



# The Informant

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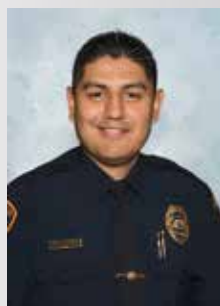
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We encourage article ideas and photographs about or of interest to our members. Article abstracts, photos, story ideas, suggestions, letters to the editor, commentaries and information may be submitted in person, by mail or by e-mail to the editor.

Freedom of expression is assured within the bounds of good taste and the limits of available space.

Our target audience is law enforcement, specifically POA members of the San Diego Police Department.

**Deadline**

All copy and advertising must be submitted by the tenth of the month prior to the anticipated publication month; e.g. July 10 for the August issue. Content submitted after that date may be considered for a later issue.

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# President's Message



We have officially made it to the final month of 2019. Welcome back winter and the holiday season.

I hope everyone who participated enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast at the SDPOA. The SDPOA is always happy to be able to continue this tradition. Thank you to our sponsors, including

PANPAC, who again came through with those delicious pigs.

The Home Buying Assistance Program is finally underway. Our first two meetings on November 7th and 12th were well attended. I am hopeful that several of our members will soon be new homeowners. For those who attended the meetings, please provide any feedback that you believe would assist us in improving the presentations or the program in general. I was present at both meetings and was impressed with the level of information provided by our partners. For those of you who are not currently ready to buy a home, please keep the program in mind for future endeavors. There will be more workshops offered soon.

Our Board of Directors election ended on November 11th. I would like to thank everyone who participated by either running for a position or voting. Congratulations to Tom Bostedt and Paul Paxton who will continue to serve on the Board with myself.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Officer of the Shift breakfast this quarter. Thankfully, Vice President Bostedt was able to present. I would also like to thank the SDPOA staff for

pulling off this important celebration. Congratulations to all who received this prestigious award. This is one of my favorite events throughout the year. As I have stated several times, I believe that our officers do amazing work every day and it is good to see them recognized for it.

The 39th Annual SDPOA Charity Christmas Party (POA Prom) will be taking place on December 14th. Our board and staff has worked hard to ensure that this is a fun evening for all of our members and attendees. This will be our first year at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort. It's easy to forget how blessed we are to live in a place where we can spend the holidays at a beach front resort. I look forward to celebrating with you all.

Just a reminder, comp time rules change effective December 13th. On the 14th of December, all comp time will be cashed and everyone will have a zero balance. For those of you who have 40+ hours of comp time on December 13th, the 20 hours of preferred annual leave will be available on December 14th through the end of February 2020. These hours will be used with the same rules as comp time. Also, for those that use pay-in-lieu, it's time to declare your selection.

Cheers to the holidays and Happy New Year 2020! Enjoy this time with your loved ones.

Take care,

Jack Schaeffer

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# Member Spotlight

By Erika Vroom, Editor

## Officers Brandon & Tania Lull



Tania and Brandon with their daughter Olivia Luna

When speaking to a seasoned law enforcement officer about one of the major advantages of the job, it is common to hear about the relationships, both friendly and romantic, that bloom after becoming part of an entity that is larger than oneself. These relationships begin on a police recruit's first day in the profession and progress through graduation from the police academy. As academy mates, the recruits get to know each other well and form bonds that they carry with them throughout their career.

Officers Brandon and Tania Lull are both members of the San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) 102nd regional academy. Hired on October 24, 2014, Brandon and Tania came from two completely different backgrounds. Brandon was born and raised in New Hampshire. Out of high school, Brandon attended two years of college before deciding to join the United States Marine Corps. He remained active duty for eight years. During his active years, Brandon was with the 1st Battalion 5th Marines as a Rifleman prior to attending Marine Special Operations School. Upon graduation, he served with MARSOC's 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion as a Critical Skills Operator and was deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan three times. After those eight years, he decided to follow his lifelong dream of becoming a law enforcement officer. Tania was born in Mexico City, Mexico prior to her family moving to Chula Vista, California. Post-high school, she attended college at San Francisco State University before transferring to San Diego State University. Once she received her degree she, too, made the choice to become a police officer.

As a child, Brandon had always been interested in a career as a law enforcement officer. "I always wanted to be a cop... it was either that or the military," he explains. While military won the initial toss up, Brandon knew he would one day circle back to becoming a police officer. Tania nods in agreement as she laughs and states, "I always wanted to be a traffic cop, but found that I'm happier with where I'm [assigned to] now." Tania also includes that it was her female neighbor who she treats as her



Academy Graduation Day  
April 2015

adopted grandma that gave her the final push she needed to become an officer. Her grandma had been a Sheriff's Deputy over 30 years ago and is currently retired. At the beginning of her career, she attended the first regional academy that allowed females. Through this, Tania was given a boost of encouragement and decided to apply for SDPD.

Though the academy brought them together, Brandon and Tania were assigned to different divisions after graduation. Brandon began his career with SDPD at Southern Division and remained there until approximately eight months ago when he transferred to Mid-City Patrol. In conjunction with his everyday job, Brandon is also a member of the department's Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) Peer Support Team. For Tania, Mid-City was the first division she was assigned to. After almost five years, Tania was ready for a change. This brought her to apply for an open position with Vice Permits & Licensing for which she was selected. There, she handles licensing, permitting, and other various tasks. She has been given responsibilities to work with domestic violence victims. She provides them with much needed support when they are at their most vulnerable, which she feels allows her, "to be more connected with her work." She does not take this responsibility lightly.

For both Brandon and Tania, as long as they feel that they are giving back to their community, they are content. Being police officers and serving others is truly rewarding. Brandon enjoys bringing his dependability and humility to work each day so that his fellow brothers and sisters in blue can count on him while they all are out patrolling the Mid-City streets. Tania believes that her ability to work well with others as well as her dependability are reasons why she has thrived in her career. Together, they make a strong team.

Outside of work, Brandon and Tania have one daughter, Olivia Luna, and two dogs, Gus and Bentley. As a family, they enjoy spending time together and being active outdoors. They often



Sangin District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan  
Spring 2011

camp in Mt. Laguna. Though they work different assignments, both of them hope to one day promote. They are thankful to have met each other on the first day and look forward to many more.



Olivia Luna's 1st Birthday Party

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# SDPOA Manager's Report

**T**hank you to all who sacrificed their Thanksgiving holiday to protect our communities. I hope you were able to attend and enjoy the SDPOA Thanksgiving Meal in the POA Hall. We couldn't do it without the generous support of our sponsors and volunteers. Many thanks to all!

To continue upgrades to the interior of your POA building, we will be giving a new and improved face to our reception area and surrounding hallways. These upgrades come after 23 years of residing in the current POA building. We look forward to welcoming the variety of guests including elected officials, various law enforcement agencies, special guests, and of course all POA members. The project will commence within the first couple of months in 2020.

Recently, the SDPOA held its 4th Annual Memorial Fund Golf Classic. We are grateful for your participation and the generous sponsorships to make this event a success. Proceeds from the tournament go to the SDPOA Memorial Fund which ensures San Diego's fallen officers and their families are never forgotten as well as assists in providing financial support to allow members of the San Diego Police Department to attend and represent San Diego at memorial services for law enforcement officers killed in the line-of-duty throughout California and across the United States.

Very soon, we will be celebrating our 39th Annual SDPOA Charity Christmas Party. We look forward to spending this time as a family and with our families to celebrate the holidays, but also to be reminded of the importance of the charitable aspect of this event. SDPD Officer Jerry Griffin made the ultimate sacrifice on April 25, 2003. Motor Officer Griffin was struck by a speeding vehicle while on duty and died 11 days later. In his memory, the Griffin family and the POA began the Jerry Griffin Memorial Food and Toy Drive. This enables each division of the SDPD to disperse the non-perishable food items and wrapped gifts that members bring to the party, to those in need in our communities. We'd also like to thank Linda Tousley and her family for their dedication for the last 13 years of working so diligently to collect and organize your gracious donations of the food and toy drive items. Further, because of the generous sponsorships from the various donors and businesses in our community who contribute to this event, our members are able to take the night off and spend quality time with their POA family.

Last month, the SDPOA Board of Directors Primary Elections took place. I would like to congratulate our incumbents who will continue to hold their seats and for volunteering to work on behalf of the entire membership's best interests.

I cannot express enough appreciation to the SDPOA staff who continuously work diligently to improve your association on a daily basis. Their commitment and hard work are exemplary. To Erika, Arni, and Crystal, I have much respect for the huge job you do to keep the association moving forward. Thank you and here's to another successful year in 2020.

In closing, I would like to wish you all, from my family to yours, a very safe holiday season and a Happy New Year. I look forward to another great year serving our membership!

Be safe,

*Khristina L. Smith*



# Chaplain's

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By Herb Smith  
San Diego Police Department  
Chaplain

**“Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and He waits on high to have compassion upon you. For the Lord is a God of justice;**

**how blessed are all those who long for Him.”  
(Isaiah 30:18)**

Seeing and experiencing what first responders see and experience most every day they're on the job creates a host of physical, emotional and psychological issues which must be managed and kept in, as much as possible, a manageable framework. Coping with the vicarious impacts of human tragedy, injustice, danger and pressing responsibility all wrapped up in the relentless highs and lows of unpredictable human behavior and what seems like insurmountable challenges at times, makes the job one a relative few in the general population can adapt and live with. The highs are superlative; the lows at times what nightmares are made of. Yet for those who stay with it, day in and out, because God has given them a warrior's heart of a sheepdog that can do no other, they must cling to the hope God gives them in moments where God says Bless you... well done, good and faithful servant. You have kept my sheep.

Sgt. Wes Albers retired last month after 30 years with the department. That's a lot of highs and lows. But what I've seen in Wes in the years I've been around and worked with him is that he kept his heart for humanity all the way through. Few have done more to advance the means, methods and merit of the volunteer Emergency Negotiations Team, which he did for many years in addition to his investigations position, than Wes, who was huge in defining the heart of what we do. How does a first responder not lose heart through 30 years of serving broken and needy humankind? By cultivating a heart of kindness to humans. One such story written by Wes half way through his career gives insight into the treasures which must be mined in what we do to remind ourselves that the sacrifice is a worthy one, and worth-while...

“Jimmy”

For nearly seventeen years I've patrolled the streets of San Diego. I began in the late 1980's when the rock cocaine epidemic was at its peak, crystal methamphetamine was

exploding onto the scene and gangs openly wore colors and engaged in drug-fueled battles over territory. I've worked in poverty-stricken neighborhoods with working-class everyday folk; ultra-wealthy gated communities with high-walled homes; and border communities where the only thing that separates have and want is a piece of corrugated steel fence. I've made my career on the streets. I've been in car chases and brawls. I've been hit, bit, kicked and spit on more times than I can count. I've captured bank robbers, rapists and murderers. I've investigated nearly every type of vile act a human can perpetuate on another. I've taken my share of guns and knives out of the hands of those who would use them to do harm. I've seen friends lose their career to injuries, poor judgment and bad acts. I've seen that which most people get little more than a momentary glimpse of.

Yet when I think back, such are rarely the moments that bring the greatest sense of satisfaction. I cannot remember the year for certain, only that it was the latter part of the 90's. The SDPD had opened a small Community Center in a strip mall in one of its residential neighborhoods. I was working on assignment as a Community Relations Officer. The center contained a police storefront which allowed folks in that area to access general police services without having to go out of their area to a division station. It was also part of an effort to get cops more personally connected to their area neighborhoods where they could more easily interact with their community and partner with them to work collectively to resolve issues in ways other than just law enforcement. Though much of my area was single family homes, there were also a substantial amount of apartment complexes, known as the “blue roofs.” The blue roofs were home to hundreds of mostly low income of subsidized residents and often where either single or both parents worked. This left a lot of kids without supervision during afternoon hours and where petty crimes and graffiti were rampant, and the complex in a general state of disorder.

We tried to help by setting up a recreational center in a donated two-bedroom apartment near the playground and got it supplied with a staff-worker and outfitted with things the kids could safely and constructively occupy themselves with until their parents returned. It helped a lot and the disorder was greatly reduced. This is where I met Jimmy each time I showed up at the center for my monthly meeting with the staff and supporters of the project. He was perhaps ten or twelve, much older than his mental age of six. He was frail with a gaunt face, and had difficulty speaking, standing to maybe half my height. Talking to him was difficult and there were times he would act out, but under it all, through all the disability, there was simply a great kid who loved cops. And he was always there, even when I came by unexpectedly. All of the kids the center served were usually thrilled to see me because they were still of the age where a cop in a uniform was a grand thing to behold. But the glow in Jimmy's eyes was larger than most, and he would rarely leave my side.

Each Christmas season the media ran stories about the department and its fund-driving efforts to collect food, clothing and toys for those less fortunate. Sometimes the reporters showed up when presents were being distributed and the event became one of those warm, happy moments you would expect to see on the seasonal broadcasts. This time, however, was not one of those events there were a news station was notified to watch what occurred.

The storefront had collected a number of items to be given out and, since my position was community relations, I was tasked with finding three families in need that we could provide assistance to. I quickly and easily came up with them, and one of them was Jimmy's.

I didn't know much about Jimmy's family, just that he had a sister and lived near the rec-center. I knew nothing of their situation, but guessed that living where they did times were probably tough with a disabled child. I could have never imagined how tough. I recruited another officer to help me pass out the gifts. He also enjoyed working the streets and was a SWAT officer. Neither of us were drawn to the social, emotional end of the job; just the more adventurous aspects. LE's operate in a world of raw emotion. Volunteering for something that might force you to feel more of such is sometimes difficult for cops to do. Typically we avoided emotional situations, and doing the Christmas detail often garnered a good ribbing from other officers. It's easier to make jokes about that sort of thing than actually do it.

The first two homes we visited were comprised of a single mother with a history of hard drug use who'd gotten herself cleaned up. She was genuinely touched when we brought her stuff and I want to say she'd felt that this was the first time anyone proactively ever went out of their way just to do something kind for her. My recollection of the other house was a single father with multiple kids. He had married a woman, adopted her kids, and then she took off with another man. He stayed and did the right thing by the children, sacrificing and doing what he could to raise them on his own. He was grateful, but the pain of it is that it never seems hardly enough. His life will be rewarded for sure.

Jimmy's house was the last stop. I had a toy police car for him and a teddy bear for his sister. I also had a gift cash card from the local grocery store. We walked up to the door and I knocked. Jimmy quickly answered. His eyes beamed when he saw us. I asked him if his mother was there and he told me she was. When I asked him to get her he scampered down the hall to retrieve her. A few moments later he returned and told me she was busy. I asked Jimmy to go back and tell her it was the police and that we needed to talk to her. He disappeared again. We pushed the door to the apartment open and stepped into the entryway. As we stood there, I could see everything I needed to know. The kitchen was nearly barren, though clean.

The furniture was old, worn and threadbare. In the corner stood a half-dead Christmas tree that looked like it belonged in the Charlie Brown Christmas special. Underneath the sparse, browning tree were two presents wrapped in newspaper. I have no idea what was in those packages, but it looked like maybe a coloring book. It was clear this family was very poor. This is precisely the type of moment cops want to avoid. It's hard not to get emotional when someone has so little and works so hard – and it never feels like one could ever do nearly enough to alleviate such circumstances.

After what seemed like a very long time – probably not more than a minute – Jimmy's mother opened her bedroom door and came out to meet us. With only a glance, the difficult nature of her life was clearly visible on her face; but there was also a look of concern. She greeted us and asked if everything was okay, if her children were alright. I told her they were fine and then asked her to step out to our police car as I had something for her. Yet her fear didn't lessen, despite my repeated statements that there was nothing wrong. She was still troubled and not able to grasp that a visit by the police didn't have to mean something wasn't right. As we walked to the car, I explained that I knew Jimmy from the rec-center. I told her I thought he was a good kid and that we wanted to do something to help for the holidays. When I opened the trunk to reveal the presents for them, tears burst from her eyes. I also gave her the gift card and told her I hoped they would have a Merry Christmas. When she collected herself enough to speak, she began to say why she didn't immediately respond to the door, not knowing who was there at first. With eyes wet with tears and a choke in her voice, she explained to us that she had been unwilling to leave her bedroom because she was on her knees, in tears, praying to God at that moment that He would provide a way to give her children a better Christmas.

What makes this memory so powerful to me is that regardless of how it happened, or what my beliefs might be, or even what my parents beliefs might be – there was a woman so distraught over her inability to provide for her children that she wept on her knees and pleaded for a miracle... even as the answer to her prayers was knocking on her door.

I will never be able to forget that for someone my actions were nothing less than an answered prayer from above. And, more importantly, that that moment had little to do with me, as there is no way an individual person could ever execute something like that.

Bless you Wes, and all of you who stay the course... well done, good and faithful servants. You have kept God's sheep.

**“For from of old they have not heard nor perceived by ear, neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits upon Him.” (64:4). A truly joyous Christmas to you all.**

# Unit Highlight | SDPD Gaslamp Enforcement Team

By Erika Vroom, Editor



It is not surprising that law enforcement has begun to face new challenges as societal circumstances have evolved. As a central hub for the city of San Diego, the Gaslamp Quarter has continued to hold the role as one of the main tourist attractions and San Diego's primary entertainment district. Comprised mainly of bars, nightclubs, and restaurants, the Gaslamp Quarter requires a specific team of police officers to ensure the safety of all who visit the area. In order to police such an area, the necessary tools are a bit different, as the majority of contacts are with pedestrians. The San Diego Police Department's own Gaslamp Enforcement Team (GET) is prepared to uphold the law while working with the citizens they encounter each shift.

Formerly titled the Central Enforcement Team and commonly known as the Central Bike Team, GET patrols the Gaslamp area on foot and on bicycles. Bicycle patrol was implemented by Sergeant Phillip Hubbs in July of 1993, as he felt that officers on foot were limited by the distance they could travel to respond to calls. Though the typical patrol vehicle is a car, the team's alternate form of transportation allows for faster response times in an area that is known to

be congested with vehicle traffic.

Currently, GET is comprised of one sergeant and nine police officers. Sergeant Dan McClain oversees his team of officers, which includes Officers Edgar Garcia, Joshua Capron, Stephanie Maciel, Justin Orozco, Sean Aaland, Tevar Zaki, Benjamin Hall, Kristin Robinson, and Gerald "Uzi" Uzarraga. The word "team" is not used lightly for the GET. They feel that it is important to put the concept of team before anything else. Sergeant McClain explains, "We rely on each other so much to support each other, both professionally and personally, and the mission just doesn't work unless we have the whole team paddling in the same direction."

GET officers work on a 3:12 schedule – 3 days of 12 hour shifts from 1700 to 0500, and an 8-hour day every other Wednesday. This schedule is unique, as it lends the officers availability to the busiest times in the Gaslamp area. During this time, the officers are responsible for providing a safe environment for patrons of the businesses in the Gaslamp. In order to be most effective, the officers interact regularly with citizens and the merchants in order to create a safe



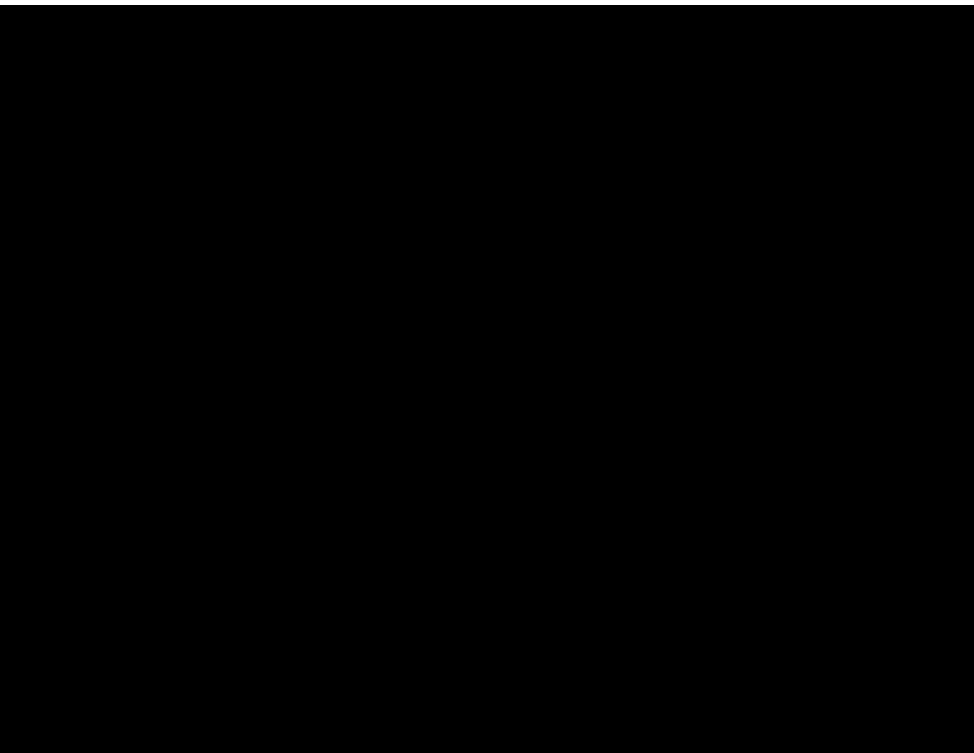
and trustworthy working relationship.

A few of the crucial techniques that the GET routinely uses are visible patrol, consistent engagement with all who are present, and maintained presence. Through the use of a combination of the three practices, officers can quickly intervene in situations that run the risk of spiraling out of control. Most of the time, GET officers are interacting with citizens who are under the influence of alcohol. Thus, they are taught to use techniques of de-escalation to properly handle the challenges that come with communicating with someone who is intoxicated. Senior GET Officer Uzarraga notes, “Being on a bicycle is more welcoming and makes interactions with citizens flow a bit more smoothly.”

During their Wednesday shifts, GET spends a portion

of their time addressing community concerns, but also frequently utilizes the time to train. GET can often be seen on conditioning rides downtown and throughout the city, and they receive additional training in defensive tactics, with an emphasis on use of force in crowded environments. With the increasing number of protests, the team frequently trains to utilize bicycles in crowd control and demonstration management. Finally, because the scope of their normal routine is so specific, they seek out training that will keep less frequently utilized skills sharp, such as searching buildings and working around canines.

Though the GET faces the challenge of public interaction with those whose inhibitions have been lowered by alcohol, they ensure that each member of their team is confident in their abilities to be effective law enforcement officers. In making split second decisions, the officers of the GET find that other officers who may be interested in joining their team need to be self-motivated, confident in their policing abilities, and able to communicate effectively. Working in an area as dynamic as the Gaslamp district can be demanding, but it is as rewarding an assignment as any on the Department.





Thomas M., Class of 2019

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# Officer of the Shift Awards



**May 18, 2019 - September 20, 2019**



Each shift change, the SDPOA organizes an awards breakfast to recognize the outstanding service, dedication, and professionalism from the exemplary officers of the San Diego Police Department. This recognition comes from their peers and supervisors. The SDPOA is honored to continue to organize the Officer of the Shift awards ceremony and we are thankful for the work of each one of our award winners.

## *Congratulations recipients!*

**Investigations I – Eron McNett**  
**Northeastern – Jenna Willkomm**  
**Southeastern – Loui Sandoval**  
**Southern – Sean Grindley**  
**Eastern – Diana Hodges**  
**Mid-City – Dionisio "Danny" Medina**  
**Northern – Kasey Namhie**  
**Central – Wende Eckard**  
**Northwestern – Trevor Philips**  
**Traffic – Joseph Clark**  
**Western – Amber Banning**  
**Investigations II – Dewayne Glazewski**  
**Operational Support – Joe Waggaman**  
**Training & Employee Development – Michael Alberts**  
**Neighborhood Policing – Anthony Bueno**



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at the SDPOA Store:**

***Great stocking stuffers!***

SDPD Badge Keychain  
\$5.00

11oz Coffee Mug  
\$5.90

SDPD Money Clip  
\$8.00

Pepper Spray  
Black Case \$11.64  
Pink Case \$10.39

\*\*\*Items listed may be subject to tax\*\*\*

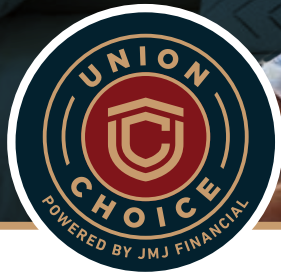
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**ANNOUNCEMENT!**  
 California markets are growing at a rapid pace, the FED is holding rate hikes to trigger homeownership. Buying in or refinancing before rates go up early this year!



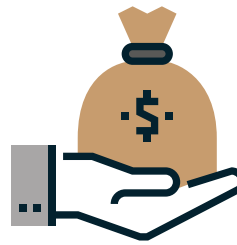
“ I had used Union Choice previously back in 2018. The professionalism and easiness of the procedure made it so that very little of my time was required. **I would definitely recommend Union Choice to anyone and especially with Law Enforcement.** ”

- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF, **THOMAS B.**



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# UC-7:

Highlighting cop-friendly eateries in the City of San Diego that provide a full meal for under or around \$10.00 using a strict 5-badge rating system.

## An Anonymous Eater

### Que'Tortas!

1263 Broadway  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
(619) 631-7059



I like to create good problems. When I see a new restaurant, I usually don't review it until after they have been open for a few months or a year. Based on my own experience in the restaurant business, I know they need time to develop a good stride and a solid rhythm. Sending a horde of hungry officers to a new place could be overwhelming. A problem, but sometimes, being really busy is a good problem. My own rules are subject to being bent and outright ignored when appropriate, especially when I eat good food that everyone needs to know about sooner rather than later. Henceforth, I ventured to El Cajon for some delicious tortas.

Que' Tortas! is located at 1263 Broadway, in El Cajon, (619) 631-7059, just a quick turn east from Las Colinas. They are open Monday-Saturday 7-8 and Sunday 9-6. They have a small dining room, and there is plenty of parking attached to the business. Que' Tortas! has been open one month, but the food is delicious, the prices are fair, and it's a personal favorite "type"; a local family run business. Jacob D and I ate there one time for this article, but we are most definitely going back.

I go mad for Panela cheese, so of course I had to have a torta with Panela and chicken, (\$8.50) with "everything", mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, onion, avocado, jalapeno, and Chipotle sauce. I love food made with such good ingredients, that even a simple dish can surprise you. This torta was well portioned and delicious. Panela cheese always has a wonderfully

subtle flavor that doesn't overwhelm, but enhances the attributes of its co-stars. In this case, the tomato, onion, and avocado played well with the Panela.

Jacob D had the Spicy Torta, (\$7.85) with everything, which was not just garnished with jalapeno, rather it was loaded with it! If you like food with some kick, this is your torta. Jacob loved it and commented that despite the healthy amount of fire, the other ingredients were enhanced and made all of the flavors in the torta work. I need to give a special mention their bread. They buy it from a local bakery in Chula Vista and it's wonderful! Bread is one those foods that won't ever hurt a dish, but GOOD bread demands your attention. Good bread is powerful. Good bread is the rascal Odile that makes your low carb fuel look like a boring Odette.

Aaaaand then there's the fresh made-to-order juices. We both had the juice called "Raise The Dead," (\$5.25, for a small), made mainly with fresh beets. Honestly, the name of this juice was so hilarious, it sold us. The price was a little out of range, for the beverage part of a meal, but if you are on a juice fast or you just need something quick and healthy, their fresh juices are an excellent choice.

Que' Tortas! is going to be one those hidden El Cajon gems and I'm glad I stumbled on it early. Que' Tortas! is the perfect choice for the cop who wants a quality meal for a fair price. I am giving it 4 1/2 badges.



# Pension

C  
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By Lou Maggi  
SDCERS Trustee

## SDCERS Annual Supplemental Benefits

Each November, SDCERS' Board of Administration approves or denies payment of the Annual Supplemental Benefit, (Supplemental Benefit) commonly referred to as the "13th Check." If the Board approves the Supplemental Benefit, then the Corbett Settlement Increase ("Corbett Benefit") is also paid. This past November, staff received multiple phone calls from police officers who seemed a bit confused about what the Corbett Benefit actually is and who is eligible to receive it. It seems appropriate to use this publication as a means to explain the Corbett Benefit.

The Corbett Benefit is inextricably linked to the Supplemental Benefit, since the Corbett Benefit is only paid in years that the Supplemental Benefit is paid; if payment is not made in a given year, the accrued Corbett Benefit amount will be carried over for distribution in the next year that the Supplemental Benefit is paid. Therefore, we begin our discussion by first explaining the Supplemental Benefit, which is an annual lump sum payment granted to eligible retirees (or their continuance beneficiary) in qualified years. Whether or not a year "qualifies" for payment of the Supplemental Benefit is decided by a specific formula outlined in San Diego Municipal Code §24.1503(b). This formula determines if the retirement trust fund's investment earnings over the past fiscal year are sufficient to pay the Supplemental Benefit.

The only City retirees who are eligible for the Supplemental Benefit are those who (1) were hired before July 1, 2005, (2) retired with at least 10 years of service credit (including reciprocal and purchased credit), and (3) received a pension check for the month of October in the year that the Supplemental Benefit is paid. A complicated mathematical equation is used to calculate the amount of this benefit, but the maximum amount is as follows:

- \$75 per year of City service credit for retirees who retired before January 1, 1972;
- \$60 per year of City service credit for retirees who retired on or after January 1, 1972, but before October 7, 1980; and
- \$30 for each year of City service credit for all other retired City police officers who were hired before July 1, 2005.

NOTE: It is important to understand that even if you are eligible for the Supplemental Benefit, that does not automatically mean you are eligible to receive the Corbett Benefit, and vice versa.

In order to fully explain the Corbett Benefit, we must revisit its origin story. In July of 1998, William J. Corbett sued the City of San Diego, claiming certain types of pay were improperly excluded from City employees' final compensation used to calculate their pension benefits. Mr. Corbett's case was ultimately resolved by what is known as the "Corbett

Settlement,” from which the Corbett Benefit is derived. The intent of the Corbett Settlement was to increase pension benefits for all current and future City retirees in one of two ways. Most of the confusion surrounding the Corbett Benefit stems from the way the Corbett Settlement was structured. In a nutshell, the settlement created two separate benefits for City Safety Members; which benefit you get depends on when you left City employment. Note: if you were hired on or after July 1, 2009, your retirement benefit factors are completely different and the Corbett Settlement doesn't affect you.

Those retirees who permanently terminated City employment before July 1, 2000 receive what we have been referring to as the Corbett Benefit, which is the annual benefit granted whenever the Supplemental Benefit is paid. The Corbett Benefit is calculated as 7% of the retiree's monthly pension benefit, which accrues every month that the retiree is alive and receives a pension check, and it is paid as a lump sum in November of qualified years. For example, an eligible retiree whose base pension benefit is \$2,000/month would receive an additional \$1,680 in their November pension check, assuming they were alive during the previous 12 months and the Supplemental Benefit is approved that year.

The alternate benefit created by the Corbett Settlement applies to all present and future City retirees who did not terminate City employment before July 1, 2000 – in other words, anyone who worked for the City on or after July 1, 2000. This part of the settlement did not provide an annual lump sum payment option, but instead required the City to offer increased retirement factors used to calculate pension benefits. As a result, police officers who worked for the City on or after July 1, 2000, but were hired before July 1, 2009, are given the option at retirement to have their pension calculated using either the Corbett factors (flat 3%), or the old factors with a 10% increase added to their final average salary. However, if you were hired on or after July 1, 2009, your retirement benefit factors are completely different and the Corbett Settlement doesn't affect you.

If you are retired or participating in DROP, and you were eligible to receive the Supplemental Benefit and/or Corbett Benefit for 2019, the additional amount was added to your November 2019 pension check.

Stay tuned for next month's article regarding benefit options and the factors available to you when you retire.

*Every issue, I work with SDCERS staff to craft "Pension Corner," which is meant to pass on relevant information to department members and respond to frequently asked questions. If there is a topic that you would like to read about, please email me at [MaggiL@sdcers.org](mailto:MaggiL@sdcers.org).*



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# Golfing for the Fallen

## SDPOA hosts its 4th annual Memorial Fund Golf Classic



**T**his year's SDPOA Memorial Golf Tournament was held on November 15, 2019 at the Barona Creek Golf Club. We want to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers for making this tournament a sell out and a huge success!



Special thanks to the following:  
Underwriter of the Tournament - Barona Resort and Casino;  
Title Sponsor - Wheelhouse Credit Union;  
Honor Sponsor - AT&T FirstNet;  
Tribute Sponsor - Dugan & Rader Law Offices;  
Score Card Sponsor - PORAC San Diego & Imperial Counties Chapter;  
Box Lunch Donor - San Diego Police Athletic Federation;  
as well as La Mesa POA, San Diego BPOA, SDCPOA, SDCDAI, Choksi/Queen Wealth Advisors, El Cajon POA, Oceanside POA and DSA.

Congratulations to our 1st place winners:  
Ed Lasater, Luis Enciso, Joe Rathburn, and Brian Lode

Closest to the Pin winner:  
Mark Slane

Longest drive winner:  
Joe Rathburn

We appreciate all of the continued support from those listed above and look forward to seeing everyone back out on the course next year!





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# In Remembrance

**Robert F. Bowers**



**End of Watch: 12 December 1955**  
Officer Bowers was killed during a high-speed pursuit.

**Robert L. Everitt**



**End of Watch: 7 December 1964**  
While laying flares at a traffic accident, Sergeant Everitt was hit and killed by a truck.

**James P. Lewis**



**End of Watch: 29 December 1970**  
Officer Lewis was shot and killed by a fugitive while off-duty and helping a citizen check false IDs at a bar.

# *Congratulations, Retirees!*

Thank you to all of our members who recently retired between

**October 16, 2019 and November 15, 2019**

for your dedication and service.

We wish you the best in your new chapter in life!

*Detective Jana Beard*

Hired April 1, 1991 ~ Retired October 18, 2019

*Lieutenant Mark Bennett*

Hired July 14, 1989 ~ Retired October 18, 2019

*Detective Eduardo Fletes*

Hired December 18, 1986 ~ Retired October 25, 2019

*Officer Michael Clippinger*

Hired July 1, 1991 ~ Retired October 31, 2019

*Officer Timothy Peterson*

Hired February 2, 1990 ~ Retired October 31, 2019

*Executive Assistant Chief Todd Jarvis*

Hired April 27, 1984 ~ Retired November 1, 2019

*Sergeant Peter Brown*

Hired July 23, 2004 ~ Retired November 1, 2019

# On the Road

Proudly Presented by



Detective Randy Mills, Retired Officer Julie Mills & Retired Lieutenant Jerry Mills on the Amakhala Game Reserve in South Africa.



Retired Captain Jim McGinley at Mackinac Island in Michigan. This was one of several stops during a seven day cruise on Lake Michigan.



Retired Motor Officer Bob Hendrix aboard Queen Mary 2 on a cruise from New York to Hamburg.

If you have recently taken your copy of *The Informant* on the road with you, please share your pictures! If your picture is featured, the member who sends in the photo will receive a pair of movie tickets and our appreciation! Active and retired SDPOA members should send submissions to Erika at [editor@sdpoa.org](mailto:editor@sdpoa.org).



# SDPOA Board Minutes

## Board of Directors Meeting

October 10, 2019

**Directors present:** Schaeffer (excused 1130, returned 1300) Bostedt, Avera, Evans (arrived at 0930), Mackay (excused 1330), Hoskins, Wilson, McCullough, Paxton (excused 1308)

**Directors excused:** None.

STATION DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:  
None.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  
M. Guaderrama, E. Barns

OTHERS PRESENT:  
M. Begovich, K. Smith (recorder)

**OPENING OBSERVANCES**  
President Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 0900 hours and Secretary Hoskins led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for the Officers killed in the line of duty in the past. There were 8 officers killed in the line of duty Nationwide since the September board meeting. In the history of the SDPD there were 3 San Diego Police officers killed in the month of October. Freddie Edwards (10/7/1971), Walter Holcomb (10/21/1918), Christopher Wilson (10/28/2010).

**NON-AGENDA MEMBER COMMENTS:**  
• None.

**1. MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:**  
• Errick Barns approached the board and requested the POA sponsor the Alive and Free SD/Overcoming Gangs and Beyond training.  
***M/S Avera/McCullough to donate \$250 toward this training.***  
• Brian Avera requested the board donate \$200 for the flowers for NLPOA's Day of the Dead Celebration.  
***Moved to Charity***

**PRESENTATIONS:**  
• None.

**2. PAC**  
• Report in Closed session.

**3. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
a. Informant:  
• The Central Bike Team will be the unit highlight for December. The member spotlight for December will be Art Lovio. The Central Bike Team will be the unit highlight for December.  
• The Western JST will be the unit highlight for January. The member

spotlight for January will be Brad and Tanya Lull.

b. Website:  
• No report.

c. Mackay reported regarding POA App updates.

**4. RETIREMENT**  
• Avera updated regarding an RMT meeting.  
• Avera reported SDCERS will hold some meetings for members regarding Retirement and DROP planning.

**5. MEMBER RELATIONS**  
• No report.

**6. LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
• Chief Guaderrama announced Executive Assistant Chief Jarvis will be retiring October 31. There will be promotions for an Assistant Chief and Captain.  
• Chief Guaderrama updated regarding the use of force policy.  
• Negotiations are coming up. LMC meetings will be postponed until after negotiations.  
• Wilson spoke of the Sergeant's study material and the constant additions of more material having to be studied. Discussion occurred.

**7. LEGAL**  
• No report.

**8. SPECIAL EVENTS/ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
• A site visit for planning purposes for the Christmas party took place recently.

**9. BUDGET-FINANCE**  
• ***M/S Hoskins/Schaeffer to approve the September treasurer's report. Unanimous. 9-0.***

**10. BUSINESS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
a. Administrative:  
• There were 2 email polls.  
• ***M/S Schaeffer/Hoskins to approve the Line of Duty Death board policy dated 10/10/19. Unanimous. 9-0.***  
• ***M/S Bostedt/McCullough to accept the Member Memorial Travel policy dated 10/10/19. Unanimous. 8-0-1. Schaeffer absent.***

b. Minutes:  
• ***M/S Paxton/Hoskins to accept the September 2019 Meeting Minutes.***

***Unanimous. 9-0.***

**11. MILESTONE REPORT**  
• No report.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**  
• The new home buying program for members will be available soon. The POA will hold meetings regarding the program.  
• Mackay gave an update on a cell phone plan.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**  
• Mackay is doing some research regarding survivor health coverage and gravely injured officer and family coverage.  
• Wilson gave an update on the recent NAPO Fall conference he and Hoskins attended along with current issues.  
• ***M/S Wilson/McCullough to send 5 directors to the upcoming NAPO Annual Pension and Benefits Conference in January 2020 in Las Vegas. Evans opposed. 8-1.***  
• McCullough updated the board on the upcoming board elections voting which will take place during November 4th – November 11th.  
• The Big 50, formerly Harvard, will take place April 2020. The POA will send 3 directors. The names will be determined in January 2020.  
• New director shirts will be ordered.

**14. ARMED SERVICES**  
• Hoskins reported the U.S. Navy birthday is coming up. Hoskins will write something to send out.

***Adjourned the general meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1341.***

***Adjourned meeting at 1426.***

**SDPOA Non-Members:**  
Allahwardy, Deshney  
Alvarez-Tostado, Joshua  
Christman, Tyler  
Crumb, Katherine  
David, Antonio  
Ingram, Henry  
Irwin, Wade  
Rawls, Kenneth  
Slater, Thomas  
Sterling, Trevor  
Turner, Todd

# Classified Ads and Vacation Rentals

## **Cemetery Plot for Sale**

El Camino Memorial Park cemetery plot for sale. Police Officers and Firefighters Memorial Lawn; plot located near top of Memorial in Plaza. Single space with right to purchase 2nd interment. El Camino asking price: \$10,000.00. Will sell for \$6,000.00. For more information, please contact Mary at 760-294-2700 or M51thomps@gmail.com.

## **Cemetery Plot for Sale**

El Camino Memorial Park cemetery plot for sale. Police Officers and Firefighters Memorial Lawn; plot located near top of Memorial in Plaza. Double interment. El Camino asking price: \$15,000.00. Will sell for \$10,000.00. For more information, please contact Retired Detective Steve Chelby at 619-995-9716.

## **Cemetery Plot for Sale**

El Camino Memorial Park cemetery plot for sale. Police Officers and Firefighters Memorial Lawn; plot located near top of Memorial in Plaza. Single space. El Camino asking price: \$10,000.00. Will sell for \$5,000.00. For more information, please contact Retired Captain Gene Ackert at 760-787-0560.

## **K-38 Baja Mexico**

One bedroom ground level condo located at the popular K-38 surf location (1 hour from San Diego, 10 min south of Rosarito). Sit on the deck and watch the surf, surfers, and sunsets. Secure, gate guarded complex. Sleeps 4, California King bed in master and a queen murphy bed in living area. Fully equipped kitchen, BBQ, fireplace, outside patio table, and large sun deck. Perfect for a romantic weekend get-away or a week of surfing. Call Eric Johnson 619-651-7600, SDPD retired.

## **Lake Havasu City, Arizona**

New vacation home in the heart of Lake Havasu City. The home has three bedrooms and two baths with an additional detached guest house furnished as a second master suite, making it perfect for two couples plus kids/guests. Amenities include full granite kitchen, in-ground pool and Jacuzzi, fireplace, 50" TV & entertainment center, BBQ, and lots of off-street parking. The home is 5 minutes from all attractions including London Bridge and the lake, golf, desert sports, and shopping! Available by the day or get the week discount. Great law enforcement rates. Call J.K. Hudgins, CIU 858-208-7828, or Chuck Arnold, ICAC 619-890-8527.

## **Rosarito Beach, Mexico**

Just steps from the beach, beautiful ocean view with spectacular sunsets. Gate guarded, located at K38, a world-renowned surfing spot and only 20 minutes from the border. Outside fire pit and sun deck, living room, family room both with fireplaces. Two bedrooms, sleeps eight, two bathrooms. Enjoy the clear skies and stars at night, smell the ocean air and listen to the waves. Reasonable rates, come relax and enjoy! Only \$75-95/ night! Call Sandy Redding at 619-444-9174. DirecTv/ WiFi available.



# SDPOA Board Minutes

Foundation Meeting

October 10, 2019

**Directors present:** Schaeffer (arrived 1300), Bostedt, Avera Evans, Mackay (excused 1330), Hoskins, Wilson, McCullough, Paxton (excused 1308)

**Directors excused:** None.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**  
None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**  
M. Begovich, K. Smith (recorder)

**MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:**  
• No report.

**PRESENTATIONS:**  
• No report.

**CHARITY REQUESTS:**  
• Request for POA to sponsor the SDDSA Golf Tournament on November 4th.  
*M/S Bostedt/McCullough for \$500 for one foursome. Unanimous. 8-0-1. Hoskins absent.*

• Request for POA to sponsor the NLPOA Day of the Dead celebration flowers.

*M/S Bostedt/McCullough for \$200. Unanimous. 8-0-1. Avera abstains.*

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:**  
• Evans gave an update regarding the memorial travel plans including the member payroll deductions and members stipends plan.  
• All of the line of duty checks have been paid out to date.

**FUNDRAISING**  
• No report.

**MINUTES:**  
• *M/S Bostedt/Hoskins to accept the September Foundation meeting minutes. Unanimous. Wilson, Mackay, Paxton absent. 6-0-3.*

**BUDGET FINANCE:**  
• *M/S Hoskins/Bostedt to approve the September treasurer's report. Unanimous. 8-0-1. Schaeffer absent.*  
• *M/S Mackay/McCullough to move \$10,000 from the WF Foundation board designated fund to the Memorial Fund to cover*

*memorial expenses. Unanimous. 8-0-1.*

• *The board will move the pass through for the SDPD HQ monument from the Foundation fund to the general fund. Evans and Schaeffer will investigate options on the income for the pass through.*

**CHILDCARE:**  
• Avera updated on the business side of this program. The contract has been signed with KinderCare.  
• Wilson discussed some possible venues for the childcare facility to be located. Various possible options were considered.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
• None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
• None.

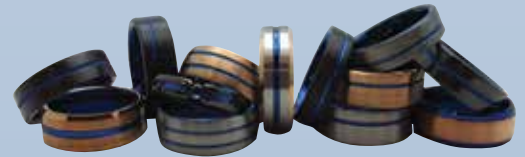
*Adjourned the general meeting into the Foundation meeting at 1300.*

*Adjourned Foundation meeting into the closed session 1410.*



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**REMINDER:**

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for  
Thursday, December 12, 2019  
at 9:00 a.m. in the POA Board Room.**

If you have a specific topic you would like to address with the board, please email Khristina at [ksmith@sdpoa.org](mailto:ksmith@sdpoa.org) by Thursday, December 5, 2019 to be added to the agenda.

If you'd like to sit in and listen to the discussion, but do not have a specific topic, please feel free to drop in.

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**San Diego Police Officers Association Staff**



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Manager  
Executive Assistant



**Erika Vroom**  
Communications Coordinator  
Editor, *The Informant*



**Arni Page**  
Store Clerk



**Crystal Millburn**  
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HAPPY

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