from the "wanted" flyer, and with the joint effort of Deputies, took this dangerous wanted fugitive into custody without incident. Special thanks go out to Sheriff's Security Officers Alma Vargas, Melissa O'Connor, Derek Simmons, Gustavo Ponce and Deputies Hubert Wang, Marcus Fowler, Terri Osburn and Gabriel Calderon. The streets of Los Angeles are truly safer with this individual back behind bars where he belongs. A job well done to say the least.

TASER TRAINING

About a month ago, Sergeant Matthew Elash, Ernesto Ramirez and Deputy Marlene Beringer put on the first baton/taser training class for some of our SSOs here at CSB. Seeing the importance of giving them more tools to effectively perform their duties while at work, they put this class together for 16 of them. Most of you reading this have taken the training class at some point and remember the instructors asking for volunteers to take a quick jolt from the taser after they come back from a 10-minute break. Suddenly there would be a long line at the restroom, fearing some sort of accident if there were no volunteers, and the instructors just picked some unlucky individual. Well, anyway, I heard there were some brave individuals, one being Security Officer Magdaleno Pedroza from Metro Family DPSS. I guess instead of putting one of the prongs in a front pocket, he just put it inside the front of his sweats. I'm sure you can see where this is going. As Sergeant Elash activated the taser for a two-second burst, SSO Pedroza's

reaction was indescribable to say the least. I'm sure it is something he will never forget. All of the male SSOs who followed were very careful on the placement of the prong, not wanting to make the same mistake.



SERGEANT HALL HONORED

Our own Sergeant Michelle Hall was recently recognized by the Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center. Evidently Sergeant Hall and her team have done such an outstanding job in daily operations, the administrators at the health center felt it was only appropriate to make December 3rd officially Sergeant Michelle Hall Day. They honored her with a plaque, as you can see in the accompanying picture. Rumor has it they even purchased a coffee maker to entice her into staying longer in fear of her moving onto another assignment. It sounds to me like she has made quite an impression on the staff there.



MORE FROM DISPATCH

While we have all just settled in over here at the Hall of Records, there was an emergent

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PARKS BUREAU

By Johnie Jones
Parks Bureau

Hello to all. We've been gone for awhile and a lot has happened in that time. I will make an attempt to address most of the items of interest, but there are too many and I know I'm going to miss a lot and for that, well, too bad, I tried.

First off, I want to say it was one interesting and busy summer for those of us in the Parks Bureau PIO Office. We made many friends and a few enemies during the crazy months that allowed many deputies and sergeants throughout the Department a chance to visit our operation here. We would like to thank you, our new friends, and tell you to be ready for next summer as we will be in need of your assistance. Something tells me, you will be back if we are offering the same deal as last year.

On July 26, 2010 (yes, it has been awhile), Parks Bureau Gunslinger (his words, not mine) Deputy John Lee, aka "OG Lee" traveled to Reno, Nevada, for the "44th Annual Western States Police and Fire Games." He competed in five Practical Pistol Combat events. Now John claims to be the Department's "Top Gun," and with the results of the competition, who could argue? Competing with both semi-automatic pistols and revolvers, he medaled in all five events, winning gold in three of the events, silver and a bronze in the other two. This brings John's total medal count in his 30 years of competition to 215! Based on his 30 years of competition excellence, he was given the rare honor of induction into the Western States Police and Fire Games Hall of Fame. This is an honor that only 15 others have been worthy to receive. Congratulations, "OG Lee!"

Having just come into existence in July of 2010, we have a few accomplishments to be proud of. Sergeant Don Rubio and his Special Problems Team entered the Chili Cook-Off. Two weeks prior to the event, they decided to take on the challenge and came out of it with the "People's Choice Award." Not bad for their first try. Once you got to their booth, you really didn't want to leave. It was like a party with a wide screen television and football on. You didn't have to be there long to know who their favorite team was — University of Southern



California Trojans, of course! Yes, this is a rough season due to NCAA violations, but we don't need to go there.

Deputy Derrick Thompson, who has become a major part of the community that the South Zone patrols, had an event called "Walk for Life." The walk started at Helen Keller Park and ended at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park and was attended by thousands. A large group made the walk, but Derrick chose an alternate form of transportation as depicted in the picture. Great Job, Derrick!



Being at Parks Bureau, we handle things that most stations don't. For instance, many stations have Driving Under the Influence Checkpoints; we have Boating Under the Influence Checkpoints. You think setting up those cones and flares for the vehicles to enter your checkpoint is tough, try doing it on the water. Our Boat Deputies, feeling the spirit of Christmas, Ghost of Christmas Present no doubt, decorated their patrol vehicle (see picture). Funny, I never thought of doing that with a vehicle, maybe next year.

While working the "Parks After Dark" Program at Roosevelt Park, Deputy Leonardo Castro got into a little friendly "Trash Talking" with some of the kids there regarding basketball. The funny thing is, Leo doesn't shoot hoops, so you could say he talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk. Fortunately, he has a lot of friends who do walk the walk and they put on a good show against a group of talented kids and adults that were well coached. The game was close throughout, but ultimately won by the Roosevelt Team. It seemed as though everyone won and the event was well covered by the local media who felt the same. Great Job, Leo!

Well, that's all we have for now. Until next time, enjoy a day at the park. ☆



By Steven Velasquez
Century Station

Hello, readers; with the holiday spirit still lingering around like unwanted visiting family members from out of town, I hope you survived the end-of-the-year festivities. Now as we get ready to celebrate capitalism's greatest prank on men, also known as Valentine's Day, try not to get sucked into the frenzy. I know what you're saying to yourself as you read this, "Steve, who hurt you?" I'm just saying, fight the power. So what has been going on at Century Station this fine holiday season? Well here you go ...

ALWAYS PART OF THE FAMILY

Century Station knows how to bring in the holiday spirit and nothing says happy holidays like a Training/Holiday dinner. Yes, we started the evening with some gas-mask training and taser updates. That's just in case someone other than Santa Claus gets stuck in your chimney and blocks your vent. You can don the gas mask to protect you from the smoke and light him up brighter than Rudolf's nose with the taser. Ho! Ho! Ho! The deputies were then treated to some great Italian food and raffles. Deputy Brian Anderson was the lucky recipient of a new big-screen television, and a host of other great prizes were had by many in attendance. Nice! Unfortunately, a gift certificate to a classy tattoo shop was not included among the raffle prizes. Sorry Sergeant Waldo, maybe next year!

We were fortunate to have Dave Piquette's parents visit and spend the evening with us at the holiday party. Lan Piquette didn't come empty handed either; she brought enough scrumptious egg rolls to feed a small army. Thanks Lan and Dave for remembering your second family! It is always great to see you guys.

Also included is a photograph of Deputy Ronald Licata's two children, Luca and Bella, after receiving their Christmas gifts from Century Station. We lost Ronnie to a valiant battle with cancer on December 27, 2005. Fond memories of Ronnie and other personnel still are with us, and we collect funds during the holidays for the children of deputies who were killed or passed away. We always have a water jug (piggy bank) in



the report writing room. If you're near the Station, come on in, view the collages in their honor and make a deposit if you can.

CENTURY STATION'S NEW STORM CHASER

Southern California has been fortunate to receive a little rain this season. Fighting crime in a downpour can put a damper on your day, but it's part of the job and everyone deals with it the best they can. I don't think anyone came better prepared than newly assigned Detective Rob Risiglione. It usually takes seasoned detectives years to hone their skills and draw upon the vast past experiences gained over time to prove their worth as a detective. Detective Risiglione met such a challenge on his very first day. In a quick response to a burglary now call, Detective Risiglione fled the dryness of his desk and rushed to the scene to assist the field deputies. Heavy rain wasn't going to deter Detective Risiglione; not when he was properly equipped with his Department-issued beach umbrella. Wait a minute, Mary Poppins, the Department doesn't issue beach umbrellas. Sources say Risiglione tried to share his resources with

the other deputies, but they wouldn't be seen anywhere near "Mr. Poppins."

THE REVOLVING DOOR

Century Station's revolving doors have been busy again as we have some folks making their escapes. We say goodbye to Detective Pablo Partida, who is getting promoted to Sergeant and heading to Pico Rivera, while Detective Jefferson Chow will be transferring to Sheriff's Headquarters and working the Legal Advisory Unit. Three of our supervisors will be transferring to Detective Division: Lieutenant Michael Thatcher to Commercial Crimes; Sergeant Carlos Parga

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By Shree J. Gulley
Emergency Operations Bureau

Happy New Year from the staff at EOB! We trust that your holiday season was very merry and 2011 will be prosperous for you. As I reflect on this time of year, I am reminded of all the planning, coordinating and orchestrating that goes into preparing for the holiday season. It begins with decorating the office, listening to classical and contemporary holiday music and enjoying the delightful tastes of holiday treats (thank you Alice Finkelstein!). This year, we placed our beautifully decorated noble fir tree (compliments of Deputy Sheriff Morsi) in the lobby for all to enjoy.

As for the type of celebration (formal or informal), we put it to a vote. It was a close call, but the informal celebration claimed victory. So, our holiday luncheon was held in the comfy confines of EOB's Conference Room A & B and a good time was had by all. At the recommendation of Sergeant Don Shively (Arson/Explosives Detail), we enjoyed a delicious meal catered by *Wood Ranch Grill*. I must take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Shively for kitchen detail. He cleaned the countertops, washed the dishes, placed the leftovers in storage containers and ensured everything was placed back in its original state. I was very impressed ... all he needed was an apron! Many thanks to Alice Finkelstein for her ingenuity in incorporating the Charitable Giving Campaign ... everything worked out extremely well.

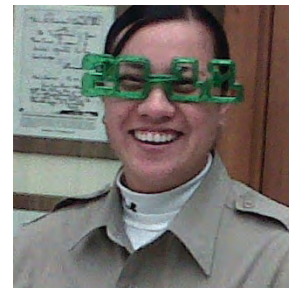
Since we opted not to have a formal celebration this year, we didn't have to place any emphasis on entertainment. A little holiday background music would suffice ... or so I thought. While finalizing the plans for the luncheon, someone in the Operations Office mentioned it would be nice if we could get a certain person to play Santa Claus and maybe his partner could be an elf. It took some convincing but the parties finally agreed with one stipulation, I had to find a Santa Claus suit. So I immediately went into "resource mode" on a mission to find the appropriate suit, and with the help of the Sergeant and Lieutenant (who shall remain nameless), mission accomplished. During the gift exchange, but what do we hear ... it's Santa and his elf. And I must confess, their performance was better than any other entertainment act I could have booked. Santa Claus (LET Ramon Gutierrez) and Elf (LET Jose De Alba) were the highlight of the day. (I have signed on as their agent and we are currently taking bookings



for this year's holiday season.) These two guys gave a performance that could be on the program of any major department store.



Now fast forward to New Year's and EOB prepares for the 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade. With assignments such as coordinating, staffing and logistics, there is little time for relaxation. This year, we utilized the PRIMS System, which allowed for a speedy check-in and check-out process. Once things had calmed down from the check-in process during pre-parade, the Tactical Planning personnel took a breather.



We even got Deputy Veronica Chau to take time out for a photo opportunity, and then it was back to the grindstone. Happy New Year!





By Mo Angel

Pitchess Detention Center, South Facility

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH ...

Greetings from South Facility! Well, the year is already moving right along, and as we welcome in the month of February, I wanted to quickly reflect back to the month of December and two events that took place. First of all, South Facility Sergeant Gerri McCorkle coordinated an effort to provide a large number of Christmas gifts to the family of Deputy Tim White, who left us far too soon. Tim's family was grateful for all for the gift cards, cash and gifts. Thank you to all of you who took the time to participate.



Also, South Facility staff members were treated to a wonderful gourmet Christmas luncheon hosted by Captain Golden. Everyone

had a wonderful time and the food was excellent! Thank you Captain Golden!



HOOK OF THE MONTH

Star News assistant cub reporter and P.C. South Visiting Center Sergeant Gina Reidder notified me of a great hook made by her G-14 unit a few weeks back that is worthy of mention.

Deputies Oscar Rodriguez and Joe Perez effected a traffic stop in the Visiting Center parking lot. When they contacted the female driver, it turned out that her driver's license was suspended. Further investigation and an assist from C/A Lupe Pinedo showed that the suspect was in possession of a wallet with ID, Social Security card, ATM card and a checkbook in the name of her (now former) employer who was currently in the hospital and had left her home in the care of the suspect. The suspect was also in possession of numerous stolen items from the victim's home as well as a stack of pawn tickets for items that she had

already stolen and cashed in on. The victim was contacted and the wayward suspect was booked at Santa Clarita Station on a host of theft charges.

Good hook, guys! Keep up the good work.

THE IN AND OUT SHACK ...

Congratulations and a big South Facility farewell goes out to our own Senior Deputy Steve Basso, who promoted to Sergeant in January and will now be hanging his hat at East Facility. Good luck Steve, and thank you for all your years of dedication and hard work, formerly at North Facility and most recently here at South Facility. Thanks also for all your time and effort with the Baker to Vegas running team. You will be missed here buddy! Hope you don't have too much trouble getting adjusted to "Earlies" again ...

And a quick shout out to my buddy and former coworker Jim Braden at Malibu/Lost Hills Station, who also promoted to Sergeant and will be coming up here to join the team at P.C. East Facility. Congratulations Jim, and if you do real well at East, maybe you could transfer over here to paradise, aka South Facility!

Ok my fellow readers, that's all for this edition. All good things to you in this new year. So be safe, stay frosty, and happy trails ...

Mo-out ... ☆



PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

By Joseph Abercromby

Peer Support Program Coordinator

From speaking with Department members (and from personal experience) who have been out "Injured on Duty" for an extended period of time, I often hear very similar complaints.

Aside from having to deal with all of the issues, such as getting the injury picked up as "IOD" and dealing with all of the "hoop jumping" that seems to be entailed in getting the injury picked up, the main complaint that I hear is that once you have been out IOD for more than a couple of weeks, then you are "forgotten about" at the station or UOA.

Phone calls from coworkers taper off to nothing, and the only phone calls you receive from the station will be from someone in Operations who is checking to make sure that you are home during the times required while you are out injured.

If you have a coworker or friend who is out injured, please take the time to occasionally check on them with a phone call or a home visit.

If there is someone at your unit that is out for an extended period of time for a serious injury, then something more than a simple phone call

may be needed; they may need help around the house to do even simple things (lawn(s) mowed, etc.). If you can, get a group of people together at a station, call the affected employee and see what you can do to help out, which may be nothing more than coming over and hanging out for an afternoon watching the football game. It will be highly appreciated!

If you have any questions, or if you would like more information on the Peer Support Program, please do not hesitate to contact me at ESSB (213) 738-3500 or via County e-mail at jdabercr@lasd.org. ☆



By Jeffrey Reiley
San Dimas Station

Anyone newly assigned to the San Dimas Station will hear whispers of a “presence” lurking in the halls of the station. Station personnel seem to be always looking over their shoulder for the “presence.” Whispers spoken in dark corners only to be hushed when the “presence” approaches. These whispers all talked about a legendary lawman. A lawman that was thought to be able to clear the rain away with just a wave of his hand, find any bad guy under the smallest rock, make the rowdiest suspect surrender with a piercing stare and make the toughest man cower in fear simply by saying, “Hello.” Some compared this “Being” to the elusive Sasquatch or Bigfoot. Others thought he looked more like Chupacabra. I finally met this legendary lawman. He preferred to be called, John Knight, Deputy John Knight. Out of respect for his age, I’ll call him John; at least to his face.



When I talked with John, I kept getting this picture of him dressed as Santa in drag. Then it donned on me; I had seen a picture of this 6-foot, 6-inch mountain of a man in the *Star News* dressed as Ms. Claus. John enjoyed dressing up as Ms. Claus, shaving his entire body and playing emcee during the station’s Christmas party. Now, you’re probably thinking, why would he go through all that trouble of renting a Ms. Claus costume, shaving his mustache, arms, legs and wearing a bustier? Why not just go as Santa Claus? Well, you ask him. I’m not brave enough to ask him myself.

John first started his adventures of being a legend on December 8, 1978. Yup, that’s right boys and girls, ‘78, back when you had to hang the radio mike off the saddle of the horse while you made contact with the carriage you pulled over. Back when deputies actually had to own a pencil and not a laptop. For those of us who had the honor of hearing John rattle off the “good ole days,” you have to understand that when John joined the Department, The Beatles were “in,” gas cost 63 cents a gallon, VW Beetles were “the” car to drive and John still played with Hungry Hungry Hippos.

John was a part of Academy Class #193. Some of John’s classmates included Lieutenant Craig Boyett and Chief Thomas Laing. It was obvious John was a “special” type of deputy. It was rumored that Class

#193 was the first class to use the Recruit positions, such as “Door Recruit,” “Flag Recruit,” etc. One of the positions rumored was the “Underachievement Recruit.” It was rumored John didn’t even have to raise his hand to volunteer for the position since it was probably too much of an effort anyway. It was given to him upon first sight, and he did such a good job of it, the staff decided to do away with the position. I mean, how in the world could anybody ever underachieve John? He was the best of the best at it.

John left the Academy after slimming down to his fighting weight and was assigned to Custody. Where, upon his first trip to the ODR, he gained the whole 2 pounds back that he had lost in the Academy. If you ask John, he’ll tell you they were the “weak” 2 pounds.

John went on to Industry Station then Walnut and San Dimas Stations, where he spent the rest of his illustrious career. John did some exceptional work during his time in the field.

In 1983, John and his partner saw a four-door T-Bird with two males in the front seat and two males and a female in the rear seat. John ran the license plate and discovered the vehicle was registered to an R/O with an Italian surname that resided in his RD. Knowing his RD, the configuration of the seating arrangements and the Italian registered owner, John conducted a felony traffic stop. After everyone was detained,

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RETIREES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

*Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to our Department.
We wish you long life, happiness, relaxation and many years of personal fulfillment.*

Alva R. Buller

Court Services East Bureau

Anthony B. Christian

West Hollywood Station

Mark G. Guertin

Court Services West Bureau

James E. Lewis

Community College Services

Van E. Mosley

Court Services East Bureau

Steven E. Remige

Personnel Administration

Duane Tims

Industry Station

Randy L. Zaitz

Carson Station

Lupe Morales

Fiscal Administration

Mary E. Sanchez

Lakewood Station

Patricia L. Smith

Medical Services Bureau

Carolyn L. Stephens

Court Services West Bureau

it was discovered John had stopped a kidnapping in progress. The male and female in the back were carjacked and were being driven back to their residence, where who knows what might have happened. Click, click, click, 10-15. This was one heck of an obs.

In 1995, a Korean Airline worker at LAX wrote a letter commending John and his partner Daryl Knight. John and Daryl saw a disheveled, tattered drunk, who turned out to be a disabled Korean gentleman walking in the wrong part of town with cash, credit cards and luggage in tow; obviously a victim waiting to happen. John and Daryl were able to piece together that the gentleman was a Korean national and drove him to the airport where they assisted him with his luggage and making his flight home with minutes to spare.

Now I know what you're thinking, John and Daryl probably ran over this poor fellow, stuffed some cash in his pocket and threw him on the first available flight out of the country so there would be no lawsuit. But that wasn't the case. We all know John would never do anything that would violate the MPP.

During the past seven years, John had a new partner in George Meeley. First words John ever spoke to George were, "I've ruined better cops than you." From that point forward, George knew who the big dog in the car was going to be and that he would learn a lot from him. But he never knew he was going to learn the difference between a Honeysuckle and a Hollyhock. You see, John is an avid gardener. One day, George tried to impress John with his knowledge of trees. John quickly shut George up by saying, "I'm into flowers B^%\$#@, NOT TREES!!!!" From that point forward, part of their RD included the nearby nursery to educate poor George on the intricacies of the local plant life.

George quickly found out John was a "John Wayne" impersonator, who loved Starbuck's Snickerdoodle coffee, all things John Wayne, tending to his garden, cooking in his favorite pot, an old cast iron kettle, and that he barely knows the difference between a funeral security guard and a CHP officer.

Regrettably, John submitted paperwork for his retirement. Since his paperwork has been submitted, it was discovered that John has not received a single complaint against him; he has not taken a day off or even received a written reprimand. This either

means John has been one heck of a cop or he has the key to the Operations Office and knows how to use the shredder. It was obvious John has had it too easy for too long. That's why Lisa Sanders was transferred to San Dimas Station. Lisa is the mouse to John's elephant.

Since her arrival, Lisa has accidentally, without intent mistakenly pinned John's arm in the radio car window as she slowly drove around the parking lot as he walked alongside. She has also accidentally, without intent, and without malice, parked too close to the passenger's side of John's car, where he was seated. She left, trapping this 6-foot, 6-inch, a Happy Meal shy of 300-pound man inside his own vehicle. This forced John to crawl out through the driver's side door, belly first before Lisa returned and was truly apologetic. Lisa was also the one who introduced John to "Smart" phones and all the applications, like the one where you can take a picture of John's face and then expand it to five times the normal size. Yup, if it wasn't for Lisa, John would have gotten away scot-free. I pity the fool who disseminated John's Academy picture around the station years ago. John still doesn't have a clue about the identity of the culprit.



Here is a list of some of the quotes attributed to John:

"I've been doing this job longer than you've been alive."

"It's a flashlight, not a magic wand."

(During a 415F) "If it didn't get bad in 10 minutes, I can't fix it in 10 minutes."

"Ma'am, the Sheriff's Department is not in the business of raising your kids."

Conversation with his wife, Mrs. Knight asks, "Honey, how come you don't get out of patrol?" John says, "Sorry, you married an underachiever."



To sum up what John was all about, the above picture shows only four items that were found in his locker. I couldn't dislodge the 1970s AM/FM 8-track he has in there. I guess after 30+ years, you need some special equipment to get your work done.

In summary, John is a highly respected, well-loved, tremendously hardworking, productive employee; a dying breed. We have truly enjoyed the privilege of working with him. We are better for having known him. We wish him the best of health and happiness in his retirement. ☆

Retired Deputies *continued from page 2*

While having lunch with Cricket and Marion Rotolo, she mentioned that her son, Mike Finn, worked at Industry Sheriff's Station. She told us all about him. Small, small, small world.

On December 1, the Southern Oregon Retired Law Enforcement and Fire luncheon was held at the Grants Pass Elks Lodge. Surrounded by LAPD retirees and various and sundry other departments, three brave LASD souls established a perimeter, staked out their table, ordered sustenance and conversed on a level commensurate with their interest in the moment. Joe Kirk, Bill Patterson and Bob Havercroft held down the fort for those of us not in attendance. I was told the "Bobsey twins" were on their best behavior, mainly because their wives had joined them. Also, my source said, "Mrs. Bill and Mrs. Bob" were "delightful"!

Anyone interested in attending the once a month lunch with our gang, please e-mail Sue Maxwell at Jellybeansbobo@aol.com ... Until next time.

This Month's Ole Road Warrior's Breakfast was combined with what has become a T.S.T. tradition, "The Unofficial T.S.T. Christmas Breakfast." A little history as to how and why this tradition came about (according to my memory and T.S.T. Lore); this story should be told as all Christmas stories are told with "Once upon a time there was a Captain who did not have a sense of humor and did all in his power to suppress joy in the land of T.S.T. In his misguided mind, a sour Deputy was the model Deputy. What this sour Captain did not count on was that deputies found ways to be happy in spite of his efforts. The Christmas season was approaching and the Deputies in the land of T.S.T. were anticipating the Official T.S.T. Christmas gathering, but the Captain said "NO," and the reason given has been lost, but the Deputies decided that they would meet for a breakfast, to enjoy reason for the season and to show their unity as friends and comrades usually do. So it was agreed that a small restaurant was chosen and a time and a date, so on that given time and date, a new tradition was born. Active and retired personnel met on that date to wish each other a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year. That was many, many years ago, and every year a location, a date and time are chosen and old friends come together to meet new friends and do what they have done so many times in the past. We wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" Now that I told my little Christmas tale, this year's Christmas breakfast was held at *Steven's*

Steakhouse and many a familiar face was there. I would like to say that since I've been announcing these breakfast gatherings, I've had the pleasure of welcoming someone who's been not seen for many years, and on this day I was not disappointed. I had the pleasure welcoming to our merry group George Myers, who retired 28 years ago and is a picture of health. I must admit that we had a large group and to try to list them all would be impossible, but it is enough to say that this tradition will go on for a long time. So we, Ole Road Warriors, would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

On December 6, RELAC RVers got together for our Christmas Luncheon at *Hokkaido Restaurant* on Cherry Avenue in Long Beach. Forty-eight of us were there to celebrate. The food was excellent. There was a gift exchange. Also, we brought Christmas gifts for Casa to be delivered to foster children for Christmas. It wasn't raining this year and we all had a grand time thanks to Ed Clifton, who made all the arrangements.

On December 8, the Hi-Desert Retirees had a nice turnout for their luncheon at the Elk's Club. As always, the food was delicious and we all had a great time laughing, talking and solving all the world's problems, and we do have a few! Those present: Mike Robbins, Jerry Gillen, Claude Anderson, Joan Day, Wayne and Kathy Powell, Bill and Donna Marquardt, Doug Muchmore, Mike Castorina, George Bachmeier, Don and Susie Sackett, Bill and Ginny Young, Dennis Wilson, Norman and Chickee Nelson, Linda Quinn, Steve Root, Ron and Jan Dietrich. Ron and Jan were late, which is usual for them. They didn't come last month because they were going to be late. They didn't want anyone to tease them about being late, and then see it in the *Star News*. Well, you were late, you were late and you were late! I bet you can't guess what "Wimpy" aka Claude Anderson had for lunch. His new *RadiocarToon Book* should be coming out in January 2011. I will give you details. It was a shock to see Bill and Donna but they are living in Bullhead City now. It was a pleasant surprise to see Kathy Powell. We missed two of our regulars, Dearly and Sherry Riley. We want you to know that we are thinking about you and you are in our prayers. We also miss Bob Day, but we were so happy to see Joan today. These are a great group of people. The price is right at \$8.00 per meal, which includes the tax and the tip. You pick from a menu. Come join us the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Elk's Club at 11:30 a.m., and we eat promptly at noon.

On December 13, eleven folks took time from their busy holiday schedules to attend the lunch at *Johnny Carinos* in Downey. They were; Chris Beatty, Jerry Berry, Ed Dahlstrom, first-timer Sandra Escandon, Ben Hilliard, Frank Matillo, Ron Morgon, Robert Pryor, Don Reeves, Bill Richardson and Bill Snyder. There was high Christmas spirit with Robert Pryor wearing his "Santa" hat and Jerry Berry wearing his "Santaflage" (yes, it was military themed) hat. We were happy with the first-time attendance of Sandra Escandon, who was encouraged to fill us in on the latest "facts" about some of the folks we haven't seen in quite a while. The lunch concluded with separate checks so there wasn't the issue of who ate what — FOR HOW MUCH. We missed this luncheon because we were on a cruise on *Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Sea*. There were over 3,000 passengers, and for dinner, we had a table for 8. We found out that our tablemates, Jimmie Lou and Anthony Caezza, were retiree Don Coburn's cousins. I worked with Don at Lakewood back in the '70s. I have to tell you we learned a lot about Don that we didn't know before! Once again small, small world.

On December 31, thirteen Antelope Valley retirees braved the cold morning temperature of 23 degrees to attend the monthly breakfast. We met at the usual haunt known as *Carrows* restaurant in Lancaster where hot coffee was a most-welcome drink. After the Christmas and New Year greetings, we settled into discussing matters of mutual concern, such as how the federal government is going to plunder our Social Security retirement, how the California workers' compensation is already following the federal health guidelines by denying certain medical care due to age and physical condition, but mostly we reminisced about the ancient days working in the Department. Weather was also a subject discussed, especially as to the many places with "black ice" that created hazards about the valley. Attending this month's breakfast were: Mary McKain, Marvin Jones, Robert Bullard, Danny Gilmore, Robert Wallace, Vance Kirkpatrick, Rick Nolte, Scott Budge, Thomas Morrissey and his son Robert, Keith Hoyt, Gilbert Sherwood and myself, Carlos Valdez. For information regarding Antelope Valley Retiree's activities, please contact Carlos Valdez at valdez5150@msn.com.

If you are interested in keeping up with what is going on with members of Transportation

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Desert Dirt

By Paul Pfrehm
Lancaster Station

GREETINGS FROM THE GREAT NORTH!

Well, we are currently trapped in the jaws of Winter here in the North end, and I hope this post will find all of my faithful readers happy and warm. Having enjoyed a half foot of snow, we are happy the mercury has stood firm in the high 20s instead of the low teens like it usually is. Cold enough to need mittens. Always funny to watch Sergeant Sandor try to stuff his big mitts into his wife's Isotoner gloves. LOL! It's always fun here at Lancaster Station during the winter months, soooo on with the news ...

Congratulations to all Lancaster Station personnel! Because of your sustained hard work, our Part 1 crimes index dropped below 300! This represents a drastic reduction in crime and is proof of your efforts to bring the crooks to jail and stopping their capering! Congratulations!

Goodbyes to Deputies Rose and Edwards as they head off to GET. We will miss you at the briefing table, but are happy for you and wish you all the best in your new assignments.

A hearty "Good Job" to our December "Street Cop of the Month" award winners! EM's Deputy Adam Zeko, Days' Deputy Julia Vezina and PM's Deputy Jeremiah Fletcher. Congratulations for your well-deserved honor. And a big "Thank You" to 10-8 Uniforms for their sponsorship of this program and their generous donation of gift certificates to our winners. Keep up the good work!

FROM THE "ONLY IN LANCASTER" FILES ...

A large, I mean really large, python managed to escape from its residence and was captured by Lancaster's bravest as shown in the attached picture. Now, I'm no professional photographer, and I understand that pictures can distort the facts ... but it appears to me that the biggest deputy there in the picture is also the farthest from the snake. (Now, it would be improper to name names, so I'll just use initials.) But I couldn't help but notice the expression on John White's face, errrr, I mean JW's face.



Our other JW (lil Jon White) happened upon one of the many "unique" individuals who call Lancaster home. Here is the description of the events as reported by one of the many "cub" reporters that prowl the streets looking for fodder for this article.

Motor Deputy "Little Jon" White noticed one of Lancaster's finest tweekers pushing the pictured car, a 1966 Subaru, out of a busy intersection. Curiosity took over and Jon decided to chat with the tweeker. When he pulled up, six clowns got out, ran around the car and got back in. Ok, not really. They were motor cops. Ha, ha, just kidding.



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L.A. County Retired Marshals Lunches For 2011

ALL LUNCHES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 12 NOON

Feb. 2	Damon's Steak House 317 N. Brand Ave., Glendale	June 1	Hoff's Hut 7005 Knot Ave., Buena Park	Sept. 7	Marino's Italian Restaurant 17126 Bellflower Blvd. Bellflower
March 2	Elephant Bar 12002 Lakewood Blvd., Downey	July 6	Johnny Reb's BBQ 16639 Bellflower Blvd. Bellflower	Oct. 5	Elephant Bar 12002 Lakewood Blvd., Downey
April 6	Home Town Cafe 11471 South St., Cerritos	Aug. 3	Villa Tepeyac 2200 East Garvey, West Covina	Nov. 2	Home Town Cafe 11471 South St., Cerritos
May 4	Yang Chow 3777 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena			Dec. 7	Villa Tepeyac 2200 East Garvey, West Covina



By Jeff Scroggin
Norwalk Station

Norwalk Station has a recent tradition of providing a BBQ for the deputies working on New Year's Eve, and in order to keep this tradition alive and well, Lieutenant Pat Valdez volunteered to spearhead the event. Our beautiful back patio provides the perfect location for this annual event, where deputies, our professional staff and just about anyone else working that night in the Norwalk Station area can feast on some great food. This year's BBQ feast included filet mignons, chicken, Ish's "World Famous" ceviche and assorted other treats. A huge THANKS to everyone who contributed to making this annual tradition continue, and as you can see in the picture from New Year's Eve, we had a lot of mouths to feed. Now, let's get started on the menu for 2012. It will be here before we know it.



Norwalk Station had another successful Holiday Dinner and Dance. Thanks to many in the community, we are able to provide the folks who devote so much time to making the Norwalk Station area safe a great holiday party. We had a great location for the event at the Norwalk Doubletree, and it was attended by many of the Norwalk Station family. Again, we had some great prizes for the event, led by the 52-inch television won by, I mean the toaster, won by Lieutenant Steve Kenny. Many folks won some great prizes, which included seven televisions, electronic gadgets (including a toaster) and many other assorted gifts. Dancing went on until the midnight hour, and a great time was had by all.

Norwalk Station has the best detective crew, and they are very adept at the newest trends in society and technological innovations to be able to keep up with their cases. One of our best detectives was carping in patrol and came upon a case where he noted in his report that an "Eye-Pod" was stolen. I am sure someone will find the "Eye-Pod" since it is probably very different from an "iPod." and not as widely distributed. Good luck finding that new electronic gadget and let us know where we can buy it. Maybe we can get some for next year's Holiday party.

Norwalk Station had another good year keeping crime rates at near-record lows. In 2010, crime

rates were just slightly higher than the record low 2009 rates. With that in mind, all the credit has to go to the hardworking deputies that help keep the residents of Norwalk Station's area safe. Time after time, great arrests keep coming in where very bad people are often arrested. As an example, recently one of our deputies found a car containing suspects that had just committed an armed robbery in the city of Norwalk. Deputy Isidro Villasenor spotted the vehicle in the area almost two hours after the initial robbery took place. When he tried to coordinate a felony stop of the car, the driver took off and the chase was on. After a very brief pursuit, the driver fled. Surprisingly, a second suspect was hiding in the lowered front passenger seat and jumped out of the car. The passenger was armed with a handgun and he tried to shoot Deputy Villasenor. A deputy involved shooting occurred, but the suspect ran away. After a containment and some great investigative work by Norwalk's OSS team, both suspects were arrested. Thankfully, Deputy Villasenor was not injured in the suspect's attempt to shoot him.

Another example of great police work was that of the November Caper of the Month winner, Sergeant Marc Burruss. As pointed out by his sidekick, Detective Mike Mileski, in an earlier *Star News* article,

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Retired Deputies *continued from page 12*

Bureau (TST), both active and retired, a new e-mail account has been created. The new account is retiredtst@gmail.com. To subscribe, please send an e-mail to the above address. Please include your: 1. Name, 2. dates worked TST 3. city, state of residence and telephone number as in the following: Bill Ridgley, 1981-1988, 1998-2008, Riverside, CA, (951) 681-1293. The idea behind this is to share information that would be of interest to those who spent some time at Transportation Bureau.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>.

[html](http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html). VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services. In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate Chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty, Staff Attorney,
Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of General

Counsel (022G2), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Thanks Bill Hutton for this information.

Once again, if you have anything that you would like to put in the Retired Deputies Article or you have a comment that you would like to make, please send it directly to me, Chickee, at the above e-mail. Thank you!

We will end this month with we hope all of you share love with family and friends, communicate with everyone and let them know you care. Until next month, take care. Hugs. — Cheers, Chickee and Don ☆

By Matthew Pereida
Crescenta Valley Station

LIEUTENANT GREG SISNEROS

Hey, Lieutenant! Yeah, yeah, I know already, you didn't want me to do this, but you deserve it. So grab your cup of coffee (with your Grumpy logo) and enjoy this article because it's all about you! For those of you who don't know who Lieutenant Greg Sisneros is, he just retired on December 18, 2010, at 13:59hrs, so you still owe the County a minute. He was our Watch Commander in the field. Crescenta Valley Station is located right off the 210 Fwy and Ocean View Boulevard. Our Station is very unique. It's among the top five oldest stations still standing in the County. Back in 1973, when our Station was completed, Lieutenant Sisneros was helping the carpenters move concrete to build our current Station. If you ever happen to pass by here, take the opportunity to look around and you will get the feeling of an old-fashioned police building just like in the movies. By that I mean every office within the Station is within a few steps of each other, from the Watch Sergeant's office, WC office, Operations, Dispatch, DB and even the Captain's office. So every day you will get to see a majority of the personnel. It creates an atmosphere that promotes camaraderie not only among our patrol deputies, but with our supervisors as well. Hence, the relationship that our great and now RETIRED Lieutenant Sisneros shared with us here in beautiful Crescenta Valley. For approximately three years, I worked for the Lieutenant. The first time I met him I felt like a first-day trainee on patrol. If I can sum up the Lieutenant as one character, it would be Gunnery Sergeant Hartman (Lee Ermey) from *Full Metal Jacket*. Coming into contact with the Lieutenant was just straight intimidating. After all the screaming, yelling and belittlement chatter, under that THICK skin was a kind, gentle, FAIR man. In a few words how would I describe the Lieutenant? He was stern, trustworthy, incredibly smart and a true leader. I can't express how difficult it is to perform our duties as patrol deputies in our present times. We deal with an array of new problems, from people with cameras on every corner that can be uploaded to the Worldwide Web in seconds to new weapon technology on the streets. The Lieutenant not only guided us in the right direction, but he mentored us during his time here. As a leader, he always sought to



understand before being understood. There are certain things we can't talk about regarding the Lieutenant, such as his love of *Star Trek*, you "Trekky," and *Harry Potter*. I was told if you don't read *Harry Potter*, then you don't know "what's going on." I won't say too much about his "Skechers Shape Ups." Oh, I meant were you "inquiring" about them? Some of his common quotes around the Station are, "Leave me" and "Are you 10-15 yet? If not leave my Station!"

Career Overview — Academy: November 1980 to April 1981; East Facility: April 1981 to July 1983; SBI: July 1983 to January 1985; SCV January 1985 to June 1988; HQ: June 1988 to September 1989; SCV Sergeant: September 1989

to March 1992; HQ: March 1992 to June 1994; SCV Operations: June 1994 to 1997; Homicide 1997 to May 1998; NCCF: June 1998 to April 2003; ELA: 2004; CVS: 2005 to December 18, 2010.

Well, Lieutenant, it was an honor to have you end your amazing career here with us at Crescenta Valley. Thanks for all the great memories, the laughs and that look you make in the morning. Congratulations, you survived doing time in the County! Now go enjoy your retirement! Well, here's the Lieutenant holding his mug with the view of his retirement home and one of him with me on his last day. ☆



TEAM *TEMPLE*

By Margaret Archibold and Jesse Cabadas
Temple Station

Greetings to everyone from Temple Station. Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

HOOK OF THE MONTH

Deputy Jim Farley was the recipient of Temple Station's Habeus Grabus Award for an outstanding felony arrest involving three robbery suspects.

On Wednesday, December 1, 2010, there was a "Robbery in Progress" call at the Bank of the West in Temple City. The suspects had fled the location prior to the deputies' arrival. The victims and witnesses were able to provide suspect descriptions, a vehicle description and a partial license plate to the vehicle.

Rather than responding to the location of the robbery, Deputy Farley used his training and experience and responded to the nearby freeway on-ramp. As he sat on Temple City Boulevard watching for the suspect's vehicle, he observed the vehicle enter the freeway on-ramp.

Once sufficient units were in the area, Deputy Farley initiated a traffic stop. All three suspects were taken into custody without incident. The

stolen money was recovered from the van, along with masks and weapons used during the robbery.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Temple Station had its Christmas party on December 10, 2010, at the Embassy Suites in Arcadia. Over 190 people attended. Congratulations to the following: "Deputies of the Year" Rudy Odell and Patty Ruiz (there was a tie this year); "Detective of the Year" Dave Butler; "Rookie of the Year" Adrien Ballesteros; "Professional Staff of the Year" Velda Jackson; "Custody Assistant of the Year" Heidi Ziebeck; "LET of the Year" Teresa Tostado; and "Field Training Officer of the Year" Cindy Bearse.

A special thanks to the Christmas Committee for their dedication and hard work. The committee consisted of Katherine Alcala, Margaret Archibold, Deann Corona, Sandra Gomez, Deanna Mares, Lisa Rico, Julio Salcido, Sidra Strong, Maria Sigala, Kristen Venegas and Matthew Verzola.

Temple Station would like to thank all of the lieutenants, sergeants, deputies, LETs and C/As from other stations who covered our shift allowing our personnel to attend this special event.

BUNDLE OF JOY

The Rosemead Team has a new recruit. Andrew David arrived December 11, weighing in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces. This is the first child for Deputy David Lopez and his wife. Congratulations to you both.

GOODBYE TO A GOOD FRIEND

We are saddened to announce the passing of Reserve Deputy Lola Lowe after a short battle with cancer. Lola retired as a Deputy Sheriff from Temple Station in February 2003. Lola was an intricate part of our Baker to Vegas team. She coordinated our communications and logistics and was always located at our Sandy Valley Command Post. As you pass Sandy Valley this year, send out a salute to Lola. She will truly be missed.

INCOMING AND OUTGOING

Goodbye to Sergeant Javier Clift (MCB) and goodbye and congratulations to Maricella Castillo on her promotion to Sergeant (MCJ).

Until we meet again, may the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. ☆

County Services Bureau *continued from page 5*

situation that occurred in our command center — the brains of the operation, the bridge of the ship. That's right, I'm talking about dispatch. One morning on Day shift, the picture on the television in there went out. Now, I do want to clarify it is only used to monitor various news stations for real-time events as they unfold, which is obviously vitally important for the safety of our deputies and personnel. Although I have noticed *The People's Court* on a few times as I have walked through, I can see it loosely associated with police work, I guess. Anyway, as the picture went dark, there was a brief moment of sheer panic; not on the scale of the world coming to an end, but

close. Of course, there were futile attempts of changing the channel, and even the hope that it was just unplugged by some evil prankster. They soon came to realize the television was working fine. There was just no feed from the cable. I even heard a rumor that someone had actually stopped breathing during the ordeal. I even went as far as e-mailing Lieutenant Bob Craton to see if he had to perform rescue breathing on anyone. He did reply, but did not answer my question. That almost makes me think he did and was forced to do it without his Department-issued breathing mask. An anonymous source also told me they were even organizing a walkout until the picture

was restored. The only thing I can confirm is that a call was made to the man in charge, Captain Stringham. In short order, the cable feed was restored (the bill was paid), and everything went back to business as usual. Any further tragedy was averted. I was informed that, because of the Captain's quick action in this matter, a "Life Saving Award" request has been made to Department executives for consideration, but we have yet to receive any word back. Until next month, stay safe. ☆

Please visit us online at
www.sheriffsrelief.org

Hello, all! I hope the New Year is going well for everyone, and welcome back to another issue from the CJ Slammers. Well, it is February (already), but I need to backtrack to November and December to highlight the holiday events that took place here at CJ.

GOODBYE AND HELLO!

First and foremost, good luck to Captain Daniel Cruz as he continues his duties as Captain at TSB North. And with every departure



comes an arrival ... well, sort of. Congratulations to MCJ Operations Lieutenant Duane Harris on his new assignment as MCJ Captain! Everyone is eager to see what the new Captain has in store for CJ!

GOOD EATS!

Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends to get together and give thanks for blessings bestowed upon them. However, Thanksgiving would not be Thanksgiving without food, Food and more FOOD! So, in keeping with the holiday tradition of "pigging out," the EM shift enjoyed a potluck feast of turkey and all the trimmings. And about a month later, the EM shift celebrated the holidays by what else ... grubbing on Christmas dinner! Hey, Deputy Morishita ... are you sure the second plate of food was for C/A Shupe!?!

B2V INVITATIONAL TEAM FUNDRAISER

B2V is still about two and a half months away; however, the excitement has been building ever since the MCJ Open Team's "Three-peat" victory last year. While the Open Team prepares for a possible "Four-peat," the Invitational Team has been raising money in order to compete in this year's race. Back on December 3rd the fundraising committee, headed by Sergeant Byron Woods, hosted a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, an "opportunity drawing" for great prizes, and a hotdog/hotlink cookout. The turnout was

better than expected as evident by the total amount of money raised — \$2,800! Thanks to everyone who supported the Invitational Team by donating their time, money and energy!

3-on-3 Basketball PICS: 1st Place Team: MCJ Deputies Kenny Doan, Andrew VanDuyne, John Frechette and Rudy Simpson. 2nd Place Team: MCJ Deputies Thomas Franco and Stafford Faulkner and C/A Matthew Rincon. 3rd Place Team: MCJ Deputies Carlos Lopez, Juan Sanchez and Jonathan Pera.

A DAY WITH THE KIDS

Contributed by Christina De La Cruz

On December 5, 2010, the 999 for Kids Event was in full swing at the STARS center in Whittier. Prior to the event, a record-breaking 300 volunteers, which included myself, eagerly gathered together waiting to seek our assignments. Some of the volunteers from CJ were Captain Daniel Cruz, Sergeant Rosa Estep, Custody Assistants Eddie Smith and Sylvia Calandrino and Deputy Anthony Casarez. Now, I have to admit, volunteering at the event this year was in part due to selfish reasons. My cousin, Andrew Porras, was chosen as the poster child for this year's affair.



SPARTAN RUN

I've seen some strange things since I joined the Department, but this has to rank among the strangest! In a nutshell, teams of runners, dressed as Spartans, gathered in Malibu on December 12th to run a 3.2-mile course through mud and various obstacles.

FINAL THOUGHTS ...

New Year! New Captain! New Start! That's all from Men's Central Jail! ☆

For those of you who are not familiar with 999 for Kids, the program "helps physically and mentally challenged children throughout Los Angeles County who are victims of the most severe cases of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence" (LASD Web site, 2007). About 1,000 children under the care of DCFS are invited to attend this annual Christmas party, and let me tell you from firsthand experience, these children and their families had a blast! There was a grassy area covered with snow to play in; arts, crafts and face painting; Folklorico dancers; reindeer and penguins playing together; and of course, pictures with the big man himself, Santa Claus.

The event included lunch, which consisted of Big Macs for the adults and Happy Meals for the children; and this leads me to the assignment I chose to work in, Food Services. Let me tell you, assembling one Happy Meal is no big deal, but assembling 1,000 can be downright tiring at times. However, seeing all the families smiling, sitting and eating together made the experience worth it, right down to the last Happy Meal.

Let me end this by saying that, although my cousin was my inspiration for volunteering this year, I can assure you that I will return in the future. The experience of helping out at the event was very rewarding for me, and I invite all of my CJ counterparts to come out next year and join me. ☆



By Terry Wenger
Carson Station

As incredible as it sounds, we really are two months into a new year. Incredible yes, but without a doubt, reality. It is actually 2011. No argument there. Still, just hearing those four numbers sounds so far beyond belief. So fantastic. The realization alone is mindboggling. The “future” we read of in George Orwell’s *1984* has long passed; Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey* has been relegated to the Wal-Mart bargain bin; Y2K is yesterday; and those who “partied like it’s 1999” have been humming that Prince classic now for almost 30 years. So before we unnecessarily dwell on this unsettling fact, let’s back up just a little.

CARSON STATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 11, 2010, Carson Station held our annual Christmas Party. This year’s emcees were Gary Winfield and Bobby Fulop. Affectionately dubbed “Ebony and Ivory,” they earnestly worked the crowd. Gary did so with his entertaining personality and words; Bobby with his sweater. At least I think it was a sweater. It seemed like one, but it also contained three laughing Santa faces, bright flashing lights and I believe it might even have spontaneously chuckled. Actually it was a little scary. But I guess his plan to avoid the limelight worked because nobody listened to Bobby. They



just laughed at his sweater. Captain Abram eventually commandeered the microphone and began the official presentation.

Seven of our personnel were singled out and recognized for their excellence:

- Deputy of the Year: Bobby Fulop
- Traffic Deputy of the Year: Donnie Moore
- Rookie of the Year: Leticia Rodriguez
- Detective of the Year: Randy Zaitz
- Reserve Deputy of the Year: Eddie Matsumoto
- Professional Staff of the Year: EPCII Rosa Williams
- COPS Deputy of the Year: Wayde Farrell

We salute and congratulate each of you for your dedication to duty and outstanding performance throughout the year.

As the evening progressed, there was great food and drink, dancing, prizes, and



most importantly, good old-fashioned Carson camaraderie. A great time was had by all. And a special thank you, once again, is due to Steve Williams and Mike Chacon for putting it all together. If you didn’t make it this year, we look forward to seeing you at next year’s festivities. Yes, in 2011.

Until next time... ☆



Century Station *continued from page 7*

to Narcotics; and Sergeant Willette Mitchell to TRAP. Sergeant Joseph Garrido has been practicing his “SEB nod” as he heads on over to the Special Enforcement Bureau, and Sergeant Jose Mendoza is on his way to Operation Safe Streets Bureau. Finally, in a moment of weakness, Dave Smith allowed Lieutenant John Corina to return to Homicide Bureau via the backdoor. Good luck to everyone and thank you for your hard work during your stay here at Century Station.

CROSS-FIT CHALLENGE II

Century Station held its second Cross-fit Challenge in December. Deputy Norma Silva

put together an even tougher challenge this time, pushing all of the participants to their limits. This challenge included three rounds of hanging knees to elbows, burpees, a 400-meter run and walking lunges. One competitor told me (more like whined) he was nearly lynched by Norma when he walked a small portion of his lunges. He told me he would never make that mistake again. Cat Gonzalez, your whining will be held in strict confidence with me. Congratulations to Deputy Victor Lemus, who finished first, Norma a half minute behind and Sr. Chemist Dave Hong a couple of seconds after that. Honorable mention goes to the Dean twins, who would have finished in contention,

but couldn’t quite get past the first mirror they stumbled upon, and to Vic Clay, who got a late start trying to find a baseball cap that actually fit! Great job to everyone who participated.

MEMORIAL DATES

Month of February: There are no memorial dates for this month.

Till next month, be safe. ☆



The Chaplain's Notebook

By Chaplain Rick Curtis
Lancaster Station

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST

Any highly successful leader will tell you that the reason they were able to excel in their career, and win the respect of their direct reports is that they were able to foster an environment of trust. For some, this trust came easily, for others it was hard fought and won with time and a proven record. Regardless of the organization you represent, those that look to you as a leader must trust you. If they do not, you will fail as a leader. If they do, there is no limit to the possibilities of success.

The problem? The realities of our culture and the many examples of broken trust place the leader in a position where distrust is the norm. For this reason, the leader must make building trust a priority. Trust must be built at all levels to succeed. Allow me to explain:

A man or woman of character builds trust at all levels: those below them, equal to them and those above. This 360-degree approach comes naturally when one possesses integrity and has the character to respect and honor others.

The mandate to be a 360-degree leader is difficult in law enforcement. While it is easier to earn the trust of our superiors and colleagues, it is extremely difficult to earn the trust of the people we serve. While difficult, it is not impossible. Each of us has a responsibility to earn the trust of others in three specific areas:

First, we must build Interpersonal trust. Interpersonal trust is built when we keep our word, when our communication with others is civil, respectful and wise. Interpersonal trust

is the foot in the door to the development of comprehensive trust. Without it, the other two trust areas are meaningless.

The second area of trust is one of Action or Application. Those we deal with must trust us to do the right thing, regardless of the circumstances. This is most important, especially in our field. We need the trust that we have each other's back. We must know that one can be counted on when things get crazy. Trust of action gives others the security that we care for their wellbeing and frees them to care for ours.

The third and final area of trust is trust in Competency. This third area of trust brings with it a well-rounded relational trust to all parties. It is one thing to know you can trust an individual and their word. A new depth of trust is gained when you can rely on both their word and their deed. Comprehensive trust happens when you can trust their word, their deed and their competency to accomplish what they set out to do. Competency instills trust. It is the capstone of the trio of trust.

While this triple trust relation is applicable to business, family and any aspect of life, it is clearly brought to reality with the following law enforcement example:

You have served for years with a fellow deputy who affirms that they will always be there for you. They have always kept their word, affirmed you on the job and encouraged you with their words. You have Interpersonal trust! Eventually, you find yourself on the

same shift and you roll to the same call. You enter a building with limited visibility, gun drawn, tactical light on and he or she is right there at your side. You now have trust of Action and the trust relationship deepens. Finally, the events of the night go south, you take fire. Your partner responds as he was trained, as do you. Both of you get to go home tonight. You have trust of Competency!

No matter how you apply trust, no matter the situation, all three areas are necessary to truly be a trustworthy partner. On the street, in the workplace, or most importantly, in the home, work on trust.

I recently spoke with a newly married couple and grew in my respect for the husband. He was her second husband and I admired them both as I heard the wife say, "He tells me he loves me all the time, and he shows me as well. He does the nicest things for me. He let's me see his love for me. Not only that, he has the ability to love. My first husband, though I think he tried, did not have the ability to love anyone but himself."

I saw it immediately: interpersonal trust, trust of action and trust of competency, a truly healthy relationship.

For the LORD God is my shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD, blessed is the man that trusts in You. (Psalms 84:11-12)

Chaplains may be contacted at their unit of assignment, or by calling (213) 738-3500. ☆

Lancaster Station *continued from page 13*

In reality, Jon's ingenious tweeker had gutted the car and welded in a 2010 Harley-Davidson Sportster (complete, minus the front end) for power. I can't put in enough pictures or words to describe this engineering marvel, but to his credit, it worked...kind of. Had to be hotter than Hades sitting next to that bike when it was running. No shocker here, the Harley was stolen and the tweeker, well, he had meth on him. He is now cooling off now in the hoosegow where I hear he is drawing up plans for an escape using a leaf blower, a bed sheet and some pruno.

Thanks Dave for the very funny description and pictures!

Lastly, OSS Detective Welle spotted the traditional Lancaster Christmas Tree and snowman. The tree is an illusive native species not often spotted and is normally found in dirt lots and back alleys. Notice the unique, contemporary styling and fine, handcrafted workmanship. This BF Goodrich special is available in the traditional spray paint white model or the decorated version. Hurry, limited time offer, operators are standing by.



The usual disclaimer: Certain restrictions apply, see store details, your mileage may vary. Ok, enough of this foolishness, go 10-8 and stay safe! ☆

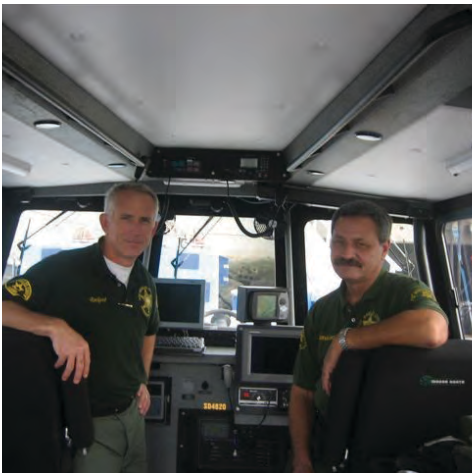


By Erika Brooks and Tim Hazelwood
Marina del Rey Station

Ahooy and Happy New Year! We know you have not heard from us for a while, but we are still afloat. There has been an influx of new personnel transferring into the Marina del Rey Sheriff Station since the last *Star News* article. First, I would like to welcome and commend the following deputies who made it off training despite spending a few months at Century, South Los Angeles and West Hollywood Stations: Bryan Bostic, Marc Carrillo, Corey Deneef, Aaron Edwards, Lupe Penunuri, Kimberly Robinson and Chris Wirsing. Great job and we all here at Marina expect great things from you all. We must not forget to welcome the following new Sergeants who have decided to work smarter not harder: Anthony Easter, Tadashi Hiraoka, Michael Mitchell, Pauline Panis and Larry Ramage.

Furthermore, we wish a farewell to all who have departed the Marina Station recently, although we are sure most of you have settled into your new assignments by now.

We want to wish a special farewell to Paul Carvahlo and John Rochford, who have decided to depart from the seas of Harbor Patrol.



John Rochford (left) and Paul Carvahlo (right)

To give a brief history, Detective Tim Hazelwood describes their years at the Marina the best;

Besides being half of The Beatles, these two have provided a lot of entertainment over the years ...

Paul had a history of working part-time as

an Animal Control Officer. Owls taken into custody and then raised at home until one killed the neighbor's cat. Tracking whales and dolphins in the boat and then reporting them to Greenpeace, Marineland, etc. But his best animal caper was when he decided to capture a 500-pound bull sea lion and "hold him" for Animal Control. Paul showed up one day with a piece of plastic pipe and a long piece of line. When I inquired as to what he was doing, he said he was going to "capture" the sea lion and "hold him" for Animal Control. There is not an Animal Control truck in the County big enough to hold the sea lion. Paul asked if I would help him with this task. I quickly responded, "No, but I will watch you." As Paul approached the sea lion, I could see the sea lion's whiskers starting to twitch. I advised Paul of this. He abruptly told me to, "Shut up ... just watch me and you will learn something." The something being... don't mess with 500-pound sea lions. As Paul tried to slip the line around his neck, he reared up and the chase was on. I did not know a 500-pound sea lion could move so fast ... snapping at the heels of Paul as he sprinted for the gangway. The way Paul vaulted the fence that used to be at the top of the gangway, he could have had a career in track and field as a hurdler.

John came to us as a snot-nosed kid straight off the Coast Guard cutter next door. He served his time in the United States Coast Guard and walked next door and got hired as a Harbor Patrol Officer. John's talents were vast in navigation, but his best asset was his marlinspike seamanship, otherwise known as being able to take a piece of line and turn it into something useful like a mooring line, towline, etc. I failed at it, so I would always ask John to take care of those tasks. John was always operating on the edge and taking the patrol boats to their absolute limit of performance — sometimes beyond their limits — I think he felt that our patrol boats could perform the way the Coast Guard vessels could ... wrong. John liked to go out in the most extreme conditions and "surf" the patrol boats in waves that were crashing over the breakwater into the entrance channel. I had my share of white-

knuckle rides with John and I am still here to write about them.

John will always be remembered for the "Rita B" caper ... that is all I am going to say about that one.

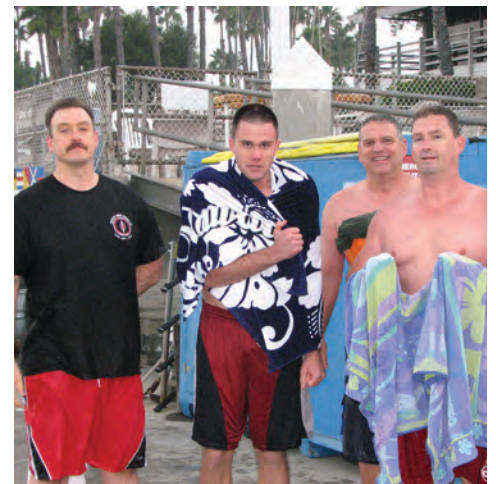
"AMAZING GRACE TEAM"

We want to commend Sergeant Octave, Deputy Cooper, C/A Goran, C/A Kelly and all the walkers for their participation, dedication and commitment to Marina del Rey Station's Relay For Life Cancer fundraising event. Marina Station, "Amazing Grace Team" took home the bronze for their fundraising efforts. Sergeant Octave, your leadership skills have not gone unnoticed; "Great Job" and thank you for your leadership and dedication in this endeavor.

HARBOR PATROL AND PATROL

Congratulations to Sergeant Cantley, Sergeant Tedder, Deputy Stilson and Deputy Wirsing for successfully completing the deckhand-training class. Sergeant Brown put forth a great effort, but next time keep your thumb out of boat's cabin door jam so you can complete the class. Now you have to take the swim test all over! Again ... stress ... anxiety and more stress

Also a congratulations goes out to our



Deputy Stilson, Deputy Wirsing, Sergeant Tedder and Sergeant Cantley after successfully completing the swim test. The temperature was about 40 degrees! Burrrrrrrrrrrrr!



Let me rest here before we move onto the next phase!!

newly assigned Master Field Training Officer Donald Nelson, who decided to come to the Westside after spending most of his career on the Eastside of the County. Welcome and we hope you enjoy the fresh air by the sea. Also congrats to our most recently appointed Field Training Officers Ken Alexander and Andy Cope. You have definitely taken on an important assignment here at the Marina. ☆



Sailing off into the sunset.

Norwalk Station *continued from page 14*

Marc usually is quick to grab a rear containment spot, safe out of harm's way. In this case, though, Marc grabbed the spotlight by doing some excellent detective work to solve a robbery series.

Norwalk and SEB Deputies were working on a barricaded suspect call in La Mirada. The barricaded suspect finally surrendered, and within minutes, a robbery now call went out nearby on Beach Boulevard. The location was quickly contained, but the suspect got away before the entire world got there. Within a few hours, the same suspect would go on to commit one more robbery in La Mirada and two additional robberies in La Habra. In several of the robberies, there was video that appeared to show a severe scar on the suspect's face. Using a parole database, Sergeant Burruss described the suspect and wrote in "cleft palette" as a descriptor. Within seconds, the suspect was identified as a parolee who lived nearby in the city of Brea. His car was also identified. With the identification of the suspect and his vehicle, an "all points bulletin" was given to every agency in Orange County. During the initial investigation of the La Mirada robberies, it was discovered that the suspect had committed several other robberies in Orange County and Long Beach. After an all-night

search for the suspect by Norwalk Station deputies, during which he committed several more robberies in Costa Mesa and Garden Grove, the suspect was caught the next day in Orange County by Garden Grove Police, and his crime spree of about 17 robberies was done. A second striker, this spree of robberies will most likely put him away forever.

The revolving door at Norwalk Station keeps moving. First of all, Lieutenant Jenny Ha officially retired at the end of November. Jenny was a great person who deeply cared about the people she worked with. In addition to being so great to the Day shift personnel, she also did a great job as the Day shift Watch Commander. We wish Jenny all the best in her retirement and hope she gets a lot of LACERA's money. Besides Jenny, we lost Lieutenant Myron Johnson to the Training Bureau in January. He leaves Norwalk Station to head up the Professional Development Unit. Myron was a Lieutenant at Norwalk Station for almost four years and ended up in charge of the Detective Bureau. Norwalk Station detectives did some great work under Myron's watch and he will be missed. Lieutenant Steve Kenny also left Norwalk Station in January to become the Operations Lieutenant at the Training Bureau. Steve was here about a

year and did a great job for us as the PM Watch Commander. With the vacancies created with those Lieutenants transferring and retiring, Norwalk Station welcomes back Lieutenants Jim Tatreau and Josie Woolum. Josie worked here as a Deputy and Jimmy has worked here before, too. In addition, newly promoted Lieutenant Dana Chemnitzer joins us from the Sheriff's Youth Foundation.

Sergeant Joe Reveles is leaving Norwalk Station to go to Lakewood Station. Joe worked here for many years as a Deputy and Sergeant. We wish him luck at Lakewood. Norwalk Station had a few sergeant openings and welcomes Sergeants Grady Miles and Mike Mendoza from custody and newly promoted Sergeants Al Cano and Don McMinn. Sergeant Mark Guerrero also returned (officially) to become the Operations Sergeant. Welcome to the mound of paperwork and all the overtime tracking Mark!!

Deputies who left us in November were Deputies Gabriel Martinez and Dulce Scira. We wish them well at their new assignments. We got in Deputies Nathan Nakaoka, Miguel Cortez, Susanna Rosales and Francisco Torres. Welcome aboard!

Well, that is all we have for this month. Stay safe and be careful out there!!! ☆

2011 Texas Reunion

The annual luncheon of Former Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs in Texas (FLADST) will be Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 11:00–1:00 p.m. at Jan & Marshal Priest's house in Waskom, Texas.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, reply to Dan Castillo, castillodr4@juno.com, and he will provide the Priests' address.



THE DEAD SHEET

By Dave Coleman
Homicide Bureau

Greetings and Happy New Year from the folks at the Homicide Bureau. Although there is a month delay between submission and publication of *Star News* articles, we hope everyone had a quiet and restful Christmas and New Year. We certainly did! We had no murders or Officer/Deputy-Involved Shootings over the Christmas weekend, and at the time of this writing, we haven't had a murder or Officer/Deputy-Involved Shootings immediately following the New Year — we're still waiting for one to come in! It appears that all the hard work you folks do in the streets is really paying off. Great job and keep up the good work!

The fact that Homicide Investigators had such a quiet end of year is especially impressive in light of the fact that we investigate not only the murders and deputy-involved shootings that occur within the 40-plus contract cities and unincorporated County areas of our 23 stations, but we also investigate murders and officer-involved shootings for the majority of the incorporated cities in Los Angeles County. So, in addition to the Sheriff's area and massive jail system, Homicide Bulldogs roll to another 40-plus cities, the Community Colleges, what was the County Office of Public Safety, along with a spattering of investigations from the CHP and State Prisons. We cover a lot of ground. That's why ours is the best job on the Department!

That being said, not all of our most difficult or interesting cases come from within the Sheriff's jurisdiction. Recently, investigators from Teams 3, 4 and 5 were involved in cases that most homicide detectives wait a lifetime to work, that of an active, evolving serial killer.

Alex MacArthur and Rob Martindale (Team 5) were investigating the home-invasion murder of a retired, 80-year-old businessman that occurred in the City of Hawthorne. They had some surveillance video depicting the suspect, but little else to work with, so they went to the airwaves, holding a press conference and seeking the public's assistance. A day later (and about a month apart from the first murder), Investigators Steve Rubino and Peter Hecht (Team 4) were dispatched to a double murder of a married couple in the City of Hawthorne — also a home invasion. Rubino and Hecht were aware of the prior murder as

well as a similar home-invasion murder that occurred in LAPD's area.

Within a very short time after the team's arrival, they believed the suspect might be using the victims' credit and debit cards, so they went to work to notify banks and credit card companies. Unlike *CSI* and *NCIS*, contacting appropriate "authorities" can't be accomplished instantly at a computer keyboard, especially after hours and on weekends. Instead, it takes experience, knowledge and contacts. Being late in the evening, Rubino and Hecht put our stellar desk crew, Detectives Phil Guzman and John Duncan (Team 3) to work. Phil is known to be pretty good at LexisNexis and John "knew somebody" in the banking industry. Phil set about to identify some necessary credit information relating to the victims, and John started calling and waking his friends. Working throughout the night, Phil and John were able to verify the victims' bank accounts had been accessed after they were killed and identified some of those locations, while Rubino, Hecht, Rich Garcia and Ron Duval worked from the scene with their Hawthorne Police Department colleagues. Early Saturday morning, the guys from the Tech Crew responded and retrieved images of the suspect withdrawing money from a local ATM and images of his vehicle. Again, being a Saturday morning, the team had to wake some folks at home in order to put together an informational flyer to identify the suspect. Working from home, in her fuzzy slippers and sipping a very large cup of coffee, our Crime Analyst, Tracy Stanfield, was able to create a flyer the Investigators would distribute to area law enforcement agencies.

Before the flyers were distributed, however, the team wanted to work a hunch. Based on the locations where ATMs had been accessed, the guys thought the suspect was comfortable there, perhaps a local, so they contacted Major Crimes Bureau SAT 1 and put them to work in the field in the area where the suspect had used ATMs. Working from Tracy's flyer, in the evening hours of Saturday night, the SAT personnel obs'd the suspect driving the vehicle, conducted a T-stop and arrested the suspect without incident. In little more than 24 hours after arriving at the scene of a vicious

double murder, personnel from various units of the Department were able to identify and arrest the suspect.

(Note: I'd happily acknowledge the Tech Crew and SAT 1 members, but remember — they are "undercover." You all know who you are and we love working with you! Thanks a bunch!)

Once the suspect was in custody, the Investigators from Teams 4 and 5 and LAPD Detectives began collaborating and sharing information regarding their respective cases. Working together, subsequent search warrants were executed on cars and residences associated with the suspect and evidence was recovered that linked him to all three incidents and all four murders.

This isn't just an example of what Homicide Bureau personnel do, but an outstanding example of what is accomplished daily by the people of various units throughout the Department, working together, tirelessly and unselfishly. It is also an example of outstanding investigative work. The suspect's arrest wasn't the result of "dumb luck" as one reporter remarked, but the result of an investigative team, consisting of people of experience and stellar reputation, who called upon personal contacts and relationships developed over many years. Congratulations to all of the LASD personnel involved in this investigation and thanks to our friends and colleagues at Hawthorne PD and LAPD. Great job!

Another great example of Bulldog determination occurred recently when Investigators from our Unsolved Unit were able to link Robert Edward Stansbury to the 1974 murder of a 29-year-old Pomona resident, Barbara Hall. Stansbury died seven years ago awaiting execution for the rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl. Here at the Homicide Bureau, our Investigators never forget and never give up. Even though Stansbury had died on death row, our Unsolved Investigators were able to develop DNA evidence linking him to the decades' old Pomona case. Although Stansbury was not brought to justice for Barbara's death, her surviving siblings now have some closure. Another outstanding job by the Unsolved crew!

Just when I thought I was caught up on personnel movement within the Bureau, here

we go again, a new lieutenant arrival. Former Homicide legend, John Corina has returned to the Bureau with great anticipation and fanfare as the Team 6 Lieutenant. Leaving is Lieutenant Liam Gallagher, who has accepted a mission across the street at IAB. Liam and his contributions to the "Peanut Gallery" will be sorely missed, but he is well positioned for his new role as Liam really is a man of

character and integrity. Congratulations to both and best wishes.

On a very sad note, we must acknowledge the passing of retired Sergeant Gary Miller, an esteemed and highly respected member of the Homicide Bureau family, who died December 26, 2010. Gary was out for his morning jog on the beach when he suffered a sudden heart attack. Gary was a member of LASD from

1971 until the day of his death. Although he retired from the Homicide Bureau in 2004, he was soon back working cold cases as part of our "Hire Back" program. Gary will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go to his son, Deputy Alex Miller, and the entire Miller family.

Again, until the next issue, thank you all for what you do and stay safe! ☆



IN MEMORIAM



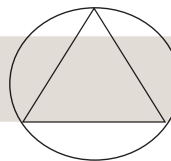
DESTRY E. BELL	ACTIVE MEMBER, DECEASED 11-21-10	SERGEANT / TWIN TOWERS
SUSAN FINNIGAN	RETIRED 01-10-80, DECEASED 10-30-10	DEPUTY / CARSON STATION
MORENA E. GRANDA	ACTIVE MEMBER, DECEASED 11-19-10	SR. TYPIST CLERK / MCJ FOOD SERVICES
RICHARD W. KELLY	RETIRED 08-03-93, DECEASED 10-21-10	DEPUTY / MIRA LOMA FACILITY
PATRICK W. O'NEIL	RETIRED 03-30-69, DECEASED 11-01-10	SERGEANT / TEMPLE STATION
RICHARD A. SALCHUNAS	RETIRED 02-03-92, DECEASED 11-13-10	LIEUTENANT / FIRESTONE STATION
DULCE M. SALVADOR	RETIRED 10-22-90, DECEASED 11-03-10	FACILITIES PLANNING ASST. / FISCAL ADMIN.
LEROY STOCKSTELL	RETIRED 03-31-69, DECEASED 10-29-10	DEPUTY / LENNOX STATION
ANTHONY J. SULLY	RETIRED 07-11-83, DECEASED 11-19-10	SERGEANT / LOMITA STATION
EDGAR G. VESTY	RETIRED 03-30-76, DECEASED 11-23-10	SERGEANT / PITCHESS DETENTION CENTER
JUDY K. WHITLEY	RETIRED 09-01-78, DECEASED 11-14-10	DEPUTY / PERSONNEL
JAMES L. WRIGHT	RETIRED 02-17-04, DECEASED 11-03-10	DEPUTY / AERO BUREAU

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Peace Officer's Fellowship



By Chris Minor
ESSB

STRAIGHT UP

It wakes you from a sound sleep. Was it a dream that made you jump and look at the clock through bleary eyes? No, you're not dreaming as you hear it again. You determine it's coming from outside, the unmistakable sound of steel hitting steel; someone crashing. You look out the window in time to see your neighbor pulling into his drive and notice the side of his car looks like it found the wall in a NASCAR race. You push your feet into a pair of flip-flops and head toward his house to see if he's alright. On the trek over, you see three cars along the curb that took the place of that wall; the newly installed damage is a giveaway. You knock on his door and after he opens it, you make sure he's ok first, then tell him to hold tight; the cops are probably rolling. You can smell the booze coming from him, but he doesn't linger. Ignoring you and leaving you at the door, he heads down the hallway, stopping at a table. He pulls a gun from a drawer and points it at you. What now?

The pucker factor has increased instantly and a quick thought is, "If only I had only brought mine," before backing out as fast as you can. You make a call letting responding officers know that he's 417. As they roll up, they hear a round fired from inside the house. Not knowing if it's an AD, suicide or they're taking fire, they maintain their distance, ordering him out at gunpoint. He comes out but refuses to assume "the" (or any other) position causing officers to tackle him. The event ends peacefully with only the pride of the suspect getting hurt. "This could have happened with any number of people who get really wasted," you think to yourself while wiping your brow from such a close call. There are plenty of instances of folks getting drunk and mishandling guns, knives or other weapons. But your neighbor? He's a cop! And on top of that, he was considered a war hero during his deployment in Afghanistan. How could this happen?

Some people do some pretty stupid things when they meet up with the drink. And while this story sounds like it's from someone's imagination, it actually

These people have agreed to give up their anonymity so that others who are in need of help can find the POE. Don't worry about bothering us; helping those with drinking issues is one of the ways we stay sober.

NAME	HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE	WORK PHONE
Eric Castano*		(323) 537-0927	
Joe Collins	(320) 684-4008	(909) 240-0509	
Chris Loomis	(626) 447-9011	(626) 230-3137	
Bob Ghan		(310) 403-6174	
Ray Terhorst	(505) 705-5656		
John Heckman	(661) 272-5756		
Marty Weirich	(360) 570-1216		
John Valencia	(909) 599-1160	(951) 315-3633	*Active LASD

happened, although Trooper Tim Walsh of the Massachusetts State Police probably wishes it was just a dream. In 2009, while deployed as a U.S. Army Special Ops Sergeant, Walsh received a Commendation for Valor when his unit was pinned down by enemy fire. He charged the enemy position and laid down cover fire so his team could maneuver around the enemy's fusillade with all making it out. As a veteran of 18 years with the MSP, the past five of which he was on military leave and in the Middle East, he's now looking at ADW, discharging a firearm, a DUI and making restitution. The victim of the ADW is a Boston cop with a good but possibly hesitant wit. I'm sure both he and Walsh feel it was lucky Walsh wasn't armed, or it could have turned out so much worse. The statement from the State Police says a lot: "We are grateful beyond words that no one — not the Boston police officers, not an innocent bystander and not Trooper Walsh — was injured, or worse, by gunfire. We thank the Boston Police for the professionalism and restraint with which they handled this incident." Within the next three days, he was arraigned, ordered to undergo a mental evaluation and released OR. Oh yeah, he was suspended without pay for an indefinite period, too.

So the question that still stands is, "How could this happen?" The eval might reveal that he has alcohol issues, more than just having one too many once in a while. With the years he's put in on the job at home and his military service, especially being

deployed in the theater, PTSD issues are always a possibility. Right now his plate is pretty full. As with anyone in a situation of being hooked for an alcohol-related incident (usually not quite this extreme), physical and mental health are the primary concerns. But being ROD and sitting at home without pay will probably add to the depression he's most likely feeling as well as increase his anxiety about possibly losing his job. What he allegedly did that night was stupid, and while it's unknown if he is an alcoholic or if he was using booze to cope with whatever problems he had, the problems have been compounded. If there were no signs before the incident that called attention to issues he may have been having, or if there were indicators that were missed or ignored, he's waving a huge red flag now.

If you've been involved in an alcohol-related incident or had a near-miss/near-hit or know someone who might have a red flag in their back pocket, talk to someone instead of looking to Bud or Jose for answers. Call Employee Support Services Bureau and speak with me or a Law Enforcement Psychologist. There are also Peer Support members and Chaplains throughout the Department. Check the ESSB Intranet site for further info. Don't keep pushing down those bad feelings or trying to drown them; come up for air before you're gasping. Be seeing you. ☆

FROM THE DOCS

TOOL BOX FOR LIFE

By Norm Katz, Psy.D

In his book *The Road Less Traveled*, Dr. M. Scott Peck begins by stating that, "Life is Difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths." He then goes on to state that once we truly understand and accept this truth, then life is no longer difficult. Once accepted, we can then get on with living life, enjoying it and meeting its many challenges. Many people complain about life's difficulties and some even expect that life should be easy. The question is: "Do we want to complain and moan about problems or solve them?" Also, what do we want to teach our children in this regard?

The reality is that life is a series of problems, and by applying certain tools and concepts, we can deal with and sometimes even solve those problems. As a psychologist, I am very aware of the myriad and variety of problems that people wrestle with. What seems to make solving problems so difficult is that the process often involves pain. Life's problems can evoke anger, frustration, fear, anxiety, sadness, grief and despair to name but a few. However, it is the very process of confronting and solving problems that gives life its meaning. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Those things that hurt, instruct." That is the reason that truly wise people learn not to fear, but to embrace life's problems as opportunities for growth. Most of us, though, are not so wise, and to varying degrees, try to avoid problems. We ignore, try to forget, procrastinate, pretend they don't exist, drink too much, take drugs — all to try and get around problems rather than meet them face to face.

Dr. Viktor Frankl, in his book, *Man's Search For Meaning*, detailed his experiences as a concentration camp prisoner and how he survived an experience that none of us can even come close to comprehending. He wrote, "In the concentration camp every circumstance conspires to make the prisoner lose his hold. All the familiar goals in life are snatched away. What alone remains is 'the last of human freedoms' — the ability to choose one's attitude in a given set of circumstances."

About two weeks ago, I was having my blood drawn at my yearly physical when I happened to glance to my right and read something that caught my eye. It was titled

"Attitude is Everything." It went like this: A woman woke up one morning and saw that she only had three hairs left on her head. She smiled and said to herself, "I think I'll braid my hair today," and she had a wonderful day. The next morning she woke up and saw that she had two hairs left on her head. She smiled and said to herself, "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today," and she had a wonderful day. The next morning she woke up and saw that she had one hair left. She smiled and said to herself, "I think I'll wear my hair in a ponytail today," and she had a wonderful day. The next day she woke up and saw that she had no hairs left on her head. She smiled and said to herself, "I don't have to worry about how I'm going to wear my hair today," and she had a wonderful day. Attitude ...

In his book, Dr. Peck describes what he considers to be tools for solving life's problems. The first of those tools is "Discipline" — the practice of training and self-control. Without discipline, we cannot solve life's problems. The concept of "Delayed Gratification" is another of life's tools. It is the opposite of "Procrastination." Dr. Peck defines Delayed Gratification as "a process of scheduling the pain and pleasure of life in such a way as to enhance the pleasure by meeting and experiencing the pain first and getting it over with." He goes on to say, "It is the only decent way to live." Several examples of this are studying to achieve good grades, earning a college degree and attending the Sheriff's Training Academy to become a Deputy Sheriff. These endeavors require a lot of discipline, commitment, sacrifice and healthy attitude with an understanding of a greater reward at the conclusion of the work. On the extreme opposite end of the spectrum, we have those who procrastinate and are impulsive. The jails are full of these types of individuals. Much of how people develop and either learn or don't learn Delayed Gratification depends on their parents and how they were raised. Those who lacked parental love and positive influence may struggle with or lack self-discipline in general, and the capacity to delay gratification in particular.

Dr. Peck further talks about "Problem-

Solving" and "Time." Many people simply do not take the time necessary to problem solve many of life's problems. Instead, they attempt to find instant solutions and oftentimes hope that the problem will go away all by itself. The problem is that problems rarely go away on their own. They must be confronted and worked through or will remain a barrier to one's growth and development. The tendency to ignore problems is also rooted in one's unwillingness to Delay Gratification. As mentioned earlier, confronting problems is often painful. That means that one must put aside something pleasant or less painful in exchange for something more painful.

Lastly, Dr. Peck talks about "Responsibility." One cannot solve a problem unless one "owns" or assumes "responsibility" for the problem. If we view life's problems as always being caused by external sources, the result is avoidance of responsibility and no learning takes place.

When we view the aforementioned concepts and practice them in their collective totality, we greatly increase the likelihood of living a kinder and gentler life. It is a choice that we all must make. If you are struggling with any of the concepts shared in this article and would like to explore your choices with one of the Law Enforcement Psychologists at ESSB, feel free to contact Employee Support Services Bureau. You can call for a consultation or to make a confidential appointment at (213) 738-3500. To obtain additional information, you may visit our Intranet site (<http://intranet/intranet/ESS/Index.htm>). ☆

Sheriffs' Relief Association Annual Meeting

March 15, 2011

1000 Hours

Sheriff's Headquarters

4th Floor Conference Room



By Lee Davis
Community College Bureau

Greetings from the College Bureau, and here's the 411.

A LOOK BACK AT PREPARING FOR WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO DO

Last year, we had the opportunity of training with various multi-agencies throughout the County of Los Angeles. In conjunction with various fire departments and the U.S. military, we jointly participated in Active Shooter training exercises on the campuses of L.A. City, L.A. Harbor and L.A. Trade Tech colleges. The training was meant to be intense and dramatic in order to capture the essence of an actual scenario. The accompanying photos depict candid moments of members from our Bureau from sworn to non-sworn. Keep in mind that some of the pictures may appear to be gory, but these are all role players and this was a training exercise. We all learned a

lot and had fun as well. We look forward to continued training in the upcoming months to keep our tools sharp. I wanted to post more photos, but obviously we can't take up the entire *Star News* magazine. For your viewing pleasure. Enjoy.

A CASE OF MEMORY LOSS OR IMPERSONATING A SERGEANT

Sergeant Mike Johnson finally returned to work after having successful shoulder surgery. When he went to locate his uniform, he noticed it wasn't in the place where he left it. Even though he does that a lot, we'll let him slide because he has been off work for a while. However, he was adamant that he left his uniform in the same place where he usually keeps it. He went as far as running to the Operations Lieutenant to file a stolen County property report. Low and behold, Team Leader Deputy Diane

Dodd remembered that she had tried the shirt on because she banked on being on the upcoming intent to promote list and wanted to get a feel for three stripes as opposed to two. Well, congratulations to Diane for making the list and for confessing the truth because it won't be long before Sergeant Johnson is on his way to the glue factory.

REFLECT AND PRESS ON

Now that the season of giving has come and gone, let's apply those same principles to our everyday lives throughout the year, and remember that even in this stressful climate we can be thankful for many things, including the jobs that we still have within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. So press on and remember, "Throw the book at a crook!" Hope to see you in next issue. ☆

ANNOUNCING COMMANDER MARILYN BAKER'S RETIREMENT

Please join us in celebrating on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at Monterey Hill Steakhouse, 3700 Ramona Blvd., Monterey Park.

Festivities are from 1600 to 1900 hours.

The price is just \$25 per person, which includes a lovely taco bar, pasta bar, ice tea, tax, gratuity, and gift.



Assignments

Sheriff's Academy	1978
Sybil Brand Institute	1978
Carson Station	1980
Training Bureau	1983
Lomita Station	1987
SANE	1989
Sybil Brand Institute	1994
Lomita Station	1996
Homicide Bureau	1997
Executive Offices	1998
Homicide Bureau	1998
Twin Towers Corr. Facility	2003
East Los Angeles Station	2005
Leadership & Training HQ	2008

Please make checks payable to: Marilyn Baker Retirement Fund and send to Tisha Henry, Leadership & Training Division HQ, 4700 Ramona Blvd., Monterey Park, CA 91754.

No tickets will be issued. Names will be placed on a list and checked at the door.

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
A RETIREMENT CELEBRATION HONORING...

Lieutenant
Leo M. Norton

Thursday,
March 24, 2011
Candlewood Country Club
14000 Telegraph Road,
Whittier, California, 90604
Time: 11:30 AM

"The Duke" John Wayne

Contact:
Claire Cappadona 562 345 4449
Patty Umans 909 392 8413
Sgt. Eberhard Krone-Schmidt 562 345 4321
Sgt. Mike Kampen 562 345 4452
Dep. Steve Bevin 562 345 4324

Ireland and Italy

\$30.00
Per person
Deadline to
purchase tickets:
March 15, 2011

LAS VEGAS
OR BUST!

33 Years

Academy Class #188	01/78 - 05/78
Deputy Sheriff	
Men's Central Jail	05/78 - 05/81
Lakewood Station	05/81 - 11/89
Compton Court	11/89 - 05/90
Sergeant	
Crescenta Valley Station	05/90 - 04/96
MTA PD Merger Team	04/96 - 11/97
Transit Services Bureau (OPS)	11/97 - 03/00
Chief's Aide (PCRI)	03/00 - 10/00
Lieutenant	
Transit Services Bureau	10/00 - 03/05
Metrolink Bureau	03/05 - 05/07
LACRS	05/07 - 03/11

Looking Back at 2010

A collage of various law enforcement officers and emergency responders in uniform, some in tactical gear, some in civilian attire, and some in specialized vehicles like a SWAT truck and a helicopter. The collage is titled "Looking Back at 2010".

L.A.C.E.R.A. Retiree Report

By Les Robbins

Chairman, Board of Retirement

I want to start my article off this month by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope that all of us experience a prosperous and healthy new year. The year ahead promises to be a very interesting one, especially for all people both active and retired from the public sector. I expect that we have many battles ahead, and some of them are going to be very challenging to say the least.

The Board of Retirement had its first meeting of the year and I am very proud to announce that once again the Board elected me Chairman for the coming year. I also want to congratulate Sergeant Shawn Kehoe on his recent election as the new Safety Alternate on the Board of Retirement, and after our first meeting of the year, I am sure that he is asking himself what he got himself into. The first meeting each month is the meeting where we approve both service and disability retirements, and these meetings can be lengthy and very stressful for those of us on the Board. Shawn did a great job replacing the recently retired Lieutenant JP Harris, who preceded him as the Safety Alternate. I am also excited, that for the first time in well over a year, we will have a full Board this year as all of the appointed and elected positions should be filled by our February meeting. We have had both retirements and deaths among our trustee ranks and this creates issues when we have tie votes. Fortunately, with all nine Board members present, the prospect of tie votes goes away.

With the current County budget situation being what it is and with the prospects of pay raises for active employees being what they are (none), we are expecting and experiencing heavy caseloads in our Member Services section, and I expect that we will experience a large number of retirements these next two to three months. As I have reported on the Moon List, we are 11 months into the calculation used to determine the COLAs that retirees get effective April 1st of each year. Through the month of November, the CUMULATIVE CPI for the year was a positive 1.03 percent as November experienced a DECREASE of 0.4 percent in the Consumer Price Index. In all probability, this will mean that we will see a 1 percent COLA effective your April retirement check. So much for inflation! The December number will be out in about a week, by the way, and won't take long to finish the calculation and get that information. Our

Board usually approves the Calculation in February or March.

As I have stated so many times in the past, there is a great deal going on in the world of public employee pensions. There are a great many out there who are absolutely, positively, committed to eliminating all Defined Benefit Pension Plans for those who work in the public sector. This is not a "cry wolf" statement; it is an observation made based on what is being introduced legislatively in states, cities and counties throughout the nation. There are new proposed accounting rules for public pension plans, that if approved, will further exacerbate the perception that public plans are not sustainable and too big a burden on the taxpayers to allow to be continued. I won't go into what they are because it is too complicated a topic to try to put out to all of you, but you have to believe me when I tell you that they are designed to paint a far more bleak picture of how our funds are doing than really exists. It is still a fact that most public funds are sound fiscally, but make no mistake about the fact that there are some funds that aren't, and in many instances, that is because of very poor funding decisions made by both the affected Plan Sponsors and the Plan Trustees. Without spending a lot of time explaining the specifics of some of these situations, let me just say, that in the very good times, some plans allowed the discontinuance of plan sponsor contributions, and then when times got bad, the plan sponsors complained that they didn't have the necessary funds to make their respective payment obligations. One thing that government does when one bill disappears is to find something else to spend that money on, and right or wrong, if this happens it becomes very difficult to once again find the money to make those pension contributions. One very valuable lesson that all of us in the public pension world have learned from the two fiscal meltdowns that we have experienced in the past decade (9/11 and October 2008) is that no matter what is going on with the annual return on investment of your fund's assets, you never, ever stop making the appropriate contributions, either by the plan members or the plan sponsors. I think the other thing that should be patently clear by now is that some of the formulas became far too rich, and for those plans that enhanced their formulas, there needs to be an adjustment in plan member contributions, upward and a reduction in the formulas that are being used to calculate

the pensions. Unfortunately, the need for pension reform, which is real in some situations, is just the excuse that will be used by some out there to take away pensions altogether and/or to change all Defined Benefit Plans to Defined Contribution Plans. What we all experienced in the aftermath of October 2008 was devastating to virtually anyone with a Defined Contribution Plan, and while far less devastating to many of us in the Defined Benefit Pension world, was still a major hit on our funds ... now we see Congress attempting to, once again, roll back oversight and regulation(s) on Wall Street. If they are successful in getting things back to the way they were prior to the last meltdown, we are just setting the stage for another repeat of what happened to us in October of 2008.

Things at LACERA are better than at most other public plans, but we certainly took our hit right along with many others. Plans, however, that had huge percentages of their asset allocations in stocks got hit very, very hard. They made big bucks when the good times rolled, but they also lost huge in the aftermath of October 2008. The LACERA Board of Retirement at their meeting last month chose to wait one more year to lower our assumption rate. The assumption rate, or assumed rate of return on our total fund portfolio, is currently set at 7.75 percent. The current average among public funds is about 8 percent and it is even higher in the private sector plans and always has been. The Board of Investments was looking at lowering the rate to a number closer to 7.5 percent. Remember that the lower the assumption rate, the higher the contributions have to be from both the plan sponsor and members. The Board felt that lowering this rate at this point in time would put undue hardship on the County, and very wisely in my opinion, decided to keep the rate at 7.75 percent for the current year, and then review the matter and in all probability lower it at the end of 2011. By lowering the assumption rate we do two things that affect active employees. We raise their contributions and we raise, much more significantly, the contribution that the County pays into the system. That added bill to the County will, in all probability, affect its ability to sustain the current workforce and the programs and services that those employees provide. I think that the Board felt, based on input from the County CEO, that giving them one more year would allow things to improve fiscally, which is their expectation, and to make

adjustments that would allow the additional contributions to be made less painfully. If I were a betting man, however, I would expect that the rate will be lowered later this year when the Board of Investments revisits this issue.

So far this year, our fund has done exceptionally well, once again, and absent some major stock market downturns, we should expect to far exceed our targeted 7.75 percent rate of return, but we all know that things can change in a hurry and LACERA has little control over major market fluctuations. What we do have control over is how and where we invest and how much risk we take in order to get the targeted returns. As most of you can imagine, risk comes at a price, and we have historically not been willing to take as much risk as have some other funds. Our funded status is still in the upper 80 percent range but as we continue over the next three years to smooth in the losses from October 2008, we will see our funded status continue to decline somewhat ... that is the reality of both what we lost and how long it takes to recoup those losses.

Disability retirements for safety members have always been a bit of a hot issue with the media. At our Disability Committee meeting we saw some numbers broken down by County departments. While there was a 1 percent reduction in those numbers from 2007-08 to 2008-09, the Sheriff's Department still accounts for a large percentage of the overall disability retirement applications with a total percentage of 52 percent. However, County Fire, which is roughly one quarter the size of the Sheriff's Department, accounts for 17 percent of the overall total, which by my calculations, would give Fire a significantly higher percentage of disability applications by employee than the Sheriff's Department. Just thought that you would find these numbers interesting. On the whole, the overwhelming majority of safety retirements are for orthopedic reasons, with heart and gastrointestinal issues a distant second. Contrary to what some believe, we see very few psychiatric retirements from sworn personnel, although I suspect that those numbers may rise as we are beginning to see an increase in disabilities due to PTSD reasons. I, for one, believe that this may have something to do with the large numbers of safety members who are serving in our armed forces in various reserve capacities and have been deployed to the Middle East during the past decade, in many instances, more than once.

Going back briefly to a topic discussed earlier in this article, I just wanted to reiterate the importance of being informed with respect to what is happening in the media with respect to public employee pensions. I do think that public

employees, in varying degrees throughout various systems in this Country, have contributed to some of the problems that we see happening. Governor Jerry Brown stated recently that there needs to be pension reform in this State in order to help deal with the costs. I agree with him wholeheartedly, but my concerns are more geared to seeing to it that we do not let the pendulum swing too far back in the other direction. It would be my hope that pension systems throughout this country will be reasonable in admitting that some things need to be done in order to save the concept of Defined Benefit Plans. We not only have obligations to those who are already retired, but we also have obligations to those currently employed and who expect to get the benefit that they were promised when they entered public service. We also, in my opinion, have an obligation to see to it that those who enter public service after all of us are dead or retired are ensured some semblance of the same benefits we enjoy. I can tell you that trying to live on Social Security benefits alone won't get it done. Public employees have sacrificed in pay over many decades in order to put money into their fringe benefit packages. Furthermore, most of us contribute a significant amount of our monthly income into our pension systems. When you consider that in L.A. County (and many other places), we cover in excess of 80 percent of the total costs of operating our systems with the monies that we make each month in investment returns, add to that number an additional 8-10 percent that we see in plan member contributions and it becomes very evident that the taxpayers are NOT paying the full costs of our systems and the benefits that they provide. Historically in Los Angeles County we have always made our plan members contribute monthly into the system. In the CALPERS System and many others for that

matter, the employee contributions have been negotiated away through the collective bargaining system and the plan sponsors have agreed to pick up the plan members contributions each month. That trend is over, however, and in many systems, there is a serious move to get the plan members to contribute once again. While I thoroughly understand the net impact of this on their take-home pay, I also understand the value of being able to say, "I contribute each and every month a percentage of my monthly pay into my system." This argument carries probative value with the public and the news media. I really think that the battles that are ahead for public employees will be played out in the news media, state capitols, city halls and Washington, D.C., and subsequently at the ballot boxes throughout America. Hopefully, we will not finish second in this battle because second place is not where we want to end up!

You may e-mail your comments to Les at LESLASD@aol.com. Till next month, take care and enjoy what you have ... you earned it!! ☆



2011 WINTER ROLLOUT RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

0800 Hrs. to 1600 Hrs.

**THE MERIDIAN CLUB
1535 DEERPARK DRIVE
FULLERTON, CA 92831**

Sponsored By The Los Angeles Sheriff's Athletic Association (LASAA)

A/B Division – Singles And Doubles

C/D Division – Singles And Doubles

Novice Division (Less Than Three Tournaments)
– Singles And Doubles

Free Entry For All LASAA Members
Non-LASAA Participants Pay \$30 Entry

Register online at www.lasaa.org
Entry deadline is February 11, 2011

For more info, email rjcosta@lasd.org



By Mark Rediger
Lost Hills Station

Greetings from the sunny side of the County.

GOOD HOOK

On November 25, 2010, at about 03:30 hours Deputies Mark Vencer and Marie Davis were conducting a traffic stop in Westlake Village. After finishing the stop, they heard an audible alarm going off in the near distance. They drove to the source of the sound and observed a dark-colored sport utility vehicle backed up to a business. They noticed that the establishment's door was ajar, being propped open by two flat-screen televisions. Believing a burglary was in progress they called for backup.

One of the responding Deputies, George Howard, detained a male who was walking down the street a short distance from the alarm. The male said he was walking home from his girlfriend's house, but as you might guess, he did not know her name or where she lived.

Meanwhile Deputies Vencer and Davis determined that a burglary had occurred. Further, they compared the footprints in the business to the boots of the guy with the phantom girlfriend. When a Responsible Party

arrived he identified the suspect as a terminated employee.

The suspect was arrested for 459 P.C. and 466 P.C.

Good job by all!

HANG UP THE PHONE WHEN YOU ARE DONE

Recently, Deputy Steve O'Neal used the phone in the Report Writing Room to page his trainee. Unfortunately, he did not fully seat the receiver back in the cradle. Fortunately, however, no one in the Station was able to discern what was said in the room before someone came bursting in to tell Steve to hang up the phone.

GOTCHA

Deputy Brian Knott was assisting at the Complaint desk when he received a phone call from a man who was upset over the 20-minute traffic delays on Malibu Canyon Road.

The man wanted a deputy to go to the construction site and tell them to hurry it up.

Deputy Knott explained to the man that he had personally been stuck in that same traffic an hour ago and that there was nothing that could be done.

The man started yelling and calling him Deputy Snot. He then stated that he was coming to the Lost Hills Station to file a formal complaint against Deputy Snot.

Deputy Knott notified the Watch Commander of the conversation and pulled the time of the call for review. Approximately 30 minutes later, Deputy Difonzo came into dispatch and told Deputy Knott that a man followed him into the Station parking lot yelling, "Where is Deputy Snot? I want to file a complaint against him."

Deputies Difonzo and Knott stood looking out to the front lobby for the man's arrival, when approximately 10 seconds later, Deputy Knott spun around to face Difonzo and yelled out, "You \$%^!! You're the one who called."

The Watch Commander came in laughing, having been informed of the joke just moments before.

INS AND OUTS

So long to Deputy Mary Mahoney and "Hello" to Deputy Octavio Ramirez. Also, a welcome back to Day Shift for Station Clerk Michelle Montes-Romero.

That's all I got. ☆

2011 LASD ROUNDUP

The 2011 LASD Roundup will be held April 3rd through April 6, 2011, at the Riverside Resort and Casino located at 1650 Casino Drive, Laughlin, Nevada 89029.

At the 2010 LASD Roundup, we had over 847 people attend. We gave away \$3,500 in cash prizes from the 50/50 raffle and numerous other door prizes to those in attendance. The 2011 LASD Roundup promises to be just as exciting and just as well attended. We will be raffling off, as part of our 50/50 raffle, an SRA Commemorative engraved Ruger Blackhawk 357, which has been graciously donated by Retired Chief Ollie Taylor.

All four days and nights of the Hospitality Room will be in the Starview Room. The cost to attend the Roundup will be \$28.00 per person. We will have a Hospitality Room each day and we encourage everyone to use the room for meeting and visiting with old friends and partners. We will have free coffee, tea and water available every day as well as a bartender. We will also have bagels and pastries each morning. On Monday night, we will have dessert night, Tuesday night will be pizza and salad night and Wednesday night (our final night) we will have a variety of finger foods and desserts available. The Hospitality Room will be open from 8 a.m. til 11:00 p.m. every day. A complete schedule of events and times will be posted on the website at <http://www.lasdretdretired.org>. ☆

Sheriffs' Relief Association (800-544-4772/562-946-7081) 2011 Tickets Available & Sold To Members Only

ATTRACTION	SRA PRICE Adult/Child	REG. PRICE Adult/Child
HURRICANE HARBOR	\$19.99/\$15.00	
<i>Tickets good thru 9/25/11</i>	<i>(Children not over 48' in height)</i>	
KNOTT'S BERRY FARM	\$29.99/\$20.99	\$51.99/\$22.99
<i>Tickets good thru 12/31/11.</i>	<i>(Children 3-11 & Senior-Age 62 & up)</i>	
LEGOLAND	\$48.00	\$67.00/\$57.00
<i>Tickets good thru 04/12/11.</i>	<i>2nd Day free-must use w/in 90 days of 1st visit/use</i>	
LEGOLAND HOPPER	\$59.00	\$87.00/\$77.00
<i>Tickets good thru 07/07/11.</i>	<i>2nd Day free-must use w/in 90 days of 1st visit/use</i>	
LONG BEACH AQUARIUM	\$16.95/\$9.95	\$22.95/\$11.95
<i>Tickets good thru 11/30/11.</i>	<i>(Children 3-11)</i>	
MAGIC MOUNTAIN	\$25.99/\$17.50	\$54.99/\$27.50
<i>Tickets good thru 12/31/11.</i>	<i>(Children not over 48" in height)</i>	
MEDIEVAL TIMES	\$41.74/\$31.45	\$58.74/\$36.45
<i>(NOT valid December 30/31)</i>	<i>(Children 3-11)</i>	
PIRATES DINNER SHOW	\$36.00/\$27.00	\$58.26/\$38.26
<i>Tickets good thru 11/30/11.</i>	<i>(Children 3-11)</i>	
SAN DIEGO ZOO-DELUXE	\$29.50/\$21.50	\$40.00/\$30.00
<i>Tickets good thru 04/07/11.</i>	<i>(Children 3-11)</i>	
SEAWORLD-2FUN DAYS	\$54.00/\$47.00	\$65.00/\$55.00
<i>Tickets good thru 07/11/11 -Adult</i>	<i>(Children 3-9)</i>	
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS	\$64.00	\$74.00
<i>Tickets good thru 12/31/11-BLACKOUT DATES APPLY TO REVISITS ONLY</i>		
<i>(Blackout Dates: 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 7/4, 12/25-12/31 AND ALL SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST)</i>		
WILD ANIMAL PARK	\$29.50/\$21.50	\$40.00/\$30.00
<i>Tickets good thru 04/07/11.</i>	<i>(Children 3-11)</i>	
UNRESTRICTED MOVIE TICKETS:		
AMC	\$7.50	\$10.50
REGAL/EDWARDS.	\$7.50	\$10.50
<u>DISNEYLAND/CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE TICKET OFFERINGS:</u>		
2011 Prices		
<u>1 DAY, 1 PARK TICKET:</u>		
<i>(Blackout Dates: Apr 3, 8, 10; Jun 9, 13-16, 20-21, 23, 26; Jul 1, 4; Oct 8-9; Nov 21-23; Dec 4, 16-17, 19, 24-31, 2011</i>		
<i>Tickets good thru Dec. 23, 2011</i>	\$71.00 AGES 10+.....	(\$76.00 REG PRICE)
.	\$65.00 AGES 3-9.....	(\$68.00 REG PRICE)
<u>1 DAY, 2 PARKS HOPPER TICKET:</u>		
<i>Tickets good thru Dec. 31, 2011</i>	\$91.00 AGES 10+.....	(\$101.00 REG PRICE)
.	\$83.00 AGES 3-9.....	(\$91.00 REG PRICE)
<u>DISNEYLAND PREMIUM PASSPORT: VALID 365 DAYS</u>		
<i>MUST BE USED ON OR BEFORE DEC. 31, 2011 (Includes Parking).</i>	\$436.05	(\$459.00 REG PRICE)

PLEASE NOTE: PAYMENT — CASH OR CHECK (CHECK PAYMENT LIMIT = \$750.00). TICKETS LIMIT = 10 PER ATTRACTION PER MONTH (EXCEPT FOR DISNEYLAND TICKETS, LIMIT IS ONLY 8). IF MEMBER IS HAVING SOMEONE OTHER THAN SPOUSE PICK UP TICKETS, ONLY THE MEMBER'S PERSONAL CHECK WITH EMPLOYEE # WRITTEN ON THE SAME CHECK IS ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. PLEASE READ AND CHECK INSTRUCTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE BACK OF EACH TICKET BEFORE LEAVING THE TICKET COUNTER. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. REVISED 12/20/10.

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The L.A. Sheriffs' Museum needs your support. The collection is overseen solely by volunteers, mostly retired sworn and professional staff and their family members, with the help of a dedicated cadre of members from the local community. With no budget from which to operate, our only dedicated source of funding is YOU.

Please help preserve the heritage and perpetuate the pride of our Department. Whether you are an active

Department member or a retiree, you can donate via payroll deduction to the Sheriffs' Relief Foundation Fund 218, either via County payroll or LACERA. Please take a moment to fill out the payroll deduction card below and return it to the L.A. Sheriffs' Museum at STARS Center, 11515 S. Colima Road, Building B, Whittier, CA 90604. A buck a month is all we ask, but larger contributions are gladly accepted. ☆



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Friday, February 25, 2011 ☺ Whittier

Tournament Details

Registration Check In 7:30 - 9:00 am
Shotgun Start 9:00 am
Awards Luncheon and raffle immediately following the tournament. Each participant will receive a goody bag & refreshments on the course.

Awards for:

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Tournament Contacts

- ☺ **Sgt. Nancy Drake (562) 946-8216**
- ☺ **Lydia Lozano (562) 946-7960**
- ☺ **Barbara Stroup (562) 946-7920**

Deadline for Registration

Friday, February 11, 2011

This tournament is limited to the first 144 registrants.(register early, don't be left out!)

REGISTRATION

PLEASE CHECK THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Golfer | \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Only | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foursome | \$450 | | |
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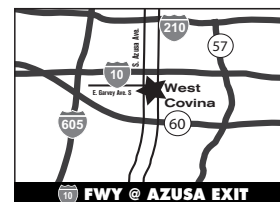
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