

**Peace Officers' Research Association
of California**

**Tri-Counties Chapter
Meeting Minutes**

January 12, 2009

I. Call to order

President Mark Hanks called to order the regular meeting of the Tri-Counties Chapter at 6:45 pm on January 12, 2009 at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

Roll call

The following persons were present:

- 1) Mark Hanks, Chapter President (VCDSA)
- 2) Kent Bodin, Chapter Treasurer (SPOAVC)
- 3) Rene' Smit, Chapter Vice-President Santa Barbara County (SBAPOA)
- 4) Roger Stephenson, PORAC LDF Representative (El Segundo POA)
- 5) Chris Corbett, President (SBCDSA)
- 6) James Meter, Vice-President (SBCDSA)
- 7) Ken Yuwiler, LDF Attorney, Silver, Hadden, Silver, Waxler & Levine
- 8) Eric Meyer, Marketing Executive, MyersStevens & Toohey & Co., Inc.
- 9) Sonny Lopez, President (GBPOA)
- 10) Kelly Cook, (GBPOA)

II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks

A motion was made by Chris Corbett to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2008 Tri-Counties Chapter meeting that was held at Conference in Monterey. The motion was seconded by Kent Bodin. The motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report – Kent Bodin

Kent informed that Chapter that there is \$13,600.00 in the operating fund. The operating fund when down due to the \$5000.00 contribution made to the Vallejo POA for their legal battle in Federal Court to prevent the City of Vallejo from filing for bankruptcy. Kent stated that this was a worthwhile contribution because what happened in Vallejo could affect us.

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IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant

Vice-President Durant was unable to attend the Chapter meeting due to the Executive Board Meeting.

V. President's Report – Mark Hanks

President Hanks wrote a letter to J. Clark Kelso who is with the California Prison Heal Care Receivership in Sacramento. The letter was written under the direction of the Tri-Counties Chapter in opposition of the proposal to build a State Prison Hospital facility in Camarillo. A Press Release to the media was also provided by President Hanks. A copy of the letter was attached to the minutes.

President Hanks was scheduled to attend a press conference in Ventura on October 14, 2008 for Proposition 6. The press conference was cancelled due to the wild fires. On October 28, 2008 he attended and spoke at a press conference for Proposition 6. The press conference was held at the courthouse steps in Santa Barbara. State Senator George Runner was in attendance, along with Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown and Lt. Butch Arnoldi, Santa Barbara County District Attorney Christie Stanley, VCDSA President Matt Findlay, SBCDSA President Chris Corbett and SBAPOA President Rene' Smit. Proposition 6 would have set aside less than 1% of the State budget for gang enforcement funding. The measure did not pass.

On January 9, 2009 and President Hanks signed the signature card for the Chapter account at City Bank. He still needs to receive a key to the PO Box.

President Hanks said that there was a good turn out of Tri-Counties Chapter members at the PORAC Conference in Monterey.

VI. Committees

A. Insurance and Benefits, Nick Odenath was not in attendance. Eric Swartz with MyersStevens & Toohy spoke and said that they have changed to A & G Insurance provider. There is a 25% rate reduction for the term product. There will be a rate increase for retirees. There is a 99% approval rate for Association members who apply for the life insurance policy after answering the 3 required questions. Association members with high blood pressure can be approved for

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the life insurance provided that they are taking maintenance medication.

B. Legal Defense Fund – Roger Stephenson and Silver & Silver

Roger provided the following information; 76,954 members, 810 associations, are in 28 states, 7.3 million dollars in reserves. There is no base rate increase. Some Regions rates will go up and is based on experience rated. There will be some Region rate decreases. For bad year it will take 2 to 3 years to catch-up.

LDF is looking into HR 218 coverage for retirees, in addition to administrative and civil coverage.

The Worker's Compensation Program Arizona might expand to other States.

SB 440 Binding Arbitration briefs have been for Sonoma County.

Border Patrol Agent Nicholas Corbett charged with fatally shooting an illegal immigrant has gone to trial in Arizona and received two mistrials. It is not known if the U.S. Attorney is going to retry Corbett a third time.

The Berkley case in 2000-2001 was won by LDF Attorneys. The case involved the issue of open forums that violate the Peace Officers Bill of Rights.

Roger spoke on an issue involving the Union busting of six Deputy Chiefs in Reno, Nevada.

LDF Attorney Ken Yuwiler spoke on the Spielbauer case that has arrived at the California Supreme Court. They are awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court that could effect Internal Affairs investigations. Thomas Spielbauer was a Public Defender for the Santa Clara County Public Defenders office and was fired for invoking his right to remain silent in response to an internal investigation. The San Jose 6th District Courts of Appeal ruled that a public employee can be punished for refusing to answer questions only if he is first granted immunity.

VII. Director's Reports

A. Tri-County Director John Snowling was not present due to the Executive Board Meeting.

B. Executive Board Director Randy Watkins was no present due to the Executive Board Meeting.

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VIII. Vice-Presidents Reports

A. San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge was not present.

B. Santa Barbara County Vice-President Rene' Smit reported that Assemblymember Pedro Nava has reintroduced AB 376 that was vetoed by the Governor in September of 2008. Rene' received an email from Assemblymember Nava's District Director Caroline Vance advising that the new Assembly Bill number is AB 86 and has been introduced in this year's Legislative Session and is co-sponsored by PORAC. AB 86 would allow Airport Police Officers to bargain for the Local Safety Benefit of 3% at 50 or 55. In September of 2008 the Mayor of Santa Barbara wrote a letter on behalf of the City Council and the City of Santa Barbara to the Governor in support of AB 376.

Rene' advised that he attended the Proposition 6 press conference that was held at the Santa Barbara Court House on October 28, 2008. KEYT and KCOY News both did a good story on the press conference and Proposition 6. Rene' also attended the PORAC Conference in Monterey.

C. Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath was not present.

IX. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. New Business

Treasurer Kent Bodin made a motion to contribute \$500.00 to LDF Trust Chairman Andy Schlenker. Andy's 20 month old grandson, Chase was diagnosed with a rare cancer and lives in Memphis. The contribution will help pay for Andy's the travel expenses.

The motion was seconded by James Meter. The motion carried.

President Hanks informed the members that he would be interested in meeting with our State Legislators in Sacramento and lobby in support of our bills. The

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meeting would take place the first week in May. The Chapter will decide at the next meeting in March.

SBCDSA President Corbett spoke on support of a proposed PXB Project that involved drilling for oil in the Fire Districts. This project would bring in revenue.

A discussion was held regarding rotating locations of the Chapter meetings to the different locations in the Tri-Counties to attract more Associations to attend the meetings. The members agreed that Santa Barbara was a central location and to keep the meetings here.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

XI. Adjournment

President Hanks adjourned the meeting at **8:32 pm**.

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

Minutes approved by: