

# 2016 SHERIFFS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

The Sheriffs' Relief Association (SRA) is holding an election for new members for its Board of Trustees. The members elected will serve three-year terms from January 2017 through December 2019. Trustee positions are an important element in maintaining *your* successful SRA. All SRA members are encouraged to vote! SRA is pleased to present the following statements from each candidate in the Sheriffs' Relief General Election.

Three Positions Open

## Active Member Candidate



**VERONICA URENDA**  
Operations Assistant III  
Contracts Unit

Hello! My name is Veronica Urenda. I am seeking your support to continue my service representing the professional staff of this great Department as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sheriffs' Relief Association.

I have been a proud member of the Sheriffs' Relief Association for 15 years. I joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 2001 as a full-time employee. However, I first started my career with the Sheriff's Department as a volunteer assigned to Century Station and have since worked many different units and assignments and have gained valuable experience, knowledge and insight. I am currently assigned to the Contracts Unit as an Operations Assistant III. I am responsible for reviewing and analyzing various service contracts for the Sheriff's Department as well as preparing all contract-related documents and Board letters.

The Sheriffs' Relief Association offers great benefits to all members — sworn, civilian, active and retired. 2016 has been a great year for the Sheriffs' Relief Association; we added new law enforcement gear at our emporiums, launched a brand-new website and improved communication links between active and retired members. It is a tradition of the Association to help its members, and I want to continue this commitment as well as assist in recruiting new members, enhancing services and benefits, and seeking new, innovative ideas to add and improve.

I would very much like the opportunity to continue as a Trustee on the Board of the Sheriffs' Relief Association. Please vote for Veronica Urenda for Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your support.

## Active Member Candidate



**TERESA GARRETT**  
Sergeant

I chose to run for Trustee because I have been involved in helping the members of the Department for the past six years as Secretary of the Black Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County. I feel that I can bring a great perspective and objectivity to this position of Trustee.

One of the reasons for my success has been an ability to work well as a member of a team. I have been on the Department for 27 years and worked a variety of assignments, which include Patrol, Detectives, undercover and administrative duties. I am currently assigned to Bureau of Labor Relations (BOLRAC).

I understand the priority to work as a group for the betterment of our membership. I understand the responsibility of Trustee and can fulfill my responsibilities effectively. I am knowledgeable in the services we provide and appreciate all that is offered through mortuary, retired, loan, Sheriffs' Relief Foundation, *Star News* and tickets benefits, to name a few.

I will come to this job with an open mind and the objectivity necessary to perform all of the functions of a Trustee. I am willing — eager, in fact — to devote the time and energy our members deserve in fulfilling my duties as a member of the Board.

I appreciate your consideration.

## Active Member Candidate



**DIANE STONE**  
Administrative Services Manager II  
Personnel Administration Bureau

Hi! I'm Diane Stone, and I would like to serve as a professional staff member on the Board of Trustees for the Sheriffs' Relief Association (SRA). I have over 30 years of Sheriff's Department experience, which includes assignments in Patrol, Detectives, Custody, Training, Administration, etc. I started as an intermediate typist clerk and worked my way through the professional staff ranks. I am currently an Administrative Services Manager II working at Personnel Administration Bureau/Pre-Employment. As a member of the SRA for over 17 years, I have witnessed friends and family receiving critical support from the organization. The most impressive example was when a dear friend was battling cancer and SRA provided her with funds and equipment to ease the situation. I believe my years of experience maneuvering through the ranks at a variety of assignments will allow me to represent the needs of both professional staff and sworn members. I appreciate your support!

## Active Member Candidate



**NICHELLE CARLSON**  
Deputy Sheriff

My name is Nichelle Carlson, and I have been on the Sheriff's Department for 3 1/2 years. I began working Custody at Century Regional Detention Facility after the Academy, and then went out to Patrol in June 2014. My current assignment is Patrol at Transit Policing Division, where I am on an intelligence-led policing team. We patrol high crime areas, make contacts and arrests, follow up with operators with issues on the bus and rail lines, and often conduct plainclothes bus and rail operations.

I chose to pursue a career in law enforcement at 36 years old because I wanted to make more of a difference. I wanted to help people and make an impact on someone's life, in a positive way. I hope that those I encounter take away something from me and realize that their struggles can be overcome, and that they can change their lives for the better.

If elected to the Sheriffs' Relief Association Board, I will do my best to work hard and fulfill my responsibilities — and as a deputy myself, I look forward to representing the priorities and needs of my fellow deputies.

One Position Open

## Retired Member Candidate



**CLAUDE FARRIS**  
Captain (Ret.)  
Technical Services Division

My name is Claude Farris, and I'm running for the position of Trustee of the Sheriffs' Relief Association. In my 31 years as an active member of the Department, my work has spanned a full variety of assignments — from Custody through Patrol and five divisions, with four promotions along the way. Through my entire career and retirement years, I have been a member of the Sheriffs' Relief Association. It's an organization dedicated to providing recognition, resources and relief to members of the Sheriff's Department family through avenues that have evolved over the past 80 years.

I am currently seeking to actively participate in this organization. While I retired over a decade ago, I have maintained friendships and professional relationships with many retired, sworn and nonsworn members of the Department, allowing me to remain aware of current as well as traditional needs of our members. I am excited about the current direction of Sheriffs' Relief and know I can make valuable contributions to these efforts to increase the breadth and quality of services for all of our members.

I have served on nonprofit boards and I've participated in a number of community-based organizations in several levels of responsibility. I believe I have something to bring to the table in terms of knowledge and experience, both on and off the Department. Moreover, I believe very much in what Sheriffs' Relief has done and continues to do for the families of the Sheriff's Department. I would like to be a part of this evolving organization, and I'm asking for your vote.

## Retired Member Candidate



**JOE HARTSHORNE**  
Commander (Ret.)  
Special Operations Division

My name is Joe Hartshorne. I retired from the Department in January of this year, after 34 years of service. My final assignment was as a Commander in the Special Operations Division. Prior to that I worked command assignments in Detective, Training, and Field Operation divisions, including three years as the Captain of San Dimas Station.

My earlier years were spent primarily in patrol and investigative assignments, including two stints at Homicide Bureau, as well as other bureau and station detective assignments.

I consider myself one of the most fortunate (former) members of the LASD, as I was able to work with some of the most talented and dedicated personnel in many challenging assignments. I retired from the Department knowing the quality of the personnel are as good now as they were when I started.

I became a member of Sheriffs' Relief Association (SRA) while still in the Academy a very long time ago. I have always considered SRA to be a wonderful organization, created solely to assist members of the Department. As such, I am running for a seat on the Board of SRA, as I would still like the opportunity to work with an organization that exists to benefit the men and women of the LASD.

While I am the furthest thing from a politician and have never run for any position, I can promise you that if elected to the SRA Board, my single purpose will be to see that the Association continues to support its members as it has in the past, and to look for new avenues to provide even better benefits and service.

Thank you.

## IMPORTANT VOTING AND BALLOT INFORMATION

Ballots will be mailed the first half of October to members' home addresses on file (where the *Star News* is sent). Members with address updates should notify SRA immediately, as should any current member who does not receive a ballot by October 25. All ballots will include a stamped return envelope, pre-addressed to SRA's accounting firm, which will secure the ballots until counted. All ballots must be received or postmarked by November 18, 2016; those postmarked later than November 18 will not be valid. Results will be announced on Tuesday, November 29, 2016. (The 10-day delay allows for inclusion of ballots mailed by November 18 but received thereafter.)