

Representing Las Vegas Metro Police Department Officers and Deputy City and Municipal Court Marshals

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 3 | September/October 2014

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LVPPA

VOUS SEE PAGE 8

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Representing Las Vegas Metro Police Department Officers and Deputy City and Municipal Court Marshals

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The Las Vegas Police Protective Association is affiliated with the following organizations at the state and national level:

NAPO – National Association of Police Organizations, representing nearly 220,000 police officer members in 4,000 police associations nationwide.

"BIG 50" – An informal association of the 50 largest law enforcement associations in the United States.

SNCOPS – Southern Nevada Conference of Police and Sheriffs





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Executive Director's Message

DETECTIVE CHRIS COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our National Delegation

For the past 12 years or so, the PPA has belonged to an association called the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO). NAPO represents approximately 240,000 law enforcement professionals around the country. It was established to provide a powerful, effective and respected voice for its member organizations and to educate the public about public safety, the rights of law enforcement officers and crime reduction.

The objective of NAPO is to unite all law enforcement officer organizations within the United States and surrounding territories, in order to promote and maintain federal legislation most beneficial to law enforcement in general and the protection of the citizens of this nation. What all that really means is that NAPO lobbies in Washington, D.C., on behalf of its members and, for that matter, all of law enforcement. NAPO has a strong voice on Capitol Hill, with the Department of Justice and even at the White House.

I assume you are wondering why I have told you about NAPO. Well, for the past seven years, as the executive director of the PPA and an elected officer of NAPO, I have had the privilege of traveling to D.C. to lobby on behalf of our members and law enforcement across the country. When I first started making these trips, I was very excited and thought great changes would come about for

law enforcement. This excitement lasted for a few years; then I started to think I was wasting my time because very little change was taking place. The few small victories we would achieve were what made me keep going back to D.C. There was a time when the Nevada delegation and Congress as a whole were not very supportive of our efforts on Capitol Hill. However, that is no longer the case. A change has taken place over the past three years or so, and Congress has started to listen to our concerns and actively work on several problems we have brought to their attention. I know that as law enforcement officers, we don't take just anyone's word as fact — we want proof. I can provide that.

NAPO tracks how supportive members of Congress are to the needs of law enforcement. This is done by tracking who sponsors or co-sponsors a bill on our behalf, and tracking the way members of Congress vote on bills that affect law enforcement. NAPO then produces a report given to its board that shows how supportive each state's delegation has been. This is broken up by party, by the Senate and by the House of Representatives. The members of the Nevada delegation — Senators Reid and Heller, and Representatives Heck, Horsford, Amodei and Titus — have supported law enforcement issues 86% of the time. I am very proud of each of them and happy to say that this is the highest combined score for any state in the nation! If you are a member of law enforcement or just support law and order, there is no reason why you should vote for anyone other than the current members of our delegation. The 10 most supportive states are Nevada, Delaware, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Washington, Maryland and Vermont. The 10 least supportive states are Wyoming, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Idaho, Missouri, Utah, Alabama, New Jersey, Texas and Kentucky.

Now let's take a look at how each party supported our issues. In the House of Representatives, the Democrats supported our issues 81% of the time and the Republicans did so 54% of the time. In the Senate, the Democrats supported our issues 69% of the time, the independent members 73% of the time, and the Republicans 60% of the time. Every person who calls Nevada home should be proud that our delegation is leading the way nationally to keep our citizens and our law enforcement officers safe.

I could not write this article without giving you a quick update on the work being done on the Pension Protection Act. You may remember that this is the federal legislation that gives public safety officials a \$3,000 tax exemption to help offset the cost of health insurance. As I have previously told you, I have met with every member of our Nevada delegation and all of them expressed concern when they were told that because of the rising cost of health care, our retirees were being forced to purchase health insurance in such a manner that they may lose this exemption. Senator Heller had his staff meet with me on several occasions and was very helpful. Without question, the person who has risen to the top to champion this cause is Representative Horsford. I have spoken with him several times about this issue. He directed members of his staff to work with me and find some way to fix this problem, and there have been several meetings and conference calls regarding it. I hope that in the relatively near future, I will be able to tell you that the problem has been fixed.

Last but not least, I want give a special thank-you to Melissa Nee at NAPO. She is the person responsible for all the facts and figures I quoted in the article and, more importantly, she attends every meeting I go to on the Hill when I am in D.C. She makes sure I don't leave out any of the important facts and keeps me on point. The behind-the-scenes work she and the entire NAPO staff do on behalf of law enforcement is the real reason for any successes we have had.

As always, be safe and fight the good fight. VB



Call today! 702-802-27



Imagine Your World Without the LVPPA

POLICE OFFICER MARK CHAPARIAN

Assistant Executive Director

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is an excellent police department with great people working for it. I am proud to be a member of this Department and have enjoyed all the opportunities that Metro has provided and still provides for me, my co-workers and the community we serve. How did we become a top-notch police agency? Was it because we had excellent leadership? Was it due to the booming economy? What or who shaped the salary, benefits, working conditions and might of Metro? I can tell you with confidence that the Las Vegas Police Protective Association had a lot to do with the good things that make Metro what it has become today.

The LVPPA has worked tirelessly decade after decade to deliver lucrative contracts to its members, which has made Metro one of the best-paid police departments in the country. I have spent hundreds of hours studying and researching police contracts across the nation, and Metro stands far above the majority. Does anyone honestly believe we would be paid and compensated anything near what we are today if the LVPPA did not exist? Does anyone think for one minute that police and corrections officers would have a right to representation and grievance hearings if the LVPPA had not laid the groundwork?

The LVPPA has engaged our opponents on all fronts in the war on health care dollars. Through our collective bargaining process, we take the City of Las Vegas, Clark County and mighty Metro to task in order to secure money that can be spent on health care for you and your family. This is no easy task and it's never pretty, but who would be the person or entity to roll up their sleeves and take this on for the membership if the LVPPA wasn't here to do it? This isn't Disneyland, so believe me when I tell you that *their* idea of health care is nothing like *your* idea of health care, or anything that remotely resembles what our membership would consider acceptable.

Painstaking efforts are taken to filter, endorse, lobby, and support or oppose political candidates who impact our members on and off the job. The LVPPA is a significant contender in local and state politics. Politicians desperately seek our endorsement and support and, in turn, we use them to achieve our goals. City council members and county commissioners have a direct P# 9860 impact on our salary and benefits. State senators and state assembly members have a direct impact on pension benefits, the ability to bargain contracts, and rights and due process for officers. Great things don't happen by themselves,



or because people generally like cops and corrections officers. I wish! If the LVPPA wasn't in the thick of it all, I have no doubt that our world here at Metro and most of Nevada law enforcement would look and feel very different. In this instance, different isn't good!

The LVPPA has always worked, and will continue to work relentlessly to improve conditions and protect its membership. We live in a political, litigious and crazy world. At every level the LVPPA is engaged with a swivel on its proverbial head, ever vigilant against sneak attacks, ambushes or frontal assaults. The LVPPA's motto is "We protect those who protect others." If we don't do it, who's going to? So I ask you, imagine your world without the LVPPA. We exist because you exist. We are strong because of your continued support. Stay engaged and stay safe!

Reminder: The Clark County General Election begins soon. Vote and take 25 people with you to vote as well. If you don't bother to vote, don't complain down the road. VB





Mediation

CORRECTIONS OFFICER SCOTT NICHOLAS

Treasurer

In my opinion, one of the best and also one of the most underutilized programs in our Department is the mediation program. Mediation gives all of us a chance to sit down with other members of the Department and talk about things that would otherwise lead to a Statement of Complaint (SOC).

Throughout my career, I have wondered why we Department members, both commissioned and civilian, attack each other so often. I am not saying that one side or the other is to blame, or that it takes two to have a fight, but somehow we get to a point in our day-to-day activities where it becomes unbearable to come to work due to the stress of just looking at the person who is upsetting you. I hear people say, "I just don't want to come to work anymore," or "I get anxiety just thinking about coming to work."

I believe one of the best ways to relieve the stress that we feel when we are involved in one of these situations is to have someone mediate the problem. Most of us are in this line of work because we have strong personalities. Having the ability and resources to attend a mediation is sometimes far more valuable than filing an SOC.

Let's think about this by considering a hypothetical. Let's say that I file an

SOC on a squad member because of some conflicts that happened on a call for backup. I believe that I did my part on the call for backup, but a squad member who didn't have his facts straight ridiculed me. Instead of confronting the person, I let it go. But then, just a short time later, I hear others making comments that I can't "pull my weight," so now I get more pissed off and decide to file the SOC for Harmony and Cooperation in the workplace. The SOC is investigated and the finding is not sustained. I am now not only upset about the comments, but further upset at the outcome and the uncertainty as to why it was not sustained. The end result is that now I'm a bitter employee and most likely my squad has had to choose sides, splitting us down the middle during our workday.

In this hypothetical, we have not solved anything! Mediation would have at least brought out the facts so that the two employees involved could have a discussion about what occurred. I would have had the opportunity to ask my own questions instead of IAB asking theirs. I would have had the opportunity to listen to what the other person had to say and why he felt I wasn't doing my job. These talks may not solve anything in the end, or they may solve everything in the end. We can't go out in the parking lot and handle disagreements like they could in the "old days," but we can sit down in a professional atmosphere and talk out our differences like grown men and women. I have sat through years of petty IAB cases that could have been resolved through adult conversation or even mediation, which I wholeheartedly believe would have been a much better place to start.

If it were me, I would choose the path of mediation every time. I think if we would talk to each other, in most cases we would feel better in the long run. The rules of mediation are simple in that we don't even have to agree in the end. We can get up and walk out, never agreeing about anything that happened.

I was recently at the Best of the Badge event. Seeing so many other Metro members with a sense of pride and a feeling of a united Department, shaking hands, hugging one another, and showing genuine care and concern for one another, makes me wonder how we can be so cruel to one another sometimes. If you were lucky enough to have been there, you will know what I'm talking about. Let's keep that attitude going and handle our disputes like adults. We have lost the art of talking things out and clearing the air! We need to get it back.

As always, be safe, and thank you for your membership. Without you, nothing would be possible. **VB**





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Hello From Your New Board Member

POLICE OFFICER BRYAN YANT

Secretary

Hello, I'm Bryan Yant and I'm the newest member of your PPA Executive Board. I was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. I joined the United States Marine Corps in 1996 as an infantryman and obtained the rank of corporal. I was hired by Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department in 2000 and assigned to Northwest Area Command. While assigned there I worked Patrol, as a FTO, and in PSU. I then transferred to Narcotics Squad 8 in 2008. I love my boys from Squad 8! In 2011, I was assigned to the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Watch Desk. While assigned there, I became the Headquarters Building B PPA representative. In 2014, I helped establish the Real Time Crime Center utilizing the public safety cameras along Las Vegas Boulevard. I have been a firearms instructor since 2006. I have been an active member of the PPA my entire career.

For now, I'm pulling double duty here at the PPA as the secretary and as the director of communications. My daily duties are first and foremost helping you, the members, with any questions or problems you may need help with. As a member of the PPA Executive Board, I will attend any internal investigation with you. I am assigned to attend any use of force policy planning meetings, including the review processes for CIRT and FIT. As an Executive Board member, I'm on call during a rotational basis to respond to any OIS with a PPA attorney.

I will be your point of contact for the supplemental life insurance offered through NLS Insurance, and the life insurance you receive through the PPA. I am also your point of contact for the sports and education donations offered through the PPA. As a member, you are entitled to a once-a-year donation of

RETIREMENTS

06/27/2014	James C. Testa, P# 6181	PO II
07/13/2014	Andre Carter, P# 4098	PO II
07/20/2014	Jason M. Ankney, P# 9155	PO II
08/01/2014	Robert J. Gibbs, P# 6796	PO II
08/09/2014	David A. Sacco, P# 1726	PO II
08/13/2014	Alan R. Williams, P# 4083	PO II
08/27/2014	Melissa A. Lardomita-Gonzalez, P# 6297	CO II
08/28/2014	Michael W. Quick, P# 4493	O SGT
09/11/2014	Charles H. Collingwood, P# 4579	PO II
09/11/2014	Troy Wilson, P# 3174	PO II
09/15/2014	Mike D. Thoen, P# 5400	COII
09/19/2014	Daniel B. Pond, P# 3791	PO II

\$100 to cover sports and education expenses for you or your children.

Coming up to the Executive Board of the PPA is a huge honor. I come to this Board with a lot of experience and knowledge that I have absorbed over my career — much of which you can take, learn from and use to better yourself and your careers. I have had the opportunity to work in some great positions and with some great folks. This Department and our members are the best. Yes, there are bad things about it that people don't like. But don't let the negative things turn you sour. Stay positive and, as my old FTO Mark Chaparian told me from the passenger seat of our beat-up patrol car in 2001 in Northwest Hargrove parking lot, "Enjoy your \$5 million career!"

As an Executive Board member here at the PPA, I will work nonstop to ensure that your questions are answered and your rights are protected. That being said, we at the Board level can't solve your problems if you don't bring them up. Please call us, drop an email, come to the office and come to the general membership meetings.

In closing, I'd like to say that we lost one hell of an Executive Board member in Kirk Hooten. He worked his you-know-what off for us as members. He is an exceptional man, friend and detective. I wish him nothing but the best back in Narcs. **VB**

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Endorsements for the November 2014 Elections

POLICE OFFICER MIKE RAMIREZ

Director

Over the last several months, I have spotlighted members in a series of articles with the intention of continuing them. However, this month I felt it was an appropriate time to let you know about a new position I have been tasked with on the PPA Executive Board and what it means to you. I took over for Kirk Hooten and currently hold the position of Director of Government Affairs. I would like to thank Kirk for all the hard work he did for the members in the 2013 session. This upcoming 2015 legislative session will be my first opportunity to truly focus on fighting for all of your rights and I look forward to it. I will be in Carson City along with Chris Collins, lobbying on behalf of the LVPPA, protecting your rights as peace officers as provided in NRS 289, your rights to collectively bargain as provided in NRS 288, and retirement benefits in the Nevada PERS system.

Below you will find a list of candidates that the LVPPA has chosen to endorse, based on their stated ability and willingness to help us protect all of your benefits. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Chris Collins with any questions or concerns regarding this next legislative P# 9823 session. Thank you for all you do out there, day in and day out. Always be safe, and know we are here to fight the fight for you. VB

Las Vegas Police Protective Association

2014 Endorsements

Clark County Sheriff

Larry Burns

Governor

Brian Sandoval

Lieutenant Governor

Mark Hutchison

State Senate

District 2: Mo Denis (incumbent)

District 8: Marilyn Dondero Loop

District 9: Justin Jones (incumbent)

District 10: Ruben Kihuen (incumbent)

District 20: Michael Roberson

District 21: Mark Manendo (incumbent)

State Assembly

District 1: Marilyn Kirkpatrick (incumbent)

District 2: John Hambrick (incumbent)

District 3: Nelson Araujo Jr.

District 4: Michele Fiore

District 5: Jerri Strasser

District 6: Harvey Munford (incumbent)

District 7: Dina Neal (incumbent)

District 8: Jason Frierson (incumbent)

District 9: Steven Yeager

District 10: No endorsement

District 12: James Ohrenschall (incumbent)

District 13: Christine Kramar

District 14: Maggie Carltonn (incumbent)

District 15: Elliot Anderson (incumbent)

District 17: Tyrone Thompson (incumbent)

District 18: Richard Carillo (incumbent)

District 19: Christopher Edwards

District 20: Ellen Spiegel (incumbent)

District 21: Andy Eisen (incumbent)

District 22: Lynn Stewart (incumbent)

District 29: Lesley Cohen (incumbent)

District 34: Meghan Smith

District 35: James Healey (incumbent)

District 37: Gerald Mackin

District 41: Paul Aizley (incumbent)

District 42: Irene Butamante-Adams

(incumbent)

Clark County Commission

District F: Susan Brager

District G: Mary Beth Scow

Clark County District Attorney

Steve Wolfson

District Court

Department 2: Glenn Watkins (open seat)

Department 3: Douglas Herndon

(incumbent)

Department 4: Kerry Louise Earley

(incumbent)

Department 5: Carolyn Ellsworth

(incumbent)

Department 8: Doug Smith (incumbent)

Department 14: Adriana Escobar

(incumbent)

Department 17: Michael Villani (incumbent)

Department 19: William Kephart (open seat)

Department 20: Jerry Tao (incumbent)

Department 22: Susan Johnson (incumbent)

Department 23: Stefany Ann Miley

(incumbent)

Department 24: James Crockett (open seat)

Department 25: Kathleen E. Delaney

(incumbent)

Department 28: Ron Israel (incumbent)

Department 30: Jerry Wiese (incumbent)

Department 32: Rob Bare (incumbent)

Justice of the Peace

Las Vegas Township, Department 12: Diana Sullivan (incumbent)

District Court, Family Division

Department B: Linda Marquis

Department C: Rebecca Burton

Department D: Robert Teuton (incumbent)

Department F: Denise Gentile

Department H: Art Ritchie (incumbent)

Department I: Cheryl Moss (incumbent)

Department J: No endorsement

Department L: Paul Gaudet

Department M: William Potter (incumbent)

Department N: No endorsement

Department P: Sandra Pomrenze

(incumbent)

Department S: Vincent Ochoa (incumbent)

Department T: Maria Maskall

Regent, State University

District 3: Kevin Page



Devil Pups Program: Turning Today's Young Teens Into Leaders

CORRECTIONS OFFICER THOMAS REID

Director

Over the past three years, the LVPPA has been proud to help support the Devil Pups program, annually allowing two young teens to participate with hundreds of others from Nevada, California and Arizona in a 10-day encampment held at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. See this year's two recipients' thank-you notes on page 20.

DEVIL PUPS



What Is Devil Pups?

The Devil Pups is a nonprofit organization that helps boys and girls to take responsibility for their actions and gain self-confidence. The program is not a boot camp or military recruiting organization for the Marine Corps. It is a 10-day encampment comprising challenges, teamwork, discipline and education. The Devil Pups program offers this camp to boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 17 years.

Activities during the 10-day program include conditioning exercises, first aid instruction, leadership classes, organized recreation, a bivouac (camping out) and swimming. In fact, about 85% of nonswimmers learn to swim. Also, the Pups attend educational lectures on the importance of self-confidence, teamwork, the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and the importance of setting personal goals in life.

A Devil Pup gains insight into the principles of how the United States was founded, which enhances their pride in our country and flag. A Devil Pup learns to be a better citizen and at the same time gains a better appreciation of his or her self-worth.

The Devil Pup program is a demanding physical and academic good citizenship program for young teens. The program uses the whole-person concept, which concentrates on the foundations of nurturing the intellectual, spiritual, social and physical growth of the Pups.

Devil Pups History

In 1953, retired Marine Corps Colonel Duncan Shaw learned that a group of teenagers had burned an American flag at a Southern California high school. This event spurred him into getting other retired Marines, mostly reserve Marines, to help with a community benefit project that would aid in building character in teenage boys and girls, and enable them to become more productive and successful young citizens.

The plan was to bring these youth down to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, let them observe how Marines are trained and then, for 10 days, be trained themselves by volunteer Marine escorts.

The Marine Corps agreed to cooperate in the program if this group would form a charitable corporation to help offset the costs of food, transportation, insurance and other items that the government cannot pay for while the youth are being mentored at the base.

Colonel Shaw and his group of retired Marines came up with the name for the nonprofit, calling it Devil Pups. This name was derived from the





Marines being called Devil Dogs by the Germans who fought against them in France during World War I.

By the summer of 1954, the Marine Corps granted permission for Devil Pups, Inc. to bring 1,800 young men, 14 to 17 years of age, to Camp Pendleton. In 1998 this group welcomed the first platoon of girls into the program. Each year since 1954, active-duty and reserve Marines, along with a myriad of civilian volunteers, have grown the Devil Pups program into a highly successful annual project that has graduated over 50,000 Pups. They leave the 10-day encampment as more mature, respectful, self-confident young adults.

Who Can Participate?

Any healthy boy or girl between the ages of 14 to 17 is eligible to apply to the Devil Pups program. The child must pass a physical fitness test that consists of pushups, pullups, situps and a 1-mile run. Additionally, the applicant must not be on any medication for asthma or other medical conditions and must have completed a physical prior to acceptance into the program.

How Can My Child Apply?

If you or your child want to learn more about the Devil Pups program, please contact Southern Nevada Devil Pups Coordinator Marie Tomao at (702) 285-4142 or via email at marietomao@yahoo.com. VB



NAPO: How Does It Assist the LVPPA?

DETECTIVE DARRYL CLODT

Director

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement officers through legislative and legal advocacy, political action and education.

Founded in 1978, NAPO is now the strongest unified voice supporting law enforcement officers in the United States. NAPO represents more than 2,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, 11,000 retired officers and more than 100,000 involved citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

This July, I had the distinct honor of attending the annual NAPO convention in Montana, along with your Executive Director Chris Collins. It was a busy and interesting event. This is generally when all the big stakeholders in NAPO get together to share what is going on in their respective states. This is most important at this point in time, in light of the challenges we are currently facing. It was a great week, and we all shared what is going on around the country with our fellow police organizations and associations and got to listen to how they are dealing with various issues facing their respective unions



and members. Here are just some of the issues we discussed and planned on addressing through lobbying efforts.

We discussed NAPO's efforts to oppose Debo Adegbile's nomination to become the assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division at the DOJ. This was evidenced when Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) highlighted NAPO's opposition to the nominee during his floor statement. Under Adegbile's leadership, the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People volunteered their services to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal, a convicted cop killer. (Abu-Jamal was convicted of murdering Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner in 1982.) Adegbile worked tirelessly to free this unrepentant cop killer. The nominee's efforts led to the overturning of the justified sentence Abu-Jamal received for murdering a valuable member of the law enforcement community.

We also discussed the ongoing current issues and attacks being made on our pensions and pension programs. Some of NAPO's most important areas of concentration are to protect these retirement benefits that we all currently enjoy.

Yet another area of great concern that we spent some time on at the convention is body armor for officers. NAPO has fought tirelessly to pass the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act, and keeping up with what is going on in Washington, D.C., is of utmost importance to all of us concerning this piece of legislation. This program provides federal funds to state and local law enforcement departments to assist them in their efforts to purchase bullet-resistant vests. To date, this program has enabled over 13,000 state and local law enforcement agencies to purchase over 1 million vests. Protective vests are credited with saving the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987.

These are just a few of the very important issues that NAPO has dealt with this year alone. And we have a seat at the table when all these important issues are discussed, as our Executive Director Chris Collins also sits on the executive board for NAPO.

As always, thank you for what you do here, and remember, stay alert and stay alive. **VB**





A Look on the Bright Side

KATHY WERNER COLLINS

General Counsel

It happened again in early August — a barricade situation that resulted in an officer-involved shooting. And there was one the week before as well. And as always seems to be the case, our officers respond, the suspects refuse to obey commands and resist officers' efforts to deescalate the situation, and officers are required to use deadly force. To make matters worse, we seem to be in one of those periods when officer-involved shootings and other critical incidents are on the rise.

And we have certainly had some tough ones to deal with this year, not the least of which were the tragic and unprovoked killings of Officer Beck and Officer Soldo. After each of these critical incidents, those of us who respond represent the involved officers and witnesses at the scene and then at the interviews that follow. For me personally, I am just there in a representative capacity after the fact. Yet despite being involved in just a very peripheral sense, I still find these incidents both physically and mentally exhausting, not to mention very stressful. When I look back on these incidents, I often wonder about the stress and drain that the involved officers must face, both the shooters and the witnesses. I wonder how our officers can continually pick themselves up and come to work with a positive outlook after dealing with the worst of the worst again and again, and how our officers don't become so tainted that they just choose to give up. But somehow you all do. You find the courage and perseverance to go on to do what you do every day to make this community a better and safer place to live.

With that in mind, and with all the negative situations and sentiment that have faced this agency in the recent past, I think it might be good to look instead at some of the good and some of the positive. So here we go!

First we should all recognize the good done by Joseph Robert Wilcox, whom you all will remember was the citizen who tried to intervene and stop the actions of Jerad and Amanda Miller on June 8, 2014. Mr. Wilcox, a 31-year-old citizen of Las Vegas, will forever be remembered as a hero. Wilcox was in the Walmart that Jerad and Amanda Miller entered immediately after shooting Officers Beck and Soldo. Jerad Miller fired one round upon entering Walmart and Wilcox, who was carrying a concealed weapon himself, bravely intervened to try to thwart Miller's plan. Sadly, as Wilcox moved to confront Jerad Miller, he was unaware that Amanda Miller was with him. Wilcox was shot at close range by Amanda Miller and killed. His bravery and willingness to help in a dangerous situation is a shining example of the good in people. He should always be remembered. The PPA was honored to recognize him by providing a token of appreciation to his family.

We also were happy to honor PetSmart. This establishment is located in the same shopping area as the Walmart where the

Millers' rampage ultimately ended. The management of that PetSmart was more than willing to close its business for the entire course of the immediate investigation. But they went even further by opening their doors to the affected and involved officers, and the many Metro personnel — not to mention personnel from many other agencies and entities — who showed up afterward to document and investigate what had occurred. Again, the PPA was thrilled to have the opportunity to recognize what PetSmart had done to make a very difficult day a bit easier for those who were there.



LVPPA Directors Mark Chaparian and Mike Ramirez recognize PetSmart.

And then there were the countless cards and emails that came into our office from people and organizations who did not know these two officers but wanted to express their sympathy to these officers' families and the entire LVMPD organization. Just a few of the many are included on page 13, and while the Beck and Soldo families do not know these individuals and groups, we hope their messages make their way to the families.

People stepping up to help, as in this June 8, 2014, incident, was not an isolated event. There are many acts of random kindness that P# 13890 happen on a regular basis that unfortunately often go unnoticed or unrecognized.

In the officer-involved shooting that occurred in conjunction with two home invasions and resulting murder that occurred on July 29, an uninvolved neighbor opened his house for the entire day while officers and investigators were on scene, providing water and shade in his garage, and even letting those who found themselves on the scene for most of the day into his house to use the restroom. As an aside, he also sat for a good part of the day with the husband of the female shooting victim and his dog, as they were obviously not allowed to return to their home until the scene was processed.

We should also remember the good done by Mike Elgas. You may remember him, too. He was the brave citizen who intervened to help save an officer involved in a precarious

(continued on page 16)

REMEMBERING OFFICERS ALYN BECK AND IGOR SOLDO







OFFICER IGOR SOLDO 1982 - 2014

SERGEANT JAMES OAKS

LVMPD Northeast Squad 22

n June 8, 2014, at 11:22 a.m., a violent storm rocked the Las Vegas Valley, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Northeast Area Command and the families of two outstanding officers.

Forty-one-year-old Patrol Officer Alyn Beck, with 13 years of experience, and his partner, 31-year-old Patrol Officer Igor Soldo, with eight years of experience, were viciously gunned down while they enjoyed a lunch break at CiCi's Pizza in the area of Stewart and Nellis.

Their assailants then proceeded to the Walmart just south and fired shots inside, killing an armed citizen who tried to stop their rampage. Multiple officers responded under the active shooter protocol and stopped the threat, resulting in the female suspect taking her own life after being wounded by police gunfire and the male suspect succumbing to injuries he also sustained during a gunfight with police.

It's ironic that in the days leading up to this incident, I had challenged Officers Beck and Soldo to track down an outstanding suspect who had shot up an apartment with multiple rounds and shot two people in the process. Officer Soldo was convinced the suspect had fallen off the face of the earth due to the fact they had shut down their phones, Facebook pages, etc.

Please allow me to give you a glimpse into the men who Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo were. Both were great men, officers and even better family men, with young children at home.

They both had prior experience in an investigative capacity in a problem-

solving unit, and were outstanding tacticians and firearms instructors, making their deaths in the manner in which they occurred unconscionable.

Each was bilingual, as Alyn could speak fluent Spanish and Igor could speak Bosnian.

They were similar in their treatment of their fellow man. Alyn never judged anyone. He could tease someone mercilessly one minute, and the next have their back and be their protector.

Igor had respect for everyone and gave everyone a fair shake. Sergeant Waite described this trait about Igor: "I never saw him get mad at anyone, citizen or suspect alike. He was fair and honest, and ensured that others around him were as well. When others were controlled by their emotions, he was an anchor for everyone."

Alyn had an extensive background in training and tactics, including prior assignments as a training and counseling officer in the LVMPD Recruit Academy, and an instructor in the Advanced Officer Skills Training Section to increase officers' chances of surviving in the street, and he developed and was instrumental in the implementation of MACTAC with two other talented individuals. In a crazy twist of fate, it is this training that was utilized by the responding strike teams to eliminate the threat and save countless lives at the Walmart, even though Alyn Beck was unable to defend himself and ended up in a fight for his life.

Alyn was a tremendous leader, mentor, teacher, instructor, motivator, source of inspiration and friend to many.

He was many things to many people and for those who knew him, he was exactly who you needed him to be precisely when you needed him to be that way.

He was a jokester with a quick wit, love of laughter and a mischievous smile.

THE FOLLOWING ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY WE RECEIVED IN HONOR OF OFFICERS BECK AND SOLDO.

"Just heard yesterday from one of my former teammates, Jake Collins, who is back at Metro now. I am troubled and saddened, and feel for your officers' surviving spouses and children ... As you assist the widows, please let them know that there are officers all over the country who mourn their loss with them."

- Sean Bell, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office

"Deepest sympathy from all of us here at 911MEDIA. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and LVPPA membership."

Mark Deitch, CEO/President, 911MEDIA (Vegas Beat publisher)

"What a horrible day for you and our folks. We are thinking about all of you."

 Michael Tedesco, Tedesco Law Group (LVPPA's attorney for contract arbitrations)

"I am sorry for the tragic loss of your two officers. My condolences to you all, to their families and all members of the Association and your Department."

 Kathryn Whalen, Arbitrator (arbitrator for labor management board hearings and arbitrations)

"In these tough days that you have had and will have going forward, know that you are not alone."

 Patrick Lynch, President; John Flynn, NAPO Secretary; and the entire NYC PBA Executive Board, delegates and members (sent with flowers)

"With deepest sympathy"

Stockton Police Officers Association (sent with flowers)

"On behalf of the membership and Board of Directors of the Association for Los Angeles Deputies and Sheriffs, I would like to convey our deepest sympathies to you and your entire association on the loss of Officers Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo.

We were deeply saddened to hear of this tragic event yesterday. Our most heartfelt condolences go out to all of their partners in the Northeast Area Patrol Division.

As brother officers, we understand all too well the anguish felt by everyone in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

At this most difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with you, your department, and the families of Officers Beck and Soldo."

Don Jeffrey Steck, President

"There is nothing in our career that prepares us for the loss of one of our law enforcement family members. The Orange County California Association of Peer Supporters is deeply saddened by your loss and is sending you strength as you begin to heal from the tragic deaths of Officers Beck and Soldo. You are in our thoughts."

Heather Williams, CSP Crisis Response Team Coordinator;
 Captain Steve Lewis, Tustin P.D.

"I wanted to offer our condolences to the families of Officers Beck and Soldo and to our extended family in law enforcement, all the members of your Department. We in law enforcement must maintain the bond, especially during times such as this. Your loss is shared by each of us. There are no words that can eliminate the grief that everyone is experiencing. We hope that these words and support will offer some comfort. I, along with the Executive Board, staff and membership, will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers."

Jeffrey Pedicino, Executive Director,
 Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association

From causing folks at his church to cringe when he was asked speak to when I heard him utter the phrases "Hey Sarge ...", "I was thinking ..." and "You know ...", you never knew what resemblance to words of wisdom he had in store.

I first met Igor Soldo when I transferred to Northeast Area Command and assumed command of Squad 22 four years ago. We only saw each other once a week, as he worked for another squad under Sergeant William Waite. He came to work for me just about a month before his death, during the annual shift bump.

Igor had a thirst for knowledge and was very detail oriented. It was this attention to detail that resulted in his generating a conversation among his fellow officers when I had sent them an email with some UMLV computer training they had not yet completed. In the title of the email it said "deficient training." Igor was quick to pose the question as to how it could be deficient when the due dates had not yet passed. When I asked him in briefing about it, he thanked his fellow officers for "diming him out," and we all had a good laugh about it.

Igor maintained a strong, persistent knowledge of case law, which made for some interesting debates/conversations with both supervisors and fellow officers alike.

Part of what made Igor great was his determination to learn and improve in every aspect of his life. If he didn't know something, he found the answer. Sergeant Waite relayed one such story to me, in that a detective had just told him that he would receive calls from Igor on unusual cases. Igor would then respectfully ask, "I understand the answer, but now tell me how you arrived at that answer?" This made him a very good investigator, and he was so inquisitive that he left no stone unturned while looking for suspects and the real story of an incident.

My first impression of Igor was that he was very stern and didn't like to joke.

The more I got to know him, his humorous side emerged.

During some recent training, he was partnered up with another officer, Ana Briggs. Neither was CIT and they were tasked with handling a possible mental person having an episode, played by my PSR Sabrina Steinmetz. As I called down to them, confirming that neither of them was CIT and receiving the affirmative, I said, "That's unbelievable." Since that time, Igor would ask me at various other opportune moments, "Isn't that unbelievable, Sarge?" I would answer, "Yes, Igor, that's unbelievable," and we would share a laugh. He never ceased to make light of situations and even though he had only come to directly work for me a little less than a month prior to this incident, he had become an important asset and integral part of my team.

With the loss of Alyn and Igor, I have a tremendous hole in my heart and a void in my roster that I'll never be able to fill. I cannot grasp the reality that my boys aren't coming home, and have suffered a tremendous loss to my team and the Department as a whole. Their memories will live on inside me, the members of my squad, and anyone else who knew them or came to know and love them as I do. We will no doubt be better and stronger as a result.

Both have impacted my life, made me a better supervisor and have no doubt had tremendous impact on countless others whose lives they have touched.

In closing, the following biblical reference fits and pays tribute to my fallen officers: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

RIP, Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo, until our paths cross again!

Officers Alyn Beck, P# 7459, and Igor Soldo, P# 9153, together eternal as "2G1," EOW June 8, 2014. \lor B

Fit for Duty

POLICE OFFICER II DAVID TILLEY

Member

David Tilley will be writing regularly for Vegas Beat to highlight the importance of fitness and to share with us some of our members' fitness routines and secrets. If you would like to be highlighted, feel free to reach out to him at david.tilley@yahoo.com.

Highlighted member

Art Hawkins Height: 5'10" Weight: 190

Years on the Department: 6

How did you get started in men's

Men's physique was kind of how I tested the waters to see if I wanted to compete.



My real passion is for bodybuilding, but I wanted to try men's physique to feel out the whole competing thing. I did one contest last February and I enjoyed being on the stage; however, I did not like how physique is judged. It was hard for me to figure out exactly what they were looking for. Bodybuilding, to me, makes more sense. The most muscular guy with the best conditioning wins.

What is your current training routine?

I train five days a week. I don't have a set routine because I change everything up so much. I usually do one body part a day, followed by an abdominal routine or calves. As far as the weight goes, I don't concentrate so much on the number. I do a lot of supersets and drop-sets. I find that for me, I get a better workout in about half the time. I don't waste a single rep. With every rep, I'm

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squeezing and concentrating on the contraction of the muscle. As far as cardio, I do 30 to 40 minutes after weight training. If I don't have a contest coming up, I'll usually do 10 to 20 minutes. On off days, I will do a morning cardio workout if I think I need it. One thing I try to keep consistent on is having my leg workouts on my off days. I will tell you, though, that getting in a foot pursuit after a leg day is not enjoyable, and even getting in and out of the car is a chore.

What is your current diet?

To me, diet is the most important part of any training regimen. With that being said, it can also be the toughest. The diet that I use is simple: high protein, low fat. The carbohydrates are the only thing that I really change for the most part. As I get closer to a competition, I will adjust my carbohydrates based on how many weeks out I am from an upcoming competition, and how I look. From what I have found, the most important meals of the day are your post-workout meal, breakfast and your pre-workout meal, in that order. I eat six times a day with no snacks in between while I am preparing for a contest.

What is your next fitness goal?

I want to see how far I can go with the competitions. I really enjoy all of the hard work that goes into preparing for a contest. I enjoy being able to see improvements P# 6224 week after week and showing all my hard work on stage at the end. It's quite a rush for me. My next competition is on November 1, and will be my first bodybuilding competition. I would like to do some out-of-state competitions in the future, too.

How has being fit helped you to be a better police officer?

From my short time on this Department, I have discovered that the majority of police work is spent writing or typing. There are times when it can become a physically challenging job, for example, foot pursuits, fights, etc. This is where I believe my fitness has helped me for obvious reasons.

Also, I believe if you look like you can take care of business, it can deter a suspect from running and/or being combative.

If you were the Sheriff, how would you incorporate fitness into the Department?

If I were the Sheriff, I don't think I would be able to do a whole lot when it comes to implementing physical fitness into the Department. I feel like if you try to set a physical standard, there may be lawsuits that will shortly follow. However, if I could have it my way, I would like to see some sort of physical standard. Maybe I feel this way because of my Marine Corps background, but I just don't see the point of having a physical test to be hired, do all of this physical training in the Academy, and then do nothing for the rest of your career to maintain that level of fitness if you choose to do so. VB





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LEGAL CORNER

(continued from page 11)

situation on March 3, 2014. Mr. Elgas was a customer in a restaurant where another customer became belligerent, prompting a call to 9-1-1. A Metro officer arrived and escorted him out to leave. But rather than walking away, the problem customer initially got verbal and then physical with the officer, actually punching him in the face and then getting into a scuffle. Elgas saw the customer reach for the officer's holstered weapon, which is when he decided to take action and intervene. It was with Elgas' intervention and assistance that the officer was able to get the attacker into custody. Elgas is a community hero. The PPA was honored to recognize him by presenting him with a plaque for the actions he took on that day on behalf of one of our officers.

I hope you all hear of all the community members who are on your side. They are the majority, and they appreciate what you do! I, too, admire and thank each and every one of you for your willingness to make our community safe and to come to work day after day with a positive attitude and a desire to make a difference. Keep up the good work! VB

INSIGHT

Aim at perfection in everything, though in most things it is unattainable; however, they who aim at it, and persevere, will come much nearer it than those whose laziness and despondency make them give it up as unattainable.

> - Lord Chesterfield (1694-1773), letter to his son, May 24, 1750



LVPPA Executive Director Chris Collins recognizes Mike Elgas.

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The Sheriff's Election

POLICE OFFICER LUIS PAYAN

Director

Larry Burns or Joseph Lombardo will definitely be our next Sheriff, guaranteed! If you are reading this article, the odds are that you are supporting Larry Burns to be the next Clark County Sheriff. The LVPPA endorsement ballot results were astounding and historical. I am not going to waste any time commenting on why or why not either candidate should be our next Sheriff, because I am confident that our entire Department has decided whom they want to lead this agency for the next four years.

I encourage each of you put your money where your mouth is and act on your commitment to get either man elected. Whether you are part of the 96% that voted to endorse Larry Burns, or part of the group that voted to support Joseph Lombardo, get out there and support your candidate!

I have been hearing much rumbling about the need for a new captain of the ship, yet all I hear is talk. First, let me clarify what I mean when I say "talk." If you want to see results, you have to do more than just wear a campaign T-shirt and post a yard sign or comments on Facebook. Get out there and P# 9817 volunteer or make a donation that fits your budget. It is very easy to have an excuse, but when it comes down to it, you and I both know they are



just that — excuses. We can all come up with a reason for how we would rather spend our time or money. Personally, my time is stretched thin between work and family, but I still make it happen. Be creative; figure it out! Whoever is elected is going to be our Sheriff for at least the next four years.

I have heard some interesting complaints recently, and many are from officers who have zero knowledge of campaigning or union business. I don't

(continued on page 18)





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CONGRATULATIONS

to the contest winners from the last issue!

July/August

Hidden Symbol Contest (\$250)

Michael Dunn, P# 13003

P# Contest (\$50)

Tony D'Ambrosio, P#4100 Shawn Davideit, P#6246 Cynthia Hurtado, P#8799

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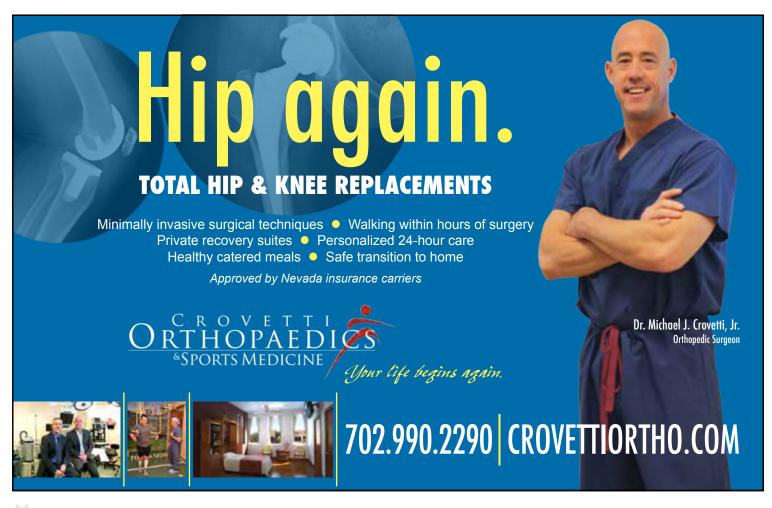
THE SHERIFF'S ELECTION

(continued from page 17)

claim to know it all, but I can tell you that I have spent an extended amount of time volunteering in both fields. If you are supporting either campaign and see room for improvement or have a suggestion, put yourself in a position to make those kinds of comments not just from the sidelines. Put your feet to the pavement, volunteer for a phone bank or raise contributions. If you haven't done one of those things, yet think you are doing your part by wearing a T-shirt and posting a yard sign, hopefully you will be happy with the results on November 4.

In closing, I want to address the concern that many of you have expressed regarding some Executive Board members attending a Joseph Lombardo event on the night of the primary election. Many felt video of the news coverage as it panned around the room showing a few LVPPA Executive Board members on TV was a contradiction of the LVPPA endorsement. That policy has since been changed and this will not occur in the future. The argument of whether or not that was appropriate is for another time, but personally, I believe those men have a right to support whom they choose. It doesn't change the fact that the LVPPA endorsed Larry Burns and that this endorsement was based on a vote by our members, who overwhelmingly support Larry Burns. That vote didn't relinquish individuals' rights to support a candidate of their personal choosing.

I support Larry Burns 110%, but I have a few dear friends who are Joseph Lombardo supporters — including the Executive Board members I referenced above. I hold them in the highest regard within the positions they hold and the duties they represent. They worked every shift representing the men and women of the LVPPA and went above and beyond to ensure that the Association does its best to get Larry Burns elected for Sheriff. You would know this by being involved or trusting that I speak up for what is right. Nonetheless, stand up and act for what you believe is right. Get involved! VB





September 4 General Membership

Meeting

September 11 Patriot Day

October 13 Columbus Day

October 31 Nevada Day/Halloween

October 18–31 Early Voting

November 2 Daylight Saving Time ends

(fall back!)

November 4 Election Day

*General Membership Meetings are quarterly rather than monthly. If you need to present something before the Board prior to a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting, please contact the PPA office so you can be accommodated.

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THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear LVPPA,

I am having a hard time finding the words that would accurately express my gratitude. I find it amazing that we can come together as a community and help each other. I learned that anything is possible if you work hard for it.

Thanks to your help, I will be able to go to Camp Pendleton and improve my leadership skills and the people around me. I know that I will put everything I learned to work when I get back. I will become a better role model to my siblings, and I'll start off UNLV with a better mentality and more confidence. Thanks once again for you contribution.

Sincerely, K. Garcia

Dear Mike Ramirez,

I would like to take this time to thank you and to thank the Las Vegas Police Protective Association for sponsoring me and

giving me the opportunity to go to camp. Without your support, this would not have been possible. When I graduate from high school, I plan on joining the Marines or going to college and studying criminal justice. In the long run, I would like to be a detective. At the camp I hope to learn more leadership skills and more teamwork. This summer has been challenging, but I would not change a thing.

Again, I would like to say thank you for making this possible. If you have any questions, please ask.

Sincerely, O. Irizarry

LVPPA,

Thank you for the flower arrangement and show of support. I really appreciate it.

Andrea and Logan Soldo







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THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Chris,

Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) truly appreciates your team sponsorship of \$1,000 for the Missouri Conservation Agents Association Golf Tournament held August 3, 2014, at Old Kinderhook in Camdenton, Missouri, benefiting COPS' programs for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Specifically, proceeds from the golf tournament are designated to underwrite the Surviving Spouses Retreat scheduled for September 19 to 22, 2014.

Since 1984, COPS' mission has been "rebuilding shattered lives" of surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Each year COPS continues to advance its mission of giving our survivors hope and encouragement through programs such as COPS Kids Camp, COPS Teen Outward Bound Experience, Spouses Retreat, Parents Retreat, Siblings Retreat, the National Police Survivors' Conference and many more. We have seen lives changed for the better. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission.

Again, on behalf of over 35,000 survivors nationwide, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Davinroy

Director of Development

Dianne Bernhard

Executive Director

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers. They were so appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with your Association, also.

The family of Doris E. Collins, the La Tourrettes and Adrian Crandall



EDITORIAL POLICY

- Opinions expressed in LVPPA Vegas Beat are not necessarily those of the Las Vegas Police Protective Association.
- 2. No responsibility is assumed for unsolicited material.
- 3. Letters or articles submitted shall be limited to 500 words and must be accompanied by writer's name but may be reprinted without name or address at writer's request.
- Freedom of expression is recognized within the bounds of good taste and limits of available space.
- The Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions and/or include Editor's Notes to any submitted material.
- 6. The deadline for submissions to LVPPA Vegas Beat is approximately 30 days prior to the issue date.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT PAYROLL RECURRING DEDUCTIONS SHEET

loyee Na	me	P#		Daytime Contact	Number					
Wage Type	Deduction Type	Deduction Amount	Start Date	Stop Date						
DUES										
5009	Black Police Dues (24 pay periods)									
5010	NLPOA Dues (24 pay periods)									
5007	PMSA Dues (24 pay periods)									
5005	PPA Dues (24 pay periods)									
5006	PPACE Dues (all pay periods)									
5008	SPA Dues (24 pay periods)									
	MISCELLA	NEOUS DED	UCTIONS							
5200	Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (LEAF) (24 pay periods)				One Time Recurring					
5435	PMSA Foundation (24 pay periods)				One Time Recurring					
5403	Police Museum (24 pay periods)				One Time Recurring					
5404	Prepaid Legal Svcs. (24 pay periods)									
5400	United Way (26 pay periods)				One Time Recurring					
	Other									
		LOANS								
		_	_		Declining Balance					
5411	Employee Reimbursement		Reason:							
5223	BPA Loan (all pay periods)				\$					
5220	PPACE Assoc. Loan (all pay periods)				\$					
5210	SPA Loan (24 pay periods)				\$					
5410	Purchase Retirement (24 pay periods)	To purchase retirement, you must initiate		\$						
5413	Purchase Retirement 2 (24 pay periods)	your request through PERS. You may stop the deduction using this form.			\$					
			,		1					
	Employee Signature & PN Date		Representative Signatu	ıra	Date					
	p.c,coolginatarourit	•	i iopi ocontati ve orgi latt		Date					

LVMPD 445 (Rev. 05/13) • INFOPATH

(Sign name as it appears on paycheck)

Now There Are 500 More Reasons Why It Pays to Read



This issue contains TWO ways to win your share of \$500 CASH!

Giveaway #1: One \$250 prize

1

Members who find the hidden issue of Vegas Beat and register through www.LVPPA.com will be entered into a drawing for \$250. You must enter by Friday, October 17, 2014 to be considered eligible. Telephone entries will not be accepted. Visit our website for more details.

Giveaway #2: Five \$50 prizes

2

We've hidden five personnel numbers within this issue of *Vegas Beat*. If your number is among them and you call (702) 384-8692 to let us know that you found it, you'll win \$50. If you didn't find your number this time, try again in the next issue where we'll hide five more!

Excludes P#s listed in Retirement and End of Watch sections of Vegas Beat

Cash is great, but our giveaways aren't the only reasons to read Vegas Beat.

Each issue gives you the latest information on

- Contract negotiations
- Benefit changes
- Retirement considerations
- Hot topics on the job
- Association news
- Upcoming events

For so many reasons, it pays to read Vegas Beat.

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Our branch at Sunset and I-215 is new again, but we've been making life financially better for neighbors like you for over 60 years.

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Stop by and visit us before the end of September and enter to win a free iPad!

We're giving away an iPad every day in September. It's like a housewarming party but you get the gift. Visit our new branch at 9311 W. Sunset and I-215.

Or enter the drawing online at www.opencccu.com









