



## ***Tri-Counties Chapter***

### ***Meeting Minutes***

May 17, 2010

#### **I. Call to order**

President Mark Hanks called meeting to order at 6:40 pm at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

#### **Roll call**

The following individuals were present:

1. Ryan Bates, Chapter Treasurer, President (PHPOA)
2. Eric Swartz, Marketing Executive, Myers-Stevens & Toohey
3. Rene Smit, President (SBAPOA)
4. Todd Johnson, President (SBCDSA)
5. Mark Hanks, Chapter Director, Treasurer (VCDSA)
6. Diane Hubbard, President (VCPPOA)
7. Roger Stephenson, PORAC LDF Trustee, (ESPOA)
8. Mike McGrew, President (SBPOA)
9. James Meter, Chapter Secretary (SBCDSA)
10. Gary Wyatt, AFLAC Representative
11. Matt Findlay, President (VCDSA)
12. Ken Yuwiler, Silver Hadden Silver Wexler and Levine
13. Dale Strobridge, Chapter VP SLO, President (SLODSA)
14. Sonny Lopez, President (GBPOA)
15. Michael Claytor, PAC VP (SBPOA)
16. Greg Hons, PAC President (SBPOA)
17. Bryan Jensen, PAC VP (SBPOA)
18. Charles McChesney, PAC Treasurer (SBPOA)
19. Michael Smiley, Member (AGPOA)

## **II. Approval of Minutes – Mark Hanks**

A motion was made by Ryan Bates to approve the minutes, as submitted via e-mail, of the March 15, 2010 meeting held at the Harbor Restaurant in Santa Barbara. Mike McGrew seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Treasurer's Report – Ryan Bates**

Treasurer Bates reported the balance of General account was \$10,660.07 as of May 17, 2010. He also noted a check from PORAC should be deposited in the near future in the amount of \$2,400-\$2,900.

Treasurer Bates advised the chapter he is in need of basic office supplies and postage of no more than \$100. Discussion ensued. Consensus is this is normal operating business. Treasurer will keep chapter informed of any spending.

Director Snowling not in attendance; no report submitted.

## **IV. PORAC Officers Report – Mike Durant**

PORAC Vice President Mike Durant was unable to make the meeting.

## **V. President's Report – Mark Hanks**

President Hanks has been busy working with Treasurer Bates to get all of our banking and post office needs up-to-date. Treasurer Bates was also able to get a key to the chapter P.O. Box and now has access. He will also get a key for the chapter President, work in progress.

President Hanks thanked Treasurer Bates for all of his recent work and updating our banking information.

President Hanks has been busy working with the Geoff Dean for Sheriff Campaign.

## **VI. Committees**

*Insurance & Benefits* – Nick Odenath unable to attend for personal reasons. Reminder about the I&B website [www.poracinsurance.org](http://www.poracinsurance.org) as a resource for basic insurance questions as well as additional contact information.

AFLAC Representative Gary Wyatt conducted a general presentation reminding chapter members of the availability of AFLAC benefits. ALFAC and Gary work closely with PORAC. Gary reminded members of the availability of "user" accounts on-line for members who use AFLAC services. Also advised retirees can continue their coverage at the same rates they had prior to retirement. Prospective members can now pay their premiums via their personal checking accounts, no need to go through your employer. Gary also passed out information sheets and made information packets available.

Eric Swartz with Myers, Stevens & Toohey was present and available for members' questions. No report. Eric also reminded members to contact him if they have any questions or issues.

*LDF* - Director Roger Stephenson reported membership at 86,499, Associations - 881, 30 states. Net assets \$5.80 million in reserves. All information reported as of May 3, 2010. Reported there has been a significant increase (16%) in usage of LDF from 2006-2009 system wide. 4,230 cases in 2006 to 4,589 cases in 2009. 81% of this growth has been in California, even though LDF growth has been out of state. Notable trend is cases which historically would have been counseling sessions or written reprimands are now going to full blown Internal Affairs investigations. The result appears to be an increase in use of LDF. Roger also advised taser related cases are on the rise.

Continued warnings about personal information placed in internet such as social networking sites. Also reminder some of this information may be shared if you are not careful in protecting yourself.

Roger advised he was willing to assist associations who may experience any issues with their membership as a result of the recent rate adjustments. He will be able to assist association leadership explain specific rates changes.

Roger reminded chapter members of the LDF website which contains valuable articles and information. [www.porac.org/ldf](http://www.porac.org/ldf)

Ken Yuwiler was present for questions. He spoke about First Amendment speech. Ken reminded members that being a public employee does limit your First Amendment rights. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled the First Amendment does not prevent employees from being disciplined for statements they make pursuant to discharging their professional responsibilities. If you are reporting a matter of public concern to the public, it is different than an employee reporting it through a chain of command as a requirement of your employment then you are not protected under the First Amendment. Bottom line, any statements you make in the course of your duties is not protected under the First Amendment.

*RMT* – John Snowling not in attendance, no report.

*RAM* – Tom Snook unable to attend. No Report. Chapter agreed to take RAM off agenda as a regular item. Roger Stephenson reminded membership about RAM's new CCW coverage, \$48 annual fee. See website for additional information.

*PAC* – Motion by Todd Johnson to endorse Steve Lavagnino for Santa Barbara County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor. Second by Charles McChesney. Brief discussion ensued. PHPOA abstained. Unanimous vote in favor of endorsement.

Executive Board moved to endorse Elton Gallegly for the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. President Hanks asked membership present to confirm board's vote. Motion by Matt Findlay to endorse Elton Gallegly for the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Second by Charles McChesney. No discussion, motion passed.

Executive Board moved to endorse Katcho Achadjian for the 33<sup>rd</sup> State Assembly District. President Hanks asked membership present to confirm board's vote. Motion by Dale Strobridge to endorse Katcho Achadjian for the 33<sup>rd</sup> State Assembly District. Second by Todd Johnson. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

After brief introductory discussion, motion by Dale Strobridge to endorse John Laird for the 15<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Second by Sonny Lopez. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

By-Law Committee – James Meter reported very little input from members. President Hanks submitted information to be added regarding RAM. No questions or comments from membership present.

## **VII. Directors' Reports**

Tri-Counties' Director John Snowling unable to attend, no report.

Executive Board Director Randy Watkins unable to attend, no report.

## **VIII. Vice-Presidents' Reports**

San Luis Obispo Vice-President Dale Strobridge updated chapter on pending issues (lawsuit) with SLODSA split.

Santa Barbara County Vice-President Chris Corbett unable to attend, no report.

Ventura County Vice-President Nick Odenath unable to attend, no report. Matt Findlay reminded chapter to vote for Geoff Dean for Sheriff and Greg Totten for District Attorney if residing in Ventura County. Matt also mentioned issues surrounding the oil drilling disaster in the Gulf and how it is affecting California state politics.

Mike McGrew recently met with Jerry Brown and was impressed with him, spoke positively about the meeting. PORAC has already endorsed Jerry Brown for Governor.

Mike McGrew made a motion for a chapter endorsement of Jerry Brown for Governor with a \$2000.00 PAC contribution. Second by Dale Strobridge. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business discussed.

#### **X. New Business**

Mike McGrew gave an update regarding SBPOA's on-going negotiations with the City. Continuing to deal with threat tactics from City Administrator. Mike advised SBPOA has been in discussions with Peter Donahue, an economist from San Francisco area, to review City of Santa Barbara's financials. Will focus on monies moved from City's General Fund. Mr. Donahue recently spoke at the PORAC Symposium in Palm Springs area. Charles McChesney already experiencing games with city and their "stonewalling" of providing financial documents.

Matt Findlay advised VCDSA negotiated a concession which helped their county but worked well for their membership and continued to strengthen the association's credibility.

Mike Smiley was present for a PIC request for Arroyo Grande P.D. regarding the building of a new police station via a bond measure. Mike made a motion for the chapter to donate \$1000 to assist Arroyo Grande P.D. with marketing the bond measure. Lengthy discussion. No second, motioned died.

Mike McGrew advised chapter about the League of Cities has a ballot measure to protect RDA funds. League of Cities is very much behind the anti labor movements. RDA funds are not restricted funds and can be used for operating costs for public safety. One tactic city administrators and county executive officers use is to state these funds cannot be used for public safety operations. Dave Strobridge re-emphasized the issues with the League of Cities and their attacking labor groups.

**XI. Good of the Chapter**

President Hanks advised members he will not seek the President seat for 2011.

**XII. Adjournment**

President Hanks adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00pm.  
Minutes submitted by: James Meter, Chapter Secretary  
Minutes approved by: