



Star News

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

VOL. 74 NO. 11

MARCH 2014



A wide-angle photograph of the Los Angeles Hall of Justice building. The building is a large, multi-story structure with classical architectural details like columns and cornices. A significant portion of the building is covered in white protective scaffolding and mesh. In the foreground, there's a street with several cars, a sidewalk, and some trees. The sky is clear and blue.

Retrofit for Duty: INSIDE THE HALL OF JUSTICE RENOVATION

SEE PAGE 8

Trustees Monthly Meeting

The regular meeting of the Sheriffs' Relief Association convened on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 11515 Colima Road, Whittier. The following officers and trustees were present: John McBride, Vice President; Josie Woom, Secretary-Treasurer; Trustees Kerry Carter, Joseph Fennel, J.P. Harris, Jake Katz, William McSweeney, Richard Maradiaga, Raymond Peavy, Liza Vera and Ralph Webb; Robert Ciulik, General Manager; and Carroll Leonard, Assistant General Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. A motion was made by Trustee Maradiaga, seconded by Trustee Woom and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2013, meeting, and the November Foundation expenditures.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

A letter was received from Cora Alberts thanking Sheriffs' Relief for their assistance in handling the death of her husband, Victor.



Retired Deputies

By Chickee Nelson and Don Fandry
24 W. Winnie Way
Arcadia, CA 91007
(626) 447-6962
Email: Chickee1@netzero.com or Djfandry@att.net

The Hi-Desert Retirees canceled their January luncheon since it fell on New Year's Day. This month it will be on Wednesday, March 5, at 11 a.m. at *Carrows Restaurant* on I Avenue and Main Street in Hesperia. Everyone is welcome.

On January 6 to 9, the Sunshine Rollers had their campout at Canyon RV Park in Anaheim. Members present were Carol Engle, Gil Sherwood, Thom and Linda Champlin, Art and Joy DeGroot, Ray and Sandy Hoyal, Norman and Chickee Nelson, Rick and Sandy Spence, and Claude and Dolores Waddle. We all thanked our host Carol Engle for a great campout. President Claude Waddle appointed Dick Cooper to assume the position of SCSR treasurer. Dick accepted this appointment and will be the treasurer for 2014. Norman Nelson reported that he has been in contact with Steve Powell and Steve's surgery has gone well. Steve said his headaches and his tremors are almost gone. Steve continues to recover in a good fashion

From Yolanda Oviatte to Bob Bouffard, "I wanted to thank you on behalf of the family. It was such a pleasure to speak with someone who knew my father-in-law, Joel. Your kindness and promptness is so appreciated by our family."

From Terry Munson to Bob Bouffard, "Thank you so very much for the way you handled my wife Mary Jane's passing on November 24, 2013. Your sincerity and compassion were greatly appreciated by our family."

From Bernice Riley to Bob Bouffard, "Thank you and the entire Sheriffs' Relief staff for your kind words of condolence. The mortuary benefit was totally unexpected but greatly appreciated."

From the family of Michelle Soga, "Thank you for your kindness, support and sympathy. We are grateful."

BENEVOLENT REPORT

MORTUARY BENEFITS PAID DURING DECEMBER: \$76,500

MORTUARY BENEFITS PAID YEAR TO DATE: \$882,949

EMPORIUM REPORT

This year's inventory results were the best in the history of the stores.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A total of 74 new membership applications were received during the month of December. A motion is required to accept these new applications. A motion was made by Trustee Maradiaga, seconded by Trustee Vera and unanimously carried to accept the following new members:

Christine R. Adams, Martin D. Alcarez, Christopher Allen-Young, Anthony J. Angel, Hrant H. Bairamian, Julio R. Cadenas, Nicholas S. Campbell, Steve Casas, Ernesto R. Castro, Eric J. Chavez, William H. Corcoran, Brian P. Edwards, Margarita Elias, Johana G. Escalante, David Flores, Lorena Foster, Jace R. Getskow, Steven M. Gonzales, Alesha L. Gonzalez, Vosyanik N. Grigoryan, Claudia Hardie, Cecilia M. Hoschet, Cynthia A. Inman, Gilberto Jimenez, Michelle L.

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NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, April 17, 2014
@ 11:30 a.m. Cost \$13
Glendale Elks Lodge
120 E. Colorado Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91775
(818) 242-2105

and they hope to be back to camping with the group by the time you read this. Our January campout was the 25th anniversary campout, and Carol supplied a 25th anniversary cake for the club to celebrate. A dear friend is looking for a fifth wheel, so if anyone knows of someone who is selling a fifth wheel, please let us know. We had to leave a day early to go to the Desert Heat Luncheon, so we left the campground at 5:01 a.m. and arrived in Lake Havasu at 11:48. We drove 293 miles to have lunch with some wonderful people. Remember, Arizona doesn't change their time, so it was 10:48 a.m. California time.

On January 6, we had our first-ever LASDRETVC get-together at *Coco's Restaurant* in Camarillo. Those in attendance were Shirley Williams, Robert "Bob" Gonzales, Leonard and Brigitte Tyko, Charlene Clark, Lu Rideout, Kevin Finch, John Gentzvein, Donald "Don" and Linda Forsyth, Steve Smith, Willis Wayne Abercrombie, Norm Campbell, Dave Gates,

Dave Heftick and me, Charles Lane. Lou Brown, who was scheduled to attend, chose to have a heart attack and subsequent surgery instead. He is on the mend and says he will be at our next one. It was great seeing old partners and new friends. Thank you for what you do, and you are always welcome to attend our gatherings. — Charles

On January 8, the Desert Heat had their monthly luncheon at the Elks Lodge in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. We had a great time and it was nice to see everybody who we hadn't seen in a long time. Those attending were George Wilson, Jim Slay, Don and Susie Sackett, Jerry Gillen, Claude Anderson, Joan Day, Doug and Joyce Muchmore, Kathy Powell, Ed Ryan, Dennis Daly from Portland Police Bureau, Bob McQueen from Tukwila Police Department in Washington, Tom and Charleen Marshall,

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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

President.....Andy Thompson
Vice PresidentJohn McBride
Secretary-TreasurerJosie Woolum

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Kerry Carter, Joseph Fennell, J.P. Harris, Jake Katz, Rich Maradiaga, Bill McSweeney, Ray Peavy, Liza Vera and Ralph Webb

General ManagerRobert Ciulik
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Trustees Monthly Meeting *continued from page 2*

Jordan, Zaruhi Karavardanyan, Rulan Kasparyan, John J. Keith, Michael Y. Kim, Ryan D. Kimball, Wade S. Knowles, Steven M. Labrada, Taylor R. Landgren, Hector A. Lobos, Matthew E. Looney, Alexander Marrujo Jr., Jose A. Martel, Thomas A. Maxwell, Stephanie M. McCaulley, Arlen Melkomian, Christian Morales, Salvador Moreno IV, Richard C. Murray, Santiago R. Proveda, Raul P. Rendon Jr., Garrett M. Rifkin, Valerie C. Rocha, Carlos A. Rodriguez, Kathy L. Rowe, Brian J. Roy, Timothy A. Sabadin, Hernan Sagastume Jr., Blanca E. Sanchez, Richard A. Sanchez, Chelsea L. Schmidt, Saman Setayeshi, Matthew Y. Shin, Tamera D. Slinkard, Wendy M. Solares, Emir Soria, Kyle D. Steffes, Na-Na D. Tang, Chantelle A. Telles, Larry G. Terrell Jr., Edward G. Tomsik, Kenneth D. Towles, Eddie Tsuang, Kacy I. Tyson, Lupita Uribe,

Marcos Valdovinos-Ochoa, Nancy Valencia-Chavira, Jesus Vasquez-Reyes, Aaron L. Watkin and Cyril H. Wright.

We had 1 active member death, 10 deaths of retired members, 0 cancellations of active membership, 2 cancellations of retired membership, no new honorary associate members and no deaths of honorary associate members.

There were 10 members who resigned and one member who transferred from the Sheriffs' Department/Relief Association during the month of December.

OLD BUSINESS

All tickets are now available to purchase online through our website except our movie tickets, which cannot be sold online. Tickets

currently only available online are Legoland, Magic Mountain, Medieval Times and Universal Studios. In addition, our members may now purchase tickets to Boomers in Irvine and the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, which have not been available before.

NEW BUSINESS

Supplemental Benefits Policy may need to be updated. Staff will review current Benefits policy and report back any changes that may need to be implemented next month.

We did well with all three investment companies last year. Sheriffs' Relief Association is in a good financial position for the future.

Sheriffs' Relief Services provided 9,126 loans in 2013 and loaned out \$8,748,660. ☆

Retired Deputies *continued from page 2*

Neil Ornstein, Bill and Norma Violette, Mike Robbins, George Bachmeier, Linda Quinn, Steve Root, Norman and Chickee Nelson, Mike Castorina, Leseah Clark, and Tom and Sonja Lyles.

On January 8, The Southern Oregon LE/Fire luncheon was held at the Grants Pass Elk's Lodge. What a great time was had by all. We had two newbies. The first was Cedric Schieber, who retired in 1981. He worked as a pilot and trained a number of our Sky Knight and Aero Bureau pilots. He also worked ELA, Lakewood, and Search and Rescue. Jon Ray was the number-two newbie. He retired in 2013. He worked the Wayside Range and knew my Jerry. He also worked Firestone. The rest of our little group was made up of Rufus Horn, Roy Riffle and me, Sue Maxwell. The "war stories" were lively and fun. We all know or knew some of the same people. The politics of what is going on with the Department was also a topic. Those who didn't attend were either on a cruise, playing golf in the SoCal desert or had caught the flu bug. Looking forward to the next luncheon...and maybe just a group of us LASD folks getting together without all the guys from #2 in the county listening in on our stories! For information/directions, contact Sue at jellybeansbobo@aol.com.

On January 8, due to the unexpected closure of *Hof's Hut* in Buena Park, the January 2014 Marshal's Old Timer's luncheon was moved to *Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant* in Artesia. Considering the short notice of the change of locations and all the freeway construction, there was a good turnout. Lots of lively and diverse conversations for the new year. Those in attendance were John Davis, Roger DeHaan, Richard Duran, Cliff Hartfield, Sam Combes, Terry Black, Richard Combs, Eugene Swanston,

Al Blomker and John Matarazzo. Remember, the dates and locations are published in the *Star News* and *Star & Shield*. Pat Holland usually sends out a notice ahead of time, so there is no excuse for not showing up. Hope to see you at one of the luncheons this year. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Roundup in Laughlin (April 6-9). We usually sit at a couple of tables near the stage in the Hospitality Room. — Terry

On January 15, The Las Vegas Retirees got together at the *Blue Ox*. We had 10 at lunch: Hershel Aron, Gary Griffith, Ray Walker, Joan Raber, Vanette Christensen, John and Deanna Rondina, Nik McGraw, Jim Ellison and Gary Gray, from Hershel, Tony's helper.

On January 16, the Retired Deputies had their luncheon at Glendale Elks Lodge. Those present were Woody and Liz Polidore, Gil Sherwood, Carol Engle, Dale Johnson, Mary Anthony, Sylvia Knapp, Dick and Rose Cesaroni, Mike Chaney, Dave Kading, Patrick Gomez, Art Garcia, Cecil and Barbara Sabatine, Jim White, Sally Harwell, Sally Moseley and Maria Burwell. Patrick Gomez, retired LASD, gave a speech about why he would like to be Sheriff. Next meeting is the third Thursday in April. — Woody

On January 17, our first get-together of the year was held at *Mitch's* on El Paseo in Palm Desert. Mitch did a vast renovation of the restaurant in October and the results were spectacular. With perfect weather, views of the surrounding mountains and plenty of room to enjoy socializing and dining with old friends, everyone had a great time. We were expecting 55 attendees, but the cold season and other problems cut the count down to 45. Attending were Bill Alley, Vicki McKown, Larry Dykhouse, Don (Smokey)

Givens, Helen Reardon, Art Reddy, Mel Apodaca, Don Bonthon, Bill Gaynor, Joan Mercer, Rich and Brenda Teeman, Gerry and Elaine Minnis, Barry and Susan Fisher, Rita and Jim Sutton, Paul and Maria Myron, Jim and Joann Willis, Jim Vogts, Jim and Florice Harris, Bob and Candy Havercroft, Dave and Loxi Hagthrop, Ernie and Teddi Roop, Rich and Judi Wilabee, Phil and Ardella Staats, Tony and Chris Palmer, Jerry and Nancy Burks, Lou and Gloria Portesi, Don and Betty Cannon, and Jim and Bette Shuler. We are scheduling our next get-together on April 25 at *Mitch's*. Cheers from Dave and Loxi.

On January 31, 12 of us retirees met at *Carrows Restaurant* in Lancaster for our monthly breakfast. Coffee or hot tea was the first item ordered to ward off the chill of the cold wind that was blowing from the West. It seems that the weather forecasters were correct in the weather predictions, a highly unusual action on their part, as sometime during the early morning hours we experienced the phenomenon of wet things falling from the heavy clouds in the sky and being blown horizontally across the valley. Although it is an appreciated and welcome sight for our arid desert, it was not enough to make a significant change in our needs.

As usual, the table conversations centered primarily on politics, Sheriff's Department concerns and health issues, which are the common grounds for all of the retired members of the Sheriff's Department, regardless of where the gatherings are held. Of concern and topic of discussion was the action by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors hiring Orange County Undersheriff Scott to the position of

continued on page 6



By Lee Davis
Community College Bureau

Greetings from the College Bureau.

NEW YEAR'S GREETING

Now that you have spent tons of money and eaten about the same amount of food during the holiday season, it is time to get into the swing of things in 2014. I know many people who have set goals for themselves, both personal and professional. Whatever your goals are, I hope that you achieve them. Stick with it and don't give up this time. OK, that's my motivational rant for the month.

"THE" PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Here at the Bureau, we have an awesome group of employees who help keep our Bureau running and alive. The professional staff consists of the captain's secretary, operations assistant, senior clerk, Sheriff's station clerk II, crime analyst and law enforcement technicians. You may not get the chance to see them, but you may get emails from them periodically through the week. It seems bothersome or annoying at times, but believe it or not, they have a very difficult task on a daily basis. For one second, imagine trying to square away someone's time and timesheet, ordering goods and services through ECAPS, maintaining our fleet, keeping track of crime statistics or inputting reports into LARCIS. Now, I don't know about you, but I gave myself a headache just from remembering what they do, and that's not even all of what their duties consist of. I, for one, am appreciative of the awesome job they do. I wouldn't want to trade places with them, because it is hard enough trying to get people to respond to simple emails as it is. We get caught up sometimes in our own world and never stop to think about how things get done that we don't know about but that affect us in one way or another. So I will take this time to say *thank you*, professional staff, for all that you do, whether seen or unseen. The following names are responsible for the aforementioned duties: Sherryl Fantroy, Tanya Evans, Regina Mimms, LaShelle Washington, Marisa Tomlinson, Lakeisha Fielders, Tunisha Murray, Lee Hutchinson and our newest addition to the family, Jasmin Sun. We hope that you bug them with emails or calls of thanks, just as they bug you with repeated emails and calls that are for your own good.

L.A. VALLEY COLLEGE SHERIFF STATION'S LATEST

Recently, L.A. Valley College had a major incident that occurred in one of the parking lots that are patrolled by Sheriff's personnel. The incident required a containment where one of our Sheriff's security officers was posted. While sitting in the driver's seat of the patrol vehicle, Officer Daniel Romero had the front end of the vehicle struck by a motorist who was driving at a high rate of speed. The impact of the accident turned his vehicle in the opposite direction and knocked the bumper approximately 65 feet from his car. Ironically, 10 seconds prior, he was sitting on the hood of his vehicle. Officer Romero was transported to a local hospital and later released. He is home doing well and is very thankful to report just that. The driver of the other vehicle was later detained by Officers John Ernest, Guillermo Elias and Bryan Alvaranga without further incident. The photo shown is the actual vehicle that Officer Romero was seated in. This is a quick reminder of just how dangerous this job can be. This was also a major learning experience for all involved. Please be careful out there, ladies and gentleman. We do a job that most people don't have the courage to, and our undivided attention is required

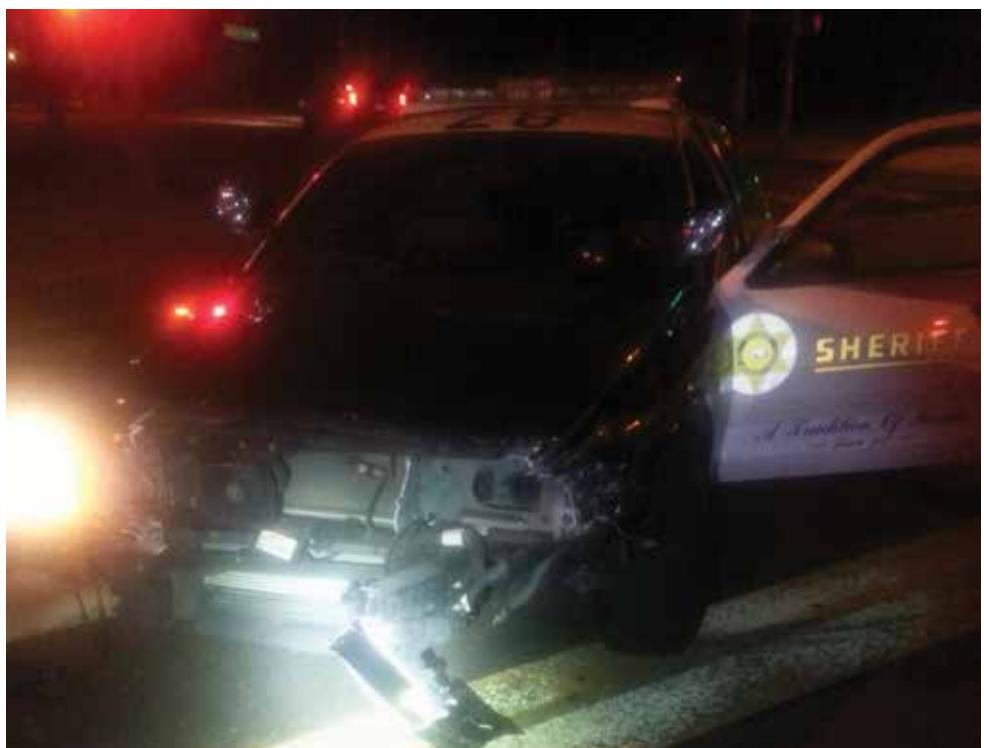
on a daily basis because our lives depend on it and so do the people we go home to.

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

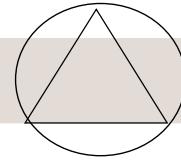
If you have been around long enough to remember this song, feel free to sing along with me. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, just ask your parents or grandparents. "Now it's time to say goodbye to all our company. L-I-N, In with the new, out with the 'young'! D-A-B, Beam is now Linda's new water! E-C-K-E-R!" OK, enough of that. Our captain has ended her relationship with this profound gun club called the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She ended her career on a high note by being assigned to our Bureau. May she enjoy the spoils of retirement and live the rest of her life to the fullest. She passes the torch to incoming Captain Cheryl Newman-Tarwater. Let's welcome our new unit commander and show her how intricate and special this unit is.

To the team leaders and staff, please remember to send me any pictures or incidents, whether humorous or not. I would love to include them in our monthly articles. Thank you for your time in reading this article.

Community College Bureau, Homeland Security Division, over and out. ☆



Peace Officer's Fellowship



By Chris Minor

STRAIGHT UP

Know your Marines and look out for their welfare." Many Marines will recognize this edict and understand its meaning. It is just one of the leadership principles to be followed by a supervisor in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). I recently read a newspaper opinion piece about private industry using this principle with "people" substituting for "Marines," and I had that "Aha!" moment. Maybe we need to visit that list and put it to work in so many ways; follow me and see where we can improve. I've written before about supervisors, and how they need to watch their subordinates for signs of distress and substance-abuse-related issues. I've also touched on the issue of FTOs and their trainees and the need to know them and what makes them tick. I've spoken to both Sergeant Supervisory School and FTO training classes about these same issues in relationship to alcohol and drug use. Both of these jobs are critical to the operational efficiency of the Department, but more importantly, the operation of employees with whom they interact. Both positions, ideally, require someone invested in training, mentoring and supervising so that the mission is *competently* fulfilled. But many of us have seen and have heard of too many people in these positions having forgotten (or never having known) what they were really supposed to do for their fellow employees, using the spot as a steppingstone. The USMC is invested in completing a military mission safely and trusting that its leaders know the best Marine for a particular task. This is one of the most important ideals for supervisors to take to heart, and I direct this article to those who are in such a position. In the LASD, the job of sergeant as a first-line supervisor has, over the years, unfortunately become more of a manager than a coach and mentor. But still, knowing the strengths, weaknesses and personalities of your subordinates, and taking note of when there might be something wrong with an employee, is a priority.

These people have agreed to give up their anonymity so that others who are in need of help can find the POF. 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*	(562) 493-5465	(323) 537-0927	
Joe Collins	(320) 684-4008	(909) 240-0509	
Chris Loomis	(626) 447-9011	(626) 230-3137	
Bob Ghan		(714) 916-3299	
Ray Terhorst	(505) 705-5656		
John Heckman	(661) 272-5756		
Marty Weirich	(360) 570-1216		
John Valencia	(909) 599-1160	(951) 316-3633	
Kathy King		(714) 323-8600	

*Active LASD

Knowledge of your troops could save a career or life, maybe even yours, especially when alcohol or drugs have entered the picture.

For supervisors, including FTOs, addressing red flags that indicate a problem and handling the issue with *competence* and *confidence* goes a long way in showing your responsibility. Sometimes in these training classes I use a clip from a longer video that was produced by LAPD in the early 1990s. The excerpt is of a now-retired deputy interviewed about being arrested for DUI, but more importantly, his alcoholism. One of his sergeants was interviewed and claimed she was aware (as many others were) of his drinking problem, but she didn't connect his poor, insubordinate and angry attitude with his drinking. She stated that how much he had to drink wasn't the issue; she was interested in his job performance. While a supervisor must be aware of job performance and document the good and bad, she missed the huge red flag flying in her face. I'm not accusing her of being a poor supervisor, but rather pointing out that some of the red flags are really obvious.

Another principle, "Develop a sense of responsibility among your subordinates," allows a leader to show interest in the welfare of subordinates

by giving them the opportunity for professional development by assigning tasks or delegating authority to promote a mutual confidence and respect. If, as a supervisor, you gain the trust of your subordinates, they will follow where you lead. They *may* also trust to open up and discuss their problems with you, trusting that you will be able to show them the right way.

"Set the example" is a principle that needs no explanation. Don't have a double standard; there is no faster way to lose the respect and confidence of your troops. This principle states that "Leadership is taught by example." There's a familiar ring to that, yes?

And while there are other principles that are fitting, one of the best to offer here is "Know yourself and seek improvement." The principle recommends using leadership traits to evaluate *you* and determine your strengths and weaknesses. Work to improve your weaknesses and utilize your strengths. Following these principles costs nothing and the bottom line is a better supervisor comes out; the leader, as well as those who follow, stands to win. And for those with some possibly debilitating human frailties, they might get noticed sooner and get the help they really need. Be seeing you. ☆

Retired Deputies *continued from page 4*

interim Sheriff of Los Angeles County. Attending the breakfast were Mary McKain, Ron Nybakken, Glenn Hutchinson, Marvin Jones, Ron Oest, Jay Seibert, Vance Kirkpatrick, Pat Hood, Keith Hoyt, Gil Sherwood, Dan Gilmore and yours truly, Carlos Valdez. For information regarding social activities for retired deputies residing in the Antelope Valley, please contact Carlos Valdez at Valdez5150@msn.com.

It appears I was Terry Black's "Question for the day" in your "Retired Deputies" January 2014 article. I still have about five years before I retire from the Department. My current assignment is FCC/Technical Operations Detail "Tech Crew," which I have enjoyed over the last 13 years. My prior assignments were Personnel (2000), Temple Station (1996-2000) and the Criminal Courts/Metro Traffic Buildings (1988-1996). Thank you for your interest!

— Brian J. De Ruyter. So now we all know the answer to Terry Black's question in his article!

For your information: If you plan on going to the Baker to Vegas Relay on March 22, the gas and diesel in Pahrump is cheaper than in Las Vegas. Both are a lot cheaper than California!

Enjoy your fabulous retirement. Get out there and have fun while you can! Signing off for this month, Chickee and Don. ☆



West Hollywood Knights

By Jill Gardner
West Hollywood Station

Hello from West Hollywood Station! Unfortunately, we have to begin with some sad news. We have lost another family member, Mei Ling Lee-Harden. Mei Ling joined the Sheriff's Department in July 2010 as a Station Clerk II here at West Hollywood Station. She always had a smile and a special way of bringing a ray of light into any room. In September 2013, she transferred to County Services to make her commute a little easier. But a short time later, in January 2014, Mei Ling passed away after a short battle with cancer. Those of us who knew her are certain Mei Ling was the type of person who would want us celebrating her life instead of mourning her loss. She definitely lived a life worthy of celebration.

Mei Ling was so humble that very few people knew she had so many accomplishments. Mei Ling attended Loyola Marymount University (LMU), where she majored in English. After graduation, she entered UCLA, where she received a Juris Doctorate in 1982. Mei Ling was a giving person and volunteered with the Desert Refuge for Peace Officers for the last 14 years. She could not deny and was often guilty of rescuing every stray animal that crossed her path. Lastly, she was an amazing swing dancer and loved to teach others as well. Mei Ling will be dearly missed by her two wonderful children, Ernest and Meryl, as well as her husband, Phil. The services were well attended by her many friends, family and Sheriff's Department family from both West Hollywood and County Services. Captain Gary Honings celebrated her life through words of reflection to everyone. Thinking about her kindness makes me

smile. She will be missed by everyone.

On a lighter note, I must report a very embarrassing event. A couple of weeks ago, several of us (including an unnamed sergeant) got trapped in an elevator. While doing parole compliance checks, our sergeant told us to get in the elevator to go up one floor. Being that there were nine of us plus a dog, and it was only one flight of stairs, we all hesitated. Our fearless leader assured us it would be OK and told us to squeeze in, so we did. However, shortly after we started to ascend, the elevator came to an abrupt stop, and we were indeed trapped. We rang the bell and pressed all the buttons — no luck. At that point I knew there was only one way out: Call the fire department. Being that the elevator was full of cops, nobody wanted to call for help, so we waited, and waited, and waited. This could have been an episode of *Seinfeld*. Eventually it became evident to all we were not getting out without help. I took the reins and made the call. This was way too embarrassing to put out over dispatch. I wish you could see the faces of the firefighters when they pried the doors open and looked down into the elevator and saw nine cops and a dog! One sworn individual, a little frightened by the whole event, pushed everyone out of the way as he made his exit. A



firefighter commented, "So much for women and children first."

Lastly, congratulations are in order! By the time you read this, our Operations Lieutenant, Cheryl Newman-Tarwater, will be Captain Newman-Tarwater at Community College Bureau. Congratulations, Captain! Speaking of promotions, Michelle-rene Marmolejo has been promoted to Forensic Identification Specialist and moved on to Scientific Services Bureau. Way to go, Michelle! Also, this month we will be welcoming Ms. Veronica Barba, Station Clerk I.

That's all for now, folks! See you all in Las Vegas for B2V. Let's remember to all look out for each other — we are one big family now and always! Be safe! ☆



THE HALL OF JUSTICE RECONSTRUCTION

By Chris Miller, Los Angeles Sheriffs' Museum

Starting in 1926, when the Hall of Justice opened, it was the headquarters for the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Coroner's Office, Public Defender and Tax Collector. Through the years, all of the other County departments moved out, leaving just the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff, his executives and other units remained there until 1994, when it was closed due to damage from the Northridge earthquake. The Hall of Justice remained empty for years until money was allocated to repair and retrofit the building to withstand earthquakes.

In the spring of 2015, when the Sheriff's Department returns to the Hall of Justice, there will be some major changes. The Hall will be occupied by personnel from the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office will occupy the second and third floors, as well as the ninth through 12th floors. The Sheriff's Department will occupy the basement and first floor, along with the fourth through eighth floors. The Sheriff and other Department executives will be located on the eighth floor. Other command staff will be on the seventh floor, and Personnel Bureau will be on the fourth and part of the fifth floor. Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau will be located on the first floor. There will also be a media room for press conferences and an interpretive center dedicated to the history of the Hall of Justice on the first floor.

Air conditioning was not installed in office buildings until the 1930s. The Hall of Justice was built in 1925 without air conditioning. Because of this, the Hall did not have drop ceilings that would allow the installation of air-conditioning duct work. Once demolition began, the interior of the Hall of Justice was completely removed, leaving just columns, beams, floors and a selected amount of staircases. Also, the Grand Loggia, one courtroom and one jury room will remain. All of the jail cells were removed. Since the jail cells were on the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th floors, they had a lower floor-to-floor height, thus creating a lower ceiling. This was done because if the ceilings were a normal height the jail bars would have to go up a lot higher, which would have resulted in a higher cost. This also would have added more weight on the lower floors. These lower floor-to-floor heights did not allow enough room to install modern office building infrastructure, such as duct work for air conditioning and heating. Because of this, the floor between the 10th and 12th floors and the floor between the 12th and 14th floors were removed. This resulted in the Hall of Justice going from 14 floors to 12 floors. Both of these floors now have high floor-to-floor heights. So the 10th and 11th floors



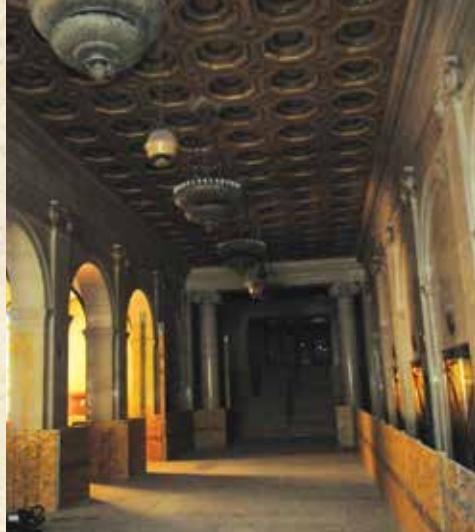
The low-ceilinged jail corridor and freeway before the renovation

are now the 10th floor and the 12th and 13th floors are now the 11th floor. The 14th floor is now the 12th floor. All of the structures that were on the roof have been removed. Most of them were not authorized to be built, so they had to be removed anyway.

There were only three areas within the interior of the entire Hall of Justice that were not altered. The lobby was primarily kept the same to help preserve the historical characteristics. A courtroom and jury room on the eighth floor were also kept unaltered except for refinishing the walls and ceiling. The courtroom and jury room both had extensive water damage to their ceilings from flooding in the jail throughout the years.



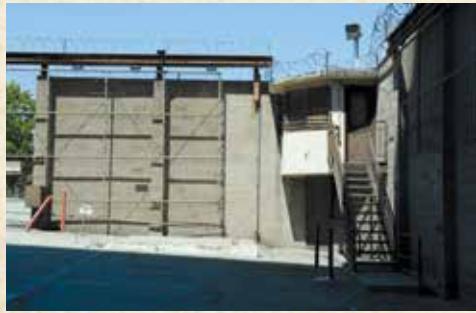
A courtroom after renovation, with refinished walls and ceiling



The lobby before the renovation



Removing a story between the jail floors created the space needed to install duct work.



The jail compound before it was removed to make way for a new parking structure



The lobby after renovation, with its historic details preserved



A courtroom before renovation, showing ceiling water damage



An office area with the new higher ceiling

The new Hall of Justice parking structure

Parking at the Hall has always been a problem. To solve this, the jail compound area was removed and a parking structure put in its place. The parking structure will accommodate 1,000 cars in its 10 levels, five below ground and five above ground. Clark Construction, which is refurbishing the Hall of Justice, is scheduled to be finished by late 2014. Moving furniture in and installing computers and phones to get everything up and running is expected to be completed around the beginning of 2015. Sheriff and District Attorney personnel are expected to begin moving in by the spring of 2015. ☆



By Andrea Arroyo
Century Regional Detention Facility



When was the last time you did something thoughtful and unexpected for someone else? Was it picking up a Saturday shift so your co-worker could attend their child's baseball game or as simple as letting someone else take the parking spot in a crowded parking lot? These are small acts of kindness that can change a person's attitude and restore faith in humanity.

This month we would like to focus on paying it forward. This is when something good happens to you and you turn around and do something good for someone else. Here at CRDF, our facility motto, "Excellence Through People," coincides with this month's focus on paying it forward. Our facility personnel have been working hard and thanks to our supportive supervisors, excellent work does not go unnoticed.



WELCOME TO CRDF

It is our pleasure to welcome new staff at our facility. We would like to welcome Lieutenants Mark Guerrero, Robert Medrano and Roberta Granek. We also welcome Sergeants Nancy Escobedo, Joann Rodriguez, Maria Abal, Jeffrey Bodholdt, Clayton Marion, Deanna Santino and Gregory Stannard. We are so happy to have you with us!

Thank you to the sergeants who are on loan from other facilities and assist our staff every day; they are: Robert Goltz, Ray Maifeld, Gladys Meyer and Theodore Prohov.

intervention. She did an amazing performance for the benefit of training our line staff. In addition, CRDF would like to thank the Training Unit for their continued efforts to ensure all personnel are well-trained in all areas of custody operations, and preparing our patrol-bound deputies for their next assignments.

OSJ IS NOW BACK AT CRDF

Deputy Clark Theodore and Deputy Jessica Barlow from Custody Investigative Services Unit are now assigned to OSJ at CRDF. Welcome to CRDF!



LOCKS OF LOVE

Custody Assistant Brenda Resendiz took on a great task organizing the donations of human hair to help provide hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children with medical hair loss. The nonprofit organization Locks of Love has now received donations from 50 female inmates at CRDF. Thank you to Officer Resendiz and Bonus Deputy Tammy Sherman (EBI) for taking the time and initiative to organize this effort at our facility. Officer Resendiz also heads the facility inmate beauty salon and because of her ability to gather donations from the community she has made this a challenging, but successful endeavor.

As always, CRDF believes in "Excellence Through People" like all of you, so keep up the wonderful work and be safe! ☆



BEST ACTRESS AWARD

Officer Reza did an outstanding job portraying an inmate during a training video for suicide

SUPERSTARS OF THE MONTH

As the year carries on, a moment of gratitude helps us appreciate the excellent partners we have. Thank you to the following CRDF personnel for your great leadership and dependable work ethic at our facility: Deputies Sandra Mendez, Lauren Britt, Dulce Scira, Mabel De La Torre, Ericka Navarro, Lisa Diaz, Maricela Dusky, Sandy Ochoa, Araceli Hernandez, Vanessa Guzman and Cristina Pernas-Ortiz; and Custody Assistants



By Mitch Hodrick
Court Services West Bureau

A little over four years ago, my younger sister reported for work as a high-level manager for a large health care provider based in the southeast portion of the United States. After coffee and pleasantries with her fellow co-workers, she took up her usual place at her desk. Within the half-hour, witnesses reportedly heard a high-pitched scream. Successfully locating the source of the scream, the office workers found my sister on the floor in the middle of her office. She had no pulse. She was not breathing. After resuscitation at the ER, the doctors found a tumor on her brain. Predicting she had less than a 10 percent chance of living, they were given the go-ahead to perform a desperate, experimental surgery in order to save her from certain death with a grim prognosis of her future....

This past Thanksgiving, my sister celebrated her 50th birthday by throwing herself a party where friends and family were thrilled with the opportunity to videotape her dancing like a loon as she made her solo entrance into the hall. This true scenario has a lot to do with all of us; over the past holiday season you might have appreciated family, friends and life as much as I did. May the coming year be approached with enthusiasm and optimism. Nothing and no one is to be taken for granted, but enough of that, right? Thanks for letting me share.

For months, Lieutenant Wilson (Chatsworth OPS), via Lieutenant Parker (Long Beach Court), has been extolling the virtues of one Security Officer Lydell Ball out of Long Beach Court. I already made mention of how important it was to bring to light the quiet, unassuming, yet exceptional dedication to service being performed on a daily basis by one of our teammates. S.O. Ball certainly deserves a bit of praise, whether or not he thinks he actually deserves it, which typifies a gentle hero to the public. At the time of the construction of this particular article, all attempts at contacting S.O. Ball had been met with negative results. Lieutenant Parker spoke with me briefly, and with a bit of suspicion, after I called to inquire about who has to be a valued member of his unit. While assigned to the old Long Beach Court location, S.O. Ball routinely took it upon himself to look after the safety and welfare of the numerous homeless individuals near and around the old facility, choosing not to turn a blind eye to the best of his ability.

Mr. Rick Lopez was one of the food and "pogey bait" (USMC slang for M&Ms and Fiddle-Faddles)

vendors and apparently another fixture at the old facility. S.O. Ball made it his business to assist Mr. Lopez, who had fallen on difficult times. Each morning S.O. Ball helped Mr. Lopez set up shop. He would take Mr. Lopez on Costco runs to restock, and would see to it that he made it home in the evening after work. Many people assigned to the old building, and others passing through due to "court-ordered business," admired S.O. Ball's ability to attach names to faces, which is a clear indication of caring for the sake of caring. S.O. Ball made sure to religiously match a kind word with one in return, and we all know how difficult that might be depending on what time of day it is.

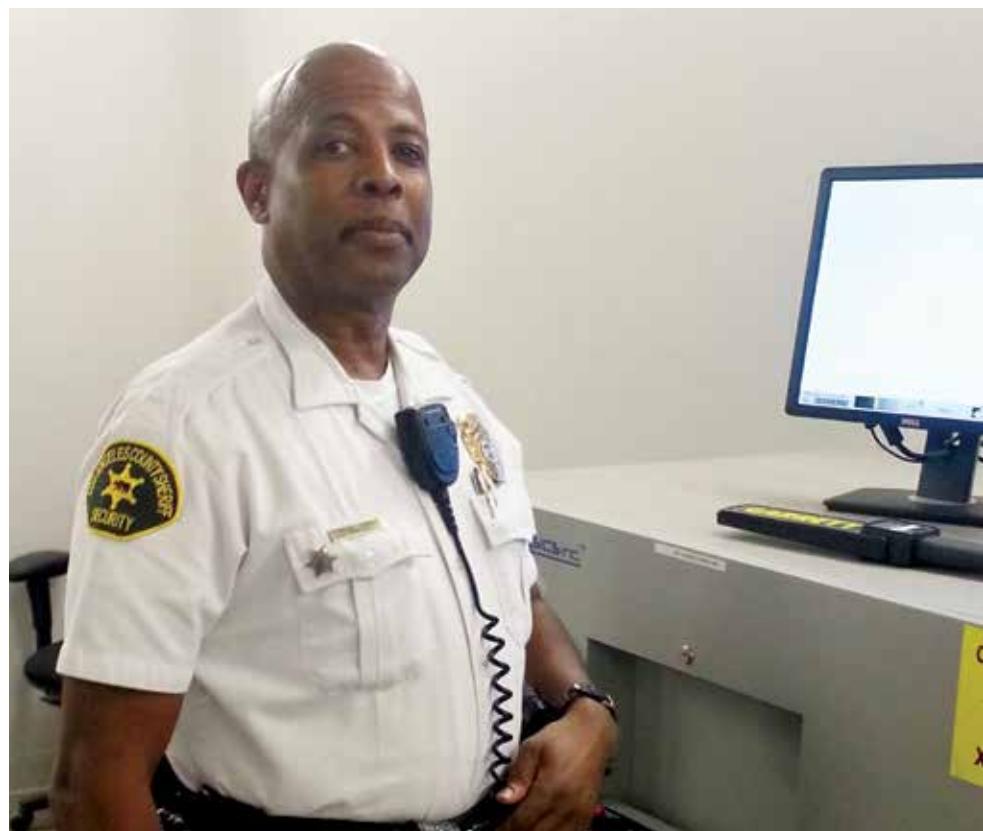
I've never met Mr. Ball, but he reminds me of some of the people I've met who used to work in and around the old HOJJ building back in the day, the majority of whom are no longer on the Department. This warm-natured attitude toward his fellow man seems like a welcome throwback. I know exactly who he is. Due to some sort of strange bureaucracy, Mr. Lopez's vendor contract wasn't honored, and therefore he wasn't able to make the move to Long Beach Court's new facility. However, upon hearing that S.O. Ball had been off due to an

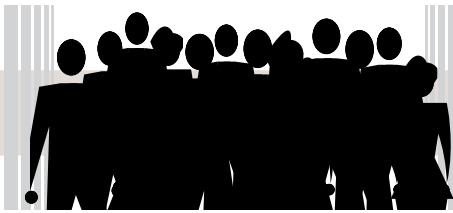
illness, Mr. Lopez paid a visit to make sure S.O. Ball was following the instructions of his doctors.

Man, I'll tell ya: I'm a little bit jealous I don't have access to his constructive energy, but I'm starting to feel a little better about myself just being able to recount his interactions with not only staff, but the public. You have to ask yourself why a person chooses to take the high road each day, and does it require any more energy to impact people on a positive level as opposed to negative? It's the same as my recent experience over the holidays celebrating my sister's full recovery from a brain tumor by not concentrating on the relentless onslaught of materialism, but by sharing all that makes men and women better people, and that's by taking care of each other for the sake of it.

Mr. Ball, of Long Beach Court, is another shining example of one person within a very large organization who clearly makes a difference in people's lives, and there are many on the Sheriff's Department quietly going about the business of getting the job done simply because it has to be

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PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

By Mike Rodi

Hello again, everyone. I hope everyone is doing well.

ESSB is looking forward to our three-day Peer Support training on March 4, 5 and 6. If you know someone who is interested, please let us know. Each person will be required to fill out an application and get their unit commander's approval to participate in the training. We are asking for a two-year commitment to the program. We are also always

looking for armed services veterans for our Vets-4-Vets program, as well.

We should be very busy this year. Hopefully, with CARPing on the decline, we can get back to three or four Peer Support training days a year. We will also be having another OIS certification training day early in the year.

It has been great watching other departments join the Peer Support program over the last two years. I am looking forward to networking with

more this year, and sharing new training options and experiences with these other departments. It is awesome to have other law enforcement agencies follow us with these programs and hear the positive feedback they get from their troops.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at marodi@lasd.org or call (213) 738-3500. ☆



East Los Angeles Station

EAST LOS ANGELES 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

East Los Angeles is proud to announce its 90th anniversary celebration, slated for September 27, 2014. There will be two events taking place that day, the first at East Los Angeles Station from 1100 hours to 1600 hours, and the second at *Steven's Steak House* from 1800 hours to 0000 hours.

We are still in the planning stages; however,

during both events there will be photos of East Los Angeles Station retired personnel and alumni still working on the Department.

East Los Angeles Station is requesting that anyone with old or current on-duty photos of past and present East Los Angeles personnel please send us copies (originals will be returned). The pictures will be posted on the station's walls for attendees to see during the celebration.

All current and former station personnel are highly encouraged to attend. A number of memorabilia will be displayed throughout the station. Lunch and refreshments will be provided during both events.

There will be further details as the event draws near. For additional information, please contact the East Los Angeles Station 90th Committee at (323) 264-4151 or email ela90@lasd.org (photos can also be sent to this address). ☆

Court Services West Bureau *continued from page 11*

done; no fuss, no muss. Well done, sir.

Not wanting anyone to think I was getting paid to present "The Ball Show," I can't wait to get details or the results of the deep saltwater fishing trip being organized by Deputy Brad Szarkowski of Antelope Valley Court, where, as everyone knows, there's plenty of deep saltwater up on the golden shores off Beech Avenue. Anyway, the plan is for a one-day trip out of the Channel Islands. Brad is requesting an email from interested parties to determine the size of the boat...Discovery Channel's coverage of Shark Week ensures I will continue to buy my perch from the market. Natch!

Oh yeah, the captain thought it might be a fun idea (she was right, of course) for me to receive a whole lot of emails from folks throughout the unit so I could include in the New Year's article all the resolutions people intended to break, but I didn't receive one, which just goes to show the men and women of Court Services West are the embodiment of perfection, and we don't need to make no stinkin' resolutions. Seriously, not many decent people wish to toot their own horn and I know how awkward it might feel to send an email explaining why you should be president, but if you run across a good deed committed by a

hardworking buddy, what better way of saying how much you appreciate them than by letting them see their names in print as confirmation of their dedication to service? That way a person can frame the issue they were the star of and hang it on the wall right next to the Photoshopped picture of the 60-foot shark they caught off the Channel Islands! For now, I wish for everyone to stay safe and alert. Young deputies, S.O.s and staff: If you think you have a problem that can't be fixed, run it by one of your older cohorts and you'll be surprised by the wealth of knowledge right in your own backyard. Take care. ☆



By Christine Ostrander
Norwalk Station

Welcome back for another exciting edition of the *Star News*. I've received some real goodies this month and I hope that I haven't forgotten anyone in the process. I want to begin by thanking the captain for making my job so much easier by sending out weekly emails full of the goings-on, and all my partners for their contributions as well.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thanks to everyone who helped make our New Year's Eve a success. We had about four dozen of Norwalk's finest out and about, and I'm glad to say we pulled off the night without a hitch. A lot of calls for service, but no major incidents...and...everyone was able to make it back to the barn for a phenomenal BBQ. Thanks also to all the supervisors working that night who ponied up some \$\$ to finance the event, but especially to Mike Inge, who coordinated and handled virtually all the logistics for the event, and Bradd Molner, who absolutely killed it with his smoked pork shoulders and brisket. These two spent a whole lot of their own time and money prepping for the event, and I am grateful that everyone rolled in and really made it worthwhile...everyone except for David Jimenez and Danny Han, that is, who had the good excuse of making the *first* hook of 2014 — a tasty little Possession for Sales.

If all this weren't enough, we had a visit from our chief and commander, who had been invited to stay for dinner at another station that was ordering pizza — but who'd heard of Bradd's smoking skills and saved the best (that's



us, NWK) for last. And just when you think it couldn't get any better, I think we had a visit from a superhero — the Green Hornet, or something like that. Thanks again to everyone who put in a solid night of work.



MAJOR AWARD

Our very own Deputy Blanca Creta has set La Mirada on fire with her 502 arrests. Blanca hooked enough drunk drivers this past year to easily qualify for the MADD award. As if that weren't enough, Blanca hooked more deuces by herself than many stations arrested in total!



PATROL HOOK OF THE MONTH

This month's award goes to Deputy Johnny Perez. After taking a stolen vehicle report, he went the extra step and patrolled the surrounding area to search for the vehicle. A short time later, he spotted the stolen vehicle rolling and was immediately pushed into a pursuit. The bad guy ended up bailiing out and trying to hunker down in a yard. Deputies were too quick for him and had a tight containment set up right away. He was caught within minutes and was later identified as a fugitive "Varrio Norwalk" gangster who was a named suspect in several other cases.

DETECTIVE BUREAU INVESTIGATIONS OF THE MONTH

Between CARPing and their regular duties, our detectives don't get enough credit for all the work they accomplish. With that in mind, here are the most recent Investigative Cases of the Month from Detective Bureau:

Investigation of the Month — October 2013
Detective Paul Gonzalez and Detective Marc Sierra

While investigating an ADW case in which the victim was hospitalized with a severe brain injury, Detectives Gonzalez and Sierra quickly assessed the situation, decided upon a course of action and set the appropriate resources on that course. Their actions resulted in the identification of a crime scene, the gathering of evidence, and ultimately the identity and arrest of the outstanding suspects, who were convinced to surrender. After interviewing all the suspects, the witness and the victim's family, and reviewing the evidence late into the night, they were able to determine the incident was most likely started by the victim and the "suspects" had acted in self-defense.

Investigation of the Month — November 2013
Detective Mark Christiansen

Detective Christiansen was assigned a case that involved an ADW, the theft of a truck containing \$50K in DJ equipment, and felony evading. With an excellent investigation, he was able to ascertain the truth of the matter and show that the suspect was very willingly involved in the whole caper. After a tedious, complex and time-consuming follow-up investigation, he was able to recover 90% of the victim's DJ equipment. He then wrote an outstanding supplemental report detailing his actions, which made an easy job of allowing the DA to file charges of grand theft, vehicle theft and felony evading.

Investigation of the Month — December 2013
Detective Ted Caraisco and Crime Analyst Carlos Hernandez

While diligently reviewing similar crimes, Crime Analyst Carlos Hernandez identified two suspects he believed might be responsible for a robbery and burglary in the station's area. He contacted Detective Caraisco with his findings, who agreed they were potential

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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.*

Leroy D. Baca Sheriff	Samuel R. Dendekker Homicide Bureau	Nena P. Mutia Medical Services Bureau
Linda A. Becker Community Colleges	Ross N. Dodson Court Services East Bureau	Ricardo Perez Civil Management Bureau
Paul Becker Santa Clarita Valley Station	Michael A. Duran East Los Angeles Station	Richard G. Perez Men's Central Jail
Robert O. Blanks County Services Bureau	Robert W. Freed Facilities Services Bureau	Richard T. Pfeiffer Community Colleges Bureau
David L. Bly Internal Investigations Bureau	Edward A. Garcia Court Services East Bureau	William D. Phelton North Facility
David J. Bobo Twin Towers Facility Division	Paul M. Hanley Transit Services Bureau	Romel Piggue Industry Station
Montel L. Bryant Court Services West Bureau	Kathy J. Hayashi Office of the Assistant Sheriff	Anthony A. Pitillo Court Services Bureau West
Wanda F. Cannon West Hollywood Station	Floyd R. Hayhurst Administrative Services Bureau	Kevin D. Roberts Men's Central Jail
Sandra L. Carrillo Narcotics Bureau	Patricia Hocking Inmate Reception Center	Michael J. Rodriguez Homicide Bureau
Lee A. Carter Jr. County Services Bureau	Sylvia C. Johnson Food Services	Victor D. Rodriguez Narcotics Bureau
Aubrey L. Colerick Temple Station	Miguel A. Macedo East Los Angeles Station	David A. Smiley Industry Station
Adriana Covell Court Services Bureau East	Mark L. Machanic Lancaster Station	Carl E. Thomas Lancaster Station
Zenaida G. Cruz Medical Services Bureau	Donald H. Matern North County Correctional Facility	Juan M. Velasco Transportation Bureau
Jerry C. Cummins Compton Station	Philip E. Morris Narcotics Bureau	Ronald S. Williams Court Services East Bureau

Norwalk Station *continued from page 13*

suspects as well. Detective Caraisco created a photo lineup for each suspect and showed them to the victims, who positively identified them as suspects in the crimes, and both suspects admitted their involvement. This resulted in the filing of felony charges against the suspects.

Believing the suspects may have been involved in additional crimes, Crime Analyst Hernandez prepared an "Arrest of Interest" flyer and distributed it to local agencies. Within days, Whittier P.D. contacted them expressing their belief that the suspects were responsible for similar crimes in their area as well.

NORWALK STATION ALUMNI REUNION

One of our former reserve deputies, Tabby Hoffman-Vasquez (wife of retired Sergeant Fernie Vasquez), is arranging a Norwalk Alumni Reunion Party for all active, retired, past, present, sworn, civilian, reserves and volunteers. The date is May 8, the cost is \$35 per person and the place is Westridge Golf Club (La Habra).

This is a prepaid event; all monies must be in by April 20. Price includes buffet dinner, beef and chicken fajitas, rice and beans, corn and flour tortillas, chips and salsa bar, water, iced tea and coffee station, assorted desserts and the banquet

room for five hours. From 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. will be a social hour, followed by a buffet dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and then from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. there will be time to catch up with friends and family, tell stories, laugh and have fun with great people!

For more information, contact Teri Kolinski, Norwalk Station, at (562) 466-5463, or Frank Barragan, Norwalk Station, at (562) 466-5453.

In closing, I'd like to thank you all for joining us in celebrating our partners and occasionally getting a good laugh at the bad guy's expense. Until next time, keep safe and *watch the hands!* ☆

COUNTY SERVICES BUREAU

By John Coleman
County Services Bureau

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Recently some of the personnel here at County Services Bureau were recognized for their hard work throughout the year. The Lieutenant of the Year Award went to Michael O'Shea, and the Sergeant of the Year was Annadennise Briz. Detective of the Year went to Deborah Romero, and Deputy of the Year was Clint Duran. The Law Enforcement Technician of the Year went to Giovanni Franco. All of them are very deserving of the award.



TREASURE

This story goes back to the first few days of County Services Bureau. When we moved into the Hall of Records, we had numerous items left behind by the prior tenant, the County Police. One item in particular was a safe, left in a storage room in the basement of the building. If you have not already looked at the accompanying picture, it was about four feet tall and had to weigh at least 700 pounds. Trying to clean out the storage closet, we had tried to move it several times with no luck. The thing is, the safe was closed and locked, so we had no idea what was inside. The first thing we checked for was a Post-it Note on the back of the safe with the combination. We could not find the combination or any information about what the safe was even used for. Over the course of the next three and a half years, there was a lot of speculation as to what was inside. You should have heard some of rumors going around here. Everything from long-lost evidence to jewelry and possibly even gold bars. Honestly, most of us wanted the safe gone just to clear up some room in the storage closet.

The day finally came about a month ago. They had to call in a specialized locksmith to open it before the County movers could take it away. There was a buzz in the air that morning as word got around the locksmith was on his way. The best way I could describe the scene was straight



out of that made-for-TV special from back in the mid-'80s, when Geraldo Rivera hosted a live show in the basement of the Lexington Hotel in Chicago. He was touting the opening of a secret vault owned by none other than Al Capone. For those who don't remember, they found nothing but a bunch of dirt. Anyway, there were quite a few spectators coming by as the safecracker was doing his magic. I'm sure it did not help the speed of things with so many of us staring at him as he worked on the safe. Finally the door of the safe was unlocked. It must have been all of the hype, because everyone's eyes were huge as the door was slowly opened. The excitement quickly changed as someone yelled out, "I can't believe there is nothing in there." After all this time, there was *nothing* in there. Well, I guess the only bright side to the major letdown of everyone's hopes of lost County treasure was a little more room in the storage closet.

OLD SCHOOL

One of our lieutenants assigned here at County Services Bureau hit a major milestone a few months back. As you can see in the accompanying picture, Chief Buddy Goldman is presenting Lieutenant Jaime Baltazar with a pair of bookends to acknowledge his County service time. You might be asking how many years it takes to receive the bookends. As it turns out, you only need to put

in 40 years of service. Word on the yard is that now that Sheriff Leroy Baca has retired, Jaime is at the top of the seniority list on the Department. I would not doubt this, as his employee number does start with two zeroes. I know that's hard to believe, but you can verify this in Outlook if you want. I guess having employee numbers that low might come in handy when you sign up for vacation every year. I have had the pleasure of working for him two different times, although there was about a 10-year gap in between. Honestly, I'm not even so sure he liked me the first time around. After he got stuck with me this second time, I think I just wore him down. He even stopped using that analytical interviewing stuff on me. Just to put into perspective how long ago he started his law enforcement career, it only took 45 cents to buy a dozen eggs then, and 40 cents to buy a gallon of gas. The most popular song on the radio was "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," and the most-watched television show in America was *All in the Family*. Rumor has it that when he graduated the Academy, to celebrate he went to the movies and saw *The Exorcist*. Just so you don't have to do any algebra, the year was 1973. I know the lieutenant would say the time has gone by relatively quickly, but that sure is a long time. There is no word on when he will retire. I guess that will be determined when the urge to play golf every day overrides the need to get up early and head into work. I will let you know when he hits the 50-year mark. I wonder what the gift from the County and Department will be for that milestone.

Until next month, stay safe. ☆





By Johnie Jones
Parks Bureau

Another March is upon us and I hope at the time you are reading this, the Good Lord will have blessed us with a lot of rain. Not Noah-type rain, oh no. I'm talking about the rain that hydrates our crops and plants and makes life nicer. One month closer to retirement. Not that we don't appreciate and enjoy our jobs, but I just recently went to the retirement luncheon for Kathy Simpson. I know, I gave her the sendoff in last month's article, but I still have something to say. Imagine that, me with something to say? So.... You get up and go to work for a number of years, building relationships with a number of people you *only* see at work. I know, there are a few relationships in those years you probably could do without, but they're the ones that make the day a little more interesting and give you something to talk about; when you retire all of that stops. No more hitting the alarm, dragging yourself out of bed to work your shift, going to court, meeting that project deadline you were assigned. I saw an old friend, Mike Ruano, while shopping (hardware store, of course; very manly) and he approached me and said, "Hi." He also said he didn't remember my name! I laughed because I didn't remember his either, but that didn't matter. We spoke, amid the tools, and remembered working out in the Antelope Valley back in the "Hot Years." I asked him about retirement and he said that when he worked he would wake up tired

from working all the hours in the days previous only to push through another shift. Now, he gets up, puts on a sweater and enjoys his coffee while he ponders what he will do that day. He, like many people I have seen who have since retired, looked great and relaxed. There are those people who live to work, and then there are those who work to live. The ones who work to live are usually the ones who get the most out of their retirement plans. I hope to be one of those.

So, before the retirement luncheon, I attended a Parks and Recreation section head meeting with Captain Smith, Sergeant Haertsch and Deputy Pedro Echeverria. I was there to make sure the cap-



tain's presentation went off without a hitch, which it did. Captain Smith was "spot-on" as always (as if I would say anything else). Really, he was! Anyway, I was also there to take some photos as Pedro was getting another award for being recognized as "Deputy of the Year" by the Department of Parks

and Recreation for the year of 2013. This guy just keeps winning awards and the thing is, he really deserves them. He is, as they say, "all that and a bag of chips." He is humble but quite deserving of the acknowledgments he has recently received and those he is going to receive (refer to last month's article about the car accident).

Another reason I bring up this meeting is something that Russ Guiney, Director of Parks and Recreation, brought up to his people. Of the many Los Angeles County agencies, Parks and Recreation is thought of as the "Department of Fun." This caused me to think about us, especially as I had just finished the Year in Review for our Bureau. Annually, we do many "warm and fuzzy" events for children who attend our parks. We interact with park patrons in the BEAR Program (thank you, Ken Yanecko), "Stars on the Baseball Diamond," "Stars on the North Pole," "Parks Basketball Challenge," "Walk For Life," "RadKIDS," etc. On Super Bowl Sunday,

Francine Rizzio and some of the folks from South Zone took over 100 children to Disneyland, the Happiest Place on Earth. Many of these children have lived in Southern California most of their lives and have never been to Disneyland. How cool is that? Seven of my colleagues and I will be attending a four-day training to learn about how to instruct children on riding ATVs. Oh, darn, that means I will have to ride an ATV for four days. Hurt me some

more. So does this make us the Bureau of Fun? I'm not sure those who we arrest and issue citations to would feel that way. But it is funny to see the Mounted Enforcement Detail do their thing. Many times, while they are arresting someone, their family members who are there want to know if it's OK to pet the horse. Never had anyone ask to pet my patrol car, even though there were numerous handprints on my hood at the end of my shift.

I know there are those in the County who feel a little superior when they are from one of the South-end stations and they see a Parks Bureau car. But, like many of my partners here who have worked those assignments for many years, that's OK. You have fun, I know I did, and I wouldn't change anything but we're doing all right here. So where am I going with this? Not really sure myself; I was given nothing to gossip about this month so you wind up getting thoughts and opinions from the old guy.

Until next month, enjoy a day in the Park. ☆



By Mark Rediger
Malibu/Lost Hills Station

TO PROTECT AND SURF

Greetings from the sunny side of the County.

HOOK AND BOOK

Deputies Steve O'Neal and Kristen Deschino were on patrol in Calabasas and observed a female reaching her arm into a blue U.S. Mail drop box on the side of Lost Hills Road. As they turned to make contact, the suspect went back to a waiting vehicle with another female sitting inside. They detained the two females and conducted a possible mail theft investigation. During the course of their investigation, they found the following: stolen mail, forged checks, burglary tools, methamphetamine, and the vehicle they were in was stolen. The two suspects were arrested.

NOW THAT IS FUNNY

Deputy David Waishwhile worked overtime after his EM shift today. He must have been a little tired because he wrote the name of the suspect whom he arrested earlier in his prior shift where *his* name should go on the OT slip. I've seen some funny stuff but that is a good one.

SO LONG, FARE THEE WELL

Our wonderful timekeeper, Miriam Klian, has left us for the next Academy class. She is going well prepared and will do fine, I am sure. We had a farewell soirée for her on the captain's patio. With Miriam are Deputy Angela Theodorou, Lieutenant Dave Thompson and Law Enforcement Technician Sharona Kay.



FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS

Our Station participated in an annual toy drive at Paradise Cove in the city of Malibu. Over 900 toys were given to low-income families from all over the County. Pictured, from left to right, are

Captain Patrick Davoren; Deputies Alicia Kohno, Dave Diestel and Rudy Torrontegui; Law Enforcement Technician Sharona Kay; and Deputy Angela Theodorou. Also see the photograph of all the loot we collected.

That's all I got. ☆

33RD ANNUAL
Retirees' Reunion
McArthur, California
June 15-20, 2014



FROM THE DOCS

TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING THE MENTALLY ILL

Dealing with mental illness and mentally ill (MI) persons in the community is quickly becoming a key area of focus for the law enforcement community at large. While finding ways to interact safely and effectively with MI individuals is not a new concept in law enforcement, several recent incidents have highlighted how changing perceptions have raised expectations for how law enforcement officers handle these situations.

It may not be something you feel you signed up for, but dealing with persons who are MI will likely be a necessary and important part of your work as a deputy sheriff. If interventions are not handled effectively, these situations create risk for physical injury, civil and departmental liability, and requirement of extensive paperwork to document the use of force. In addition to these consequences, a deputy would obviously be the subject of a potential investigation. To avoid these pitfalls, it can be beneficial to learn how to: 1. better recognize symptoms and behaviors associated with MI, and 2. develop communication and engagement skills that make handling situations with the MI potentially more effective.

So what do you think of when you hear the term "mental illness"? According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI; www.nami.org), "A mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning. Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion or income. Mental illnesses are not the result of personal weakness, lack of character or poor upbringing. Mental illnesses are treatable. Most people diagnosed with a serious mental illness can experience relief from their symptoms by actively participating in an individual treatment plan." It's also important to remember that MI can be cyclic, vary in intensity from one episode to another and affect someone for a few months to a lifetime.

One of the comments I hear a lot is "I didn't sign up to be a psychologist; am I supposed to diagnose people?" My thought is that it's not about learning how to diagnose someone as much as responding effectively to the observable groups of traits, signs and symptoms being exhibited. For law enforcement officers, these traits, signs and symptoms can be thought of as indicators that fall into one of four categories.

Here's a quick overview:

1. Mood disturbance (swinging mood/

sad/anxious): These folks are unable to maintain a sense of stability as far as their mood is concerned. They can be observed at either end of a spectrum, exhibiting extreme happiness, endless energy and a decreased need for sleep, or being sad, socially withdrawn and isolative. Other disturbances in one's mood relate to extreme anxiety or panic. These individuals may experience both physical indicators (e.g., sweating, dizziness/faintness, trembling), as well as psychological symptoms (e.g., fear of dying, losing control or going "crazy").

2. **Making sense/not making sense**: Observable signs include bizarre or peculiar behavior, severe neglect of appearance and lack of self-care, disorientation, engaging in inappropriate behavior and actively experiencing delusions (fixed false beliefs that are resistant to change) and/or hallucinations (disturbances in perception that affect one's visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory or gustatory senses).
3. **Agitated/aggressive mood**: You may observe the individual gaining tension in muscle tone (especially in the face and neck), grinding their teeth, yelling and breathing very fast or slowly. In extreme states, adrenaline and other stress hormones may be released into the system, creating a surge of super-power/strength.
4. **Suicidal/self-injurious behaviors**: Individuals who fall into this area may be making statements about wanting to harm themselves, stating that they have a plan or desire to harm themselves, or actively taking steps toward attempting death. They may also be engaging in some other serious self-harming behavior, such as severely cutting or burning themselves, banging their heads, or throwing their bodies against walls or hard objects.

Regardless of the reasons, if the observable traits, signs and symptoms are what we opt to focus on, we can begin to develop a general framework for how to respond strategically in these types of situations. Ask yourself: Are there cues that the person is experiencing MI? Is this person exhibiting groups of extreme behaviors from the aforementioned categories? If possible, consider your options and devise a plan for

By Stephen Seetal, Ph.D.

contact before approaching. It is imperative that before anything else, you take the steps necessary to protect yourself and your partners; officer safety is *always* the primary consideration. With that in mind, here are some general strategies and techniques that can be employed:

- **Presence/visibility**: If possible, reduce visible deputy presence so the person doesn't feel cornered or threatened.
- **Personal distance**: Try to maintain a degree of space. Boxing the person in may heighten anxiety, paranoia and fear.
- **Identifying one deputy to speak**: This may prevent the individual from being overstimulated (i.e., focus on one voice versus two or three).
- **Attempting to reduce exterior stimulation**: This can serve as a distraction (e.g., directing the individual to a place where a busy, car-filled street is not their backdrop).
- **Turning down your radio**: The person may already be responding to internal stimuli; loud radio chatter/noise may add to confusion and create additional challenges for engagement.
- **Maintaining focus**: Slow down the pace. Attempt to have the individual "stay with you." If you can gain their attention, they will often listen to what you're saying. Attempt to redirect them if necessary. If they remain unresponsive, switch deputies.
- **Offering a sense of predictability**: If possible, tell them what you are going to do before you do it (e.g., "Now I'm going to pick up your bag and have a look in it").
- **Command presence**: Presenting yourself as an authority figure and immediately "taking charge" may be misinterpreted by a MI individual. Toning down body language that conveys authority, not making direct eye contact (unless they are) and asking instead of telling (e.g., "Can you put your hands behind your back for me?" versus "Put your hands behind your back!") can improve how you're received as well as how they respond.
- **Open posture**: This indicates approachability, openness and willingness to engage.
- **Hand resting on gun/visibly preparing for use of force**: This may send a threatening or mixed message that can cause confusion for a MI individual.

continued on page 20



By Matthew Bossier
Altadena Station

Greetings from Altadena. Altadena has started the new year off running, despite Punxsutawney Phil seeing his shadow and declaring six more weeks of winter! With that said, one very important piece of a station's puzzle is its relationship with the community it serves. We at Altadena Station are constantly striving to build upon and maintain the great relationship our station has with the people of Altadena. With that said, we could not think of any better way to build upon our relationship with the community than to have a mixer, and who better to invite to rub elbows with the deputies than the Altadena Station clergy? Our clergy members definitely make a positive impact on the community and can relay information learned at the mixer back to a large mass of people. Needless to say,

the mixer was a great success, the turnout and interaction between the deputies and clergy could not have been better, and everyone left the event well fed and with new friends. Thank you to all who attended!

Another priceless tool we use at Altadena to keep in touch with the community is "Coffee With the Captain" events. The latest one was held on January 14, and just as with the previous ones held, the turnout was great, the interaction flowed and everyone left wide awake and satisfied. At these events one of the most common questions asked is about narcotic activity in Altadena, which leads me into our "Hook of the Month" for January. Deputies Arin Davidian and Andres Bilbao, the two recipients of the January award, are definitely starting 2014 off right. These guys are cleaning up the West Side of Altadena and doing a fine

job of it. This particular Observation Arrest involved a traffic stop and doing great police work, which led to a Possession for Sales arrest and the removal of a firearm from the streets of Altadena. Great job, gentlemen; keep up the good work!

In closing, Altadena Station would like to say good luck to Sergeants Danny Robinson, Dennis Dominguez, Carmen Arballo and Edmund "Eddie" Eftychiou. May you have continued success at your new assignments. On a more positive note, we would like to welcome Sergeants Brian Mann, Patrick Blanchfield-Gadut, Joel Nebel and John Ganarial, and Deputies Jeffrey Lohmann, Sylvester Hardison and Eliezer Morales. Welcome aboard, gentlemen.

Till next time! ☆

L.A. County Retired Marshals Lunches for 2014

ALL LUNCHES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 12 NOON

March 5

Marino's Italian Restaurant
17126 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower

April 2

Villa Tepeyac Mexican Restaurant
2200 E. Garvey Blvd.
West Covina

May 7

Northwoods Inn
14305 Firestone Blvd.
La Mirada

June 4

Yang Chow Chinese Restaurant
3777 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena

July 2

Beachwood Brewery BBQ Restaurant
210 E. Third St.
Long Beach

Aug. 6

Elephant Bar Restaurant
12002 Lakewood Blvd.
Downey

Sept. 3

Matt Denny's
145 E. Huntington Drive
Arcadia

Oct. 1

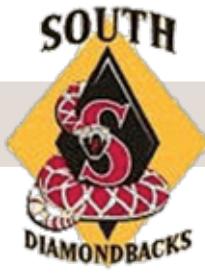
Marino's Italian Restaurant
17126 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower

Nov. 5

Northwoods Inn
14305 Firestone Blvd.
La Mirada

Dec. 3

Villa Tepeyac Mexican Restaurant
2200 E. Garvey Blvd.
West Covina



By Jeffrey Slutsk
Pitchess Detention Center, South Facility

OFFICER NEEDS ASSISTANCE

For those of you lucky enough to know Sergeant Glen Williams, you know when I say there is not a nicer, more genuine person around, I am not exaggerating. Glen is the type of guy who always went out of his way to assist his co-workers, whether it was adjusting his schedule to help cover for another sergeant or mentoring the newer deputy personnel. Glen could always be counted on to go above and beyond for his partners in need. Now it's our turn.... Glen and his family are going through something none of us should ever have to experience. Glen went into the hospital on January 2, 2014, for what was supposed to be a routine procedure to remove a blockage from his esophagus. Things went terribly wrong and Glen had difficulty recovering from the anesthesia. It was not until several agonizing hours after the procedure that the hospital staff realized Glen's

brain had started to swell, causing irreparable damage. After undergoing surgical procedures to relieve the pressure on his brain, Glen remains in critical condition.

As I sit here and type this report, Glen and his family are enduring something none of us will begin to understand. As our brother lies in the hospital, his family by his side, we can only hope and pray he recovers. During this dark hour, I want to shed some light on some amazing efforts put forth by not only South Facility, but North Facility, NCCF and employees throughout the County as well. Through collective fundraising efforts, we have been able to raise several thousand dollars. The money raised is helping the Williams family during this difficult time. At the time of this article Glen is scheduled to be moved to a long-term care facility that specializes in brain rehabilitation. I will do my best to update all of you on Glen's status. Until next month, please keep Glen and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

I want to take a moment to wish a speedy recovery to our beloved Sergeant Rob Klein. Rob is currently resting at home after suffering complications from a surgical procedure. Rob, you are missed here at South Facility. We hope you're feeling better and back on the diamond in no time at all.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Not all things are doom and gloom here at South Facility. I am happy to report Lieutenant Randy Olson has finally crossed the finish line in his long and illustrious career. After 32-plus years of service to the County and a previous six years with the FBI, Randy is set to ride off into the sunset on his tricked-out Huffy, equipped with a banana seat and all. Remember, Lieutenant Olson, always use the bike lane, and always wear a helmet — it not only protects you in a fall, but I also hear it's great at preventing your hair from getting messy.... Oh, wait....

That's all from South. ☆

From the Docs *continued from page 18*

Mark your calendars!

SRA's Annual Family Social

September 13, 2014

Food by Tulsa Rib Company, games and contests

- Voice tone:** Speak calmly when approaching initially. If appropriate, match patterns of vocal tone and volume (e.g., if the person speaks softly and slowly, then lower your volume and the tempo of your voice).
- Forming rapport:** Connection provides a sense of safety. Rapport can be used to make someone feel comfortable and understood while gathering important information. If you feel comfortable, offer your first name.
- Recognition of individual's thoughts/feelings:** What they are experiencing is their reality, not yours; you can validate their experience without getting pulled into it (e.g., "I believe you are seeing the tree moving even though I can't see it").

When considering your interaction with the MI, be mindful of your own threshold for bizarre behavior or communication.

Having a sense of how you could react will probably influence how you deal with these situations. Lastly, when you handle these calls, remember that you are dealing with someone's father, mother, son, daughter, husband or wife; sometimes a little empathy goes a long way. In the end, the way you engage the individual may affect not only the way he or she responds to you, but also how he or she responds to contacts with law enforcement or authority figures in the future. A relatively positive experience with you can make it safer for the next deputy who might encounter the same MI individual.

If you would like to obtain further assistance regarding interaction and engagement of the mentally ill, you can contact Employee Support Services Bureau at (213) 738-3500 for a consultation or appointment. You can also obtain additional information by visiting our intranet site at <http://intranet/intranet/ESS/Index.htm>.

Stay safe. ☆



The Chaplain's Notebook

By Chaplain Donald Patterson
Lancaster Station

THE CASE FOR HONOR

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has a statement of Core Values. Ask any deputy; they can easily recite it for you. The first line of the Core Values states, "*I commit myself to honorably perform my duties.*" The concept of honor is, sadly, considered out of date these days. In truth, it has always been in short supply. It is human nature to seek to divert responsibility from oneself.

Honor is not pride. Legitimate pride is founded on honor. Honor is not duty. Commitment to duty comes only with a concept of personal honor. Honor cannot be imposed externally. It is a choice. Once made, it provides an internal anchor that holds one firm in shifting circumstances.

Honor is a personal commitment to do what is right. It shows the correct path to take when your personal safety or reputation might tempt you to do what is less than right. Honor is what makes you stand up and take the heat when you deserve it.

Honor is the hard way. It is much easier to go with the flow, but a person of honor does what is right, not what is easy. Personal honor is actually an anomaly. It is human nature to put yourself first, to shift blame. Honor is something higher than self-interest. A healthy society could not exist apart from the exercise of personal honor. Yet honor is not just a "good idea": "Hey, why don't we have honor, and then we can have society?" It is a calling to go above and beyond

what is natural. In that sense, it is a divine calling. God's call to "*be holy, for I am holy*" is a call to honor. In one sense, that call is impossible. In another, it is a call to rise above the self and do what is right, simply because it is right.

Leviticus 20:26: "*Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.*"

1 Peter 1:16: "*It is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'*"

Chaplains may be contacted at their unit of assignment, or by calling the Employee Support Services Bureau at (213) 738-3500. You can reach me through Lancaster Station or by calling (661) 675-9066. ☆

The Annual Reunion Luncheon of **Former Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs in Texas (FLADST)**

will be on

Saturday, May 17, 2014

in downtown Waco, Texas, at *Ninfa's Restaurant* at 220 South Third Street.

A semi-private area of the restaurant will be reserved for attendees from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The anticipated cost for lunch will be \$15 per person.

For those anticipating spending the weekend in Waco, don't forget to visit the Texas Ranger Museum near Baylor University off I-35.

Kindly RSVP to

Roy Williams at *janewams5@aol.com*
or Dan Castillo at *CastilloDR2@gmail.com*

THE LEGENDS OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

By Judy Leyn
Cerritos Station

Things have been a little quiet around here lately. So the stories and adventures are few and far between.

But I do have a short story to tell that I got directly from the horse's mouth. Deputy Bahman Atabaki came into dispatch one night and told me he was sad. So, of course, I had to ask, "Why?" And the story began.... Atabaki said he was rolling to a call and came upon a cat that had just been hit by a car in the street. So he pulled over and saw the cat was barely breathing and was in much need of medical care. Atabaki said the cat was dazed and out of it. He rolled the cat to the local animal hospital in our city. Atabaki carried this dazed cat in to the vet, placed it on the counter and explained to the staff how he came upon

this cat. During his explanation, this cat came out of his "dazed" state and decided to do a "Kung Fu Kitty" on Atabaki. Needless to say, Atabaki got scratched pretty good. This cat got him so well, the doctor looked at Atabaki and said, "You're bleeding more than the cat. You're going to need to have that looked at and get treated for rabies, since the cat is a stray." Now, I think at this point, Atabaki was the one "dazed." He thought, "Nah, it's not that bad." Needless to say, Atabaki went to the hospital and got a tetanus shot. Unfortunately, the cat didn't make it. But Atabaki's night didn't end there. He left dispatch to handle a call. Minutes later, I got a call from him saying, "I'm done for the night. I just broke the car key in the trunk of my radio car." And it wasn't even a full moon.

For those of you who know Atabaki, he is always finding strays and trying to rescue them. It doesn't matter what it is — ducks, chickens, dogs, etc. I think after all the animal stories I have heard from him, his real name should be Francis, St. Francis of Assisi. "A" for effort, Atabaki. The next barking dog call is yours.

Deputy Amy Wong had a good hook this month. She saw 925As in a vehicle and detained them. Upon her investigation, she came across baggies of meth. Two more bad guys off the streets. Good job!

Happy St. Patrick's Day! May the luck of the Irish be with you!

Until next time, stay safe from the City of Sleepy Hollow! ☆

IN MEMORIAM

MEILING F. LEE HARDING

TOMMY K. KYIN

BRUCE D. BURLESON

DAVID S. COOPER

THOMAS J. FEELEY

SHARON FISHER

WILLIAM J. HARTWELL

HAROLD J. HOUGH

JOSEPH P. JAMES

MICHAEL P. LUZZI

RODERICK A. McLENDON

ERWIN H. MOLLER

THOMAS J. NURSALL

RICHARD B. OROSCO

LA GENE L. PECK

MELVIN R. POOLE JR.

WALTER PRICE

DAVID L. STONE

BRENDA TALLEY

ALBERT C. VENDANGE

FRED HUDSON, HUSBAND OF RETIRED MEMBER NINA A. HUDSON, DECEASED 12-27-13

MICHELLE SOGA, WIFE OF ACTIVE MEMBER FREDERICK H. SOGA, DECEASED 12-13-13

EDUARDO M. MERZA, HUSBAND OF RETIRED MEMBER GRACE A. MERZA, DECEASED 08-23-11

STATION CLERK/WEST HOLLYWOOD STATION

PHARMACY TECH/TWIN TOWERS

SERGEANT/LANCASTER STATION

DEPUTY/MARINA DEL REY STATION

SERGEANT/CUSTODY

PARKING CONTROL OFFICER/SLA STATION

DEPUTY/MCI

SERGEANT/NORWALK STATION

CAPTAIN/CARSON STATION

SERGEANT/BISCAILUZ CENTER

SERGEANT/SBI

SERGEANT/INDUSTRY STATION

DEPUTY/COURT SERVICES

DEPUTY/PICO RIVERA STATION

DEPUTY/LAKWOOD STATION

LIEUTENANT/ALTADENA STATION

PHARMACY TECH/MCI

DEPUTY/MCI

PHARMACY TECH/TWIN TOWERS

LIEUTENANT/SOUTHGATE

LACERA Retiree Report

By Les Robbins
Board of Retirement

Seems like just yesterday when I wrote my last report, but in actuality it has been a full year since my last retiree report as a member of the Board of Retirement. A lot has happened in the last year, and not all of it has been for the better. That is, however, how things are in the real world and we certainly are in the real world these days, especially in the public retirement arena.

First things first. The CPI numbers are in for 2013 and the overall increase in the cost of living was just a little more than 1%, so the COLA that everyone will receive will be 1%, effective April 1, to show up on your end-of-the-month April checks. Just for those of you who forgot how this all works and the impact of the COLA bank, I will explain that as well.

The calendar-year increase was 1.1% for the L.A.-Riverside-Orange County area, which is what we are required to use by law. We round to the nearest .5%, so that is how we end up with 1%. The last two months of 2013 kind of did us in, as we saw the CPI actually go negative; otherwise, we were looking at a 2% increase in all probability. Plan A members who retired prior to March 31, 1984, will receive the full 3%. Plan A members who retired between April 1, 1984, and March 31, 1985, will receive 1.7%, and all Plan A members who have retired after March 1, 1985, will receive 1%.

Plan B, C and D members with a COLA bank may receive up to 2%. Based on the Plan B, C and D COLA, Plan B, C and D members who retired prior to March 31, 2007, will receive the maximum 2%, and Plan B, C and D members retiring after April 1, 2007, will receive 1%.

PEPRA Plan G and C members with a COLA bank may receive up to 2%. Any of the aforementioned who retire prior to March 31, 2014, will receive 1%.

Very shortly, all LACERA members will receive a letter from LACERA that was the result of a collab-

oration between our staff and our health care consultants, AON, that will give all of you answers to many of the questions that some of you have about the impact(s) of the Affordable Care Act insofar as how they affect LACERA members. This is a four-page letter that will hopefully address many of the concerns that some of you have about the potential impacts of the Affordable Care Act on not only our retiree plans but the industry as a whole. I have been telling all of you for many years that while we have incredible retiree health insurance, we are not in a vacuum with respect to the dynamics in the health care world in this country. Medicare changes of all types can and will impact us in varying degrees. Hopefully this correspondence will shed some light on some of your concerns.

We are in the March madness period at LACERA, in which we see the usual annual influx of retirement applications. They start hitting us in December and continue through the month of March, with the COLAs hitting effective April 1. Last year, during the March madness period we saw 1,119 members retire, which was about average. However, last year we saw a very large spike in the December numbers due to some impacts of PEPRA that actually saw our numbers increase to 1,447.

For those of you who are always kind of interested in plan number counts, I provide the following active member numbers:

- General Plan A — 537
- General Plan B — 160
- General Plan C — 148
- General Plan D — 50,989
- General Plan E — 23,954
- General Plan G (new) — 3,572
- Safety Plan A — 33
- Safety Plan B — 12,384
- Safety Plan C (new) — 179

There are 91,956 active County employees currently enrolled in LACERA retirement plans.

Just when we thought, with the implementation of the new public employee retirement plan legislation, PEPRA, which took effect on January 1, 2013, that we were out of the woods, we now have yet another proposal facing public employees. It is called the Pension Reform Act of 2014 and it is coming out of three California cities, San Bernardino, Pacific Grove and Anaheim. In actuality it is coming from the mayors of these cities, as well as San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and the vice mayor of the City of Vallejo. I am not going to go into the specifics of this ballot proposal and you can Google it to find out the specifics, but it will have a devastating impact on future public employees as it proposes to take away the vesting rights for pensions and retiree health care for future service. Signature gathering will start very soon and the supporters will have a maximum of 150 days from the start of their petition circulation to gather their required 807,615 signatures. Stand by to stand by on this one.... Here we go again!

As far as I am concerned, I am very glad to be back on our Board at LACERA and am still trying to get caught up on some of things that have taken place in my year's absence. With the impact of term limits on the Board of Supervisors taking place at the end of this year with the departures of Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Molina, I expect that the revolving door will include not only our County supervisors but our pension board trustees as well. As for me, I just started a three-year term that will end when my appointing Supervisor Don Knabe leaves office at the end of 2016. I expect that this will end my public service on the Board of Retirement.

Till next month, take care, enjoy your retirement if you are currently retired and remember that you can reach me at my email address: *Leslasd@aol.com*. ☆

Updating your beneficiaries with the Sheriff's Department does not update them with SRA.

Please call today for a form to update or print the form from our website at www.sheriffsrelief.org/membership-benefits.

TEAM TEMPLE

By Sheriff Morsi
Temple Station

SERVICE AWARDS

It's my belief that the staff makes the station; the station does not make the staff. We certainly have some of the best, most knowledgeable staff here at Temple Station with many years of experience. During a recent executive visit, four of our folks received their 25- and 30-year service awards. The awards were presented by Commanders Ralph Webb and David Halm and Captain Chris Nee. Detective Mike "Godfather" Gil, who will be retiring this month (see below), received his 30-year desk pen set. In addition, Lieutenant "Iggy" Somoano, Detective Marvin Payne and Deputy Bill Harrington all received their 25-year awards. *That's 105 years of knowledge, experience, mentorship, sweat and blood devoted to the residents of this great county.* There were many more awards to be presented, but unfortunately, the recipients were unable to attend.

Congratulations, gentlemen. I hope when I get to that point in my career, I'll look as good as you guys.



SEARCH AND RESCUE CALLOUTS

The Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team (SMSR) is affiliated with Temple Station. They are one of the most active teams, with an average of over 100 callouts every year. Our reserve coordinator, Deputy Bill Harrington, is responsible for coordinating and responding to their callouts. The team is a group of dedicated volunteers committed to saving lives in the wilderness. Founded in 1951, the team has responded to thousands of calls for help in the wilderness and saved countless lives. Regardless of whether it's a twisted ankle, a fallen climber or an overdue hiker, the team will be there. They are one of the best-trained and recognized SAR teams in the nation, often being called upon to travel great distances to assist other agencies in their missions.

Recently, the team was called to faraway places for Mutual Aid requests. These callouts included a mission in the Needles area to assist the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in locating a missing hunter. The team was able to locate and recover the hunter's body in a deep well. The team also responded to Shasta County on another Mutual Aid request.



In another request for their experience in mine and cave rescues, the team responded to Madeira County to assist in the recovery of a body.

Most search and rescue missions are handled by the SAR team assigned to that area. However, on some occasions, depending on the scope of the mission, members of several SAR teams will be requested to respond together. SMSR works closely with the other seven SAR teams in the county.



RANDOMNESS

I sure do miss working the field...looking for bad guys, sorting out disputes, solving crime, taking reports and everything else that comes our way. On a recent "check the welfare" call, Deputies Godin Gonzalez and Ruben Gonzales arrived at the location and immediately smelled the unforgettable stench we are all familiar with. After several door knocks went unanswered, forced entry was made. Through the broken door, all that could be seen was a wall of junk. There was boxes, clothes, crates, fans, furniture, etc., strewn everywhere. Being the good sport that he is, Deputy Ruben Gonzales "volunteered" to conduct the search. Sure enough, the resident was located on the floor...



amid the rubbish...in good health. So, Mr. Resident, why didn't you answer the door when we knocked? "Yeah, I heard you guys knock but I couldn't really walk to the door. As you can see, there's a lot of stuff for me to climb over." Gee, thanks, Mr. Resident. Deputy Gonzales, thank you for volunteering....

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

No, they are not moonlighting as public works employees. Besides hookin' and bookin' and climbing over hoarded rubbish, our finest can also be seen sweeping the streets. Deputy Anthony Flores, good thing this didn't happen while you were still on training.... Could've caused some issues....



NAME THAT DEPUTY

I know deputies like to look good and all: sharp uniform, shined shoes, sparkling badge, clean-cut hair, etc. Wait, clean-cut hair? But not all of us like "clean cuts." Some choose smooth, slicked-back hair. But come on, if you're going to blow-dry your hair at the station, at least use a big-boy hair dryer like I do. I blurred out the



adjacent picture to protect the identity of the deputy. Here's the funny part: I couldn't think of what that hairstyle is called. So I called Sergeant Jim Dexter to ask him, since he was sporting a similar hairstyle not too long ago. He knew right away that I was asking for the *Star News*. He promised that if I talked about his hair in

the article, it would be over between us. I promised him that I was writing about someone else and not him (see picture). So, as promised, Jim, I won't mention your haircut here.

TIME'S UP

After 31 years of service to the Sheriff's Department, Detective Mike "Godfather" Gil is retiring. Please join us to celebrate on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 1130 hours at the Park Inn by Radisson (1211 East Garvey St., Covina). For more information, please contact Maria Sigala at (626) 292-3367 or Lisa Rico at (626) 292-3385.

When I first arrived at Temple as a green sergeant, I came across a stolen vehicle-related paper. I told the handling deputy to make a change on the report. When the deputy gave me back the report, he didn't make the changes I asked him to. When I questioned him as to why he didn't make the changes, I was quickly, and eloquently, told, "Detective Gil said I should do

it this way, sir." I thought to myself, "That's nice, but I'm the approving sergeant and I want it this way. Who's this Gil guy that's overriding a sergeant's direct order?" But reading the deputy's body language and tone of voice, I wisely chose to "let it slide." Soon after, I learned exactly who the "Godfather" is and I sure as heck wasn't going to override him.

Congrats, sir, and *thank you* for all the time and wisdom you have instilled in everyone who's had the privilege of working with you.

That's enough for now; I'm busy....

Until next time, *have fun and do the right thing.* ☆

**After 31 years of service
to the Sheriff's Department
Detective
Mike "Godfather" Gil
is retiring
Please join us to celebrate on
Thursday March 27, 2014
1130 hrs social hour
1230 hrs buffet lunch
Park Inn by Radisson
1211 East Garvey St.
Covina, CA. 91724
Price: TBA
Contact:
Maria Sigala (626)292-3367
Lisa Rico (626) 292-3385**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department announces a retirement party for

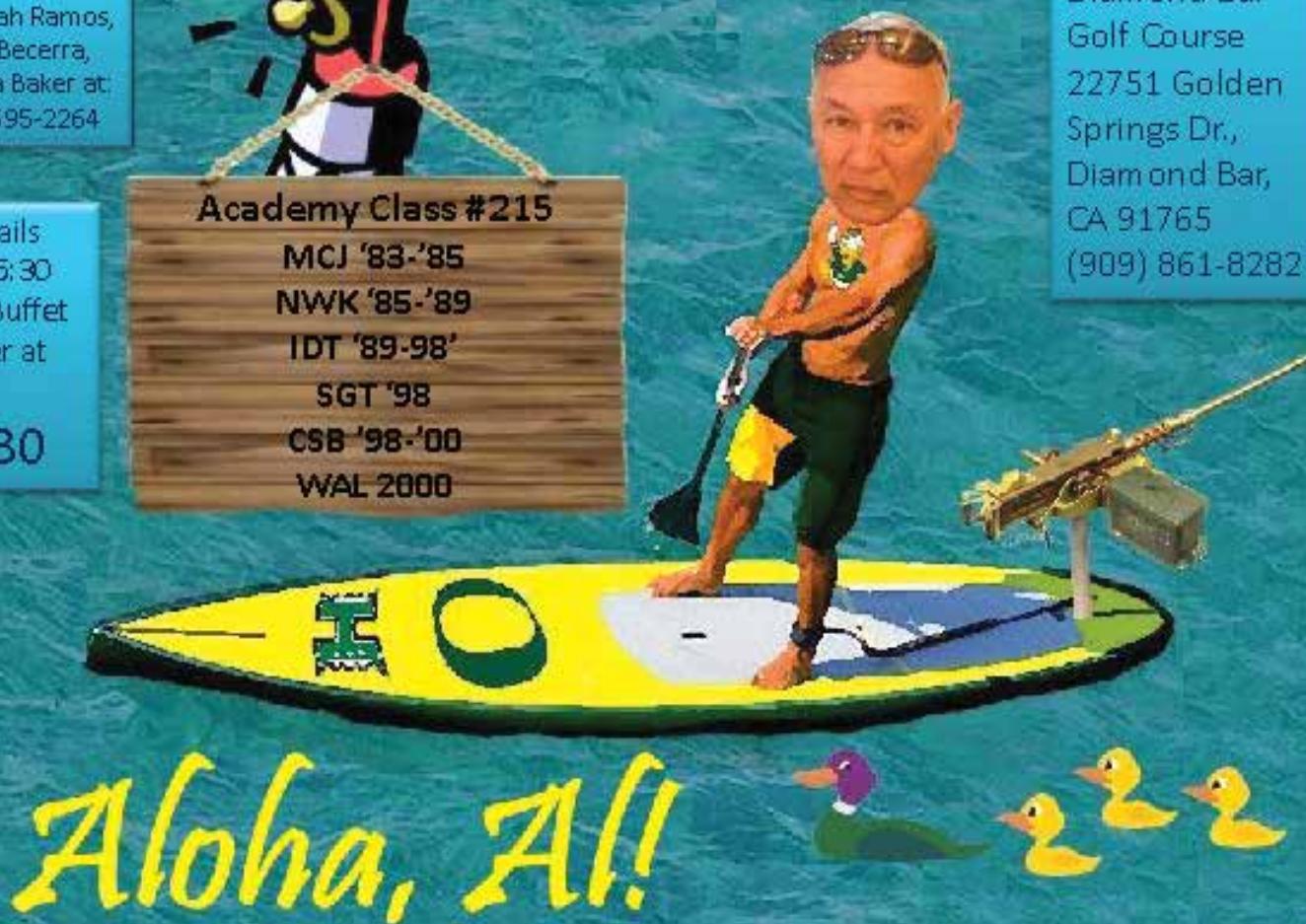
Sgt. Al Fulkerson

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Deborah Ramos,
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Cocktails
5:30-6:30
BBQ Buffet
Dinner at
6:30
\$30

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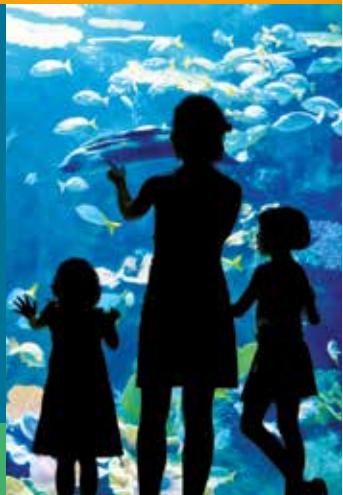
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Contact

**Elisabeth (Beth) Smith at Sheriff's Homicide Bureau,
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REVISED 2/19/2014

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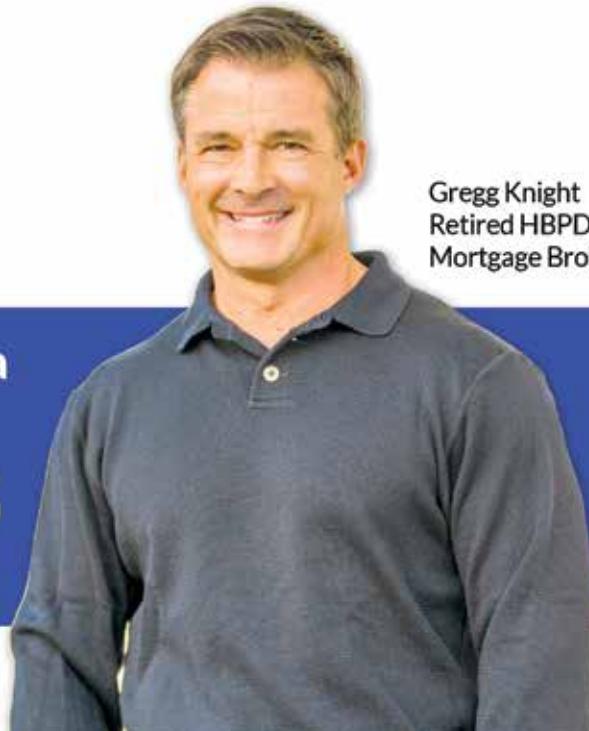
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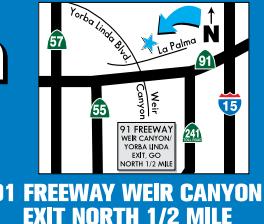
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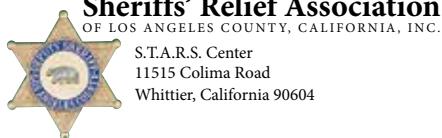
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