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July/August 2018

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CONTENTS

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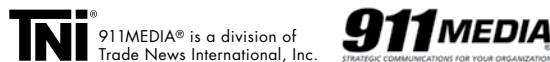
President's Message	4
Where Is Everybody Going?	5
The Importance of Being Articulate	6
The Vegas Golden Knights' Impact on Our Community	7
Welfare Check?	8
Back to the Streets	10
Honored Only in Death?	12
Using the Taxi Voucher Card Program	13
Note to Criminal IAB: Cops Have Rights	14

FEATURES

Retirements	14
Ice Cream Party	15
Honoring Our Fallen Heroes	16
Calendar	19
Metro: Our History, Our Story	20
LVPPA Vegas Beat Contest	20

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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 over 241,000 law enforcement officer members in more than 1,000 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





President's Message

DETECTIVE STEVE GRAMMAS, PRESIDENT

Looking Ahead

We find ourselves rolling into another year together as we prepare for 2018-2019. The LVPPA continues to be committed to our membership 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our Association has had an extremely positive year in terms of membership growth. During the month of May, I had the numbers run for membership in May 2017 and May 2018. In May 2017, we had approximately 2,524 members at LVMPD. The most recent numbers show us to be at 2,884 — a gain of more than 350 new bodies to our Association. This increase in membership also has a built-in number of retirements and promotions, so the actual number of new bodies in the LVPPA has grown even more. Since last year, I believe we have had 100% of sign-ups from every new academy. These new officers put their money and faith into the PPA, and we appreciate that immensely. We continue to be active and engage with our new officers in order to ensure that we keep a 100% sign-up rate in both the corrections officer and police officer academies.

The influx of new officers to the LVPPA has allowed us to continue providing excellent service and benefits to our entire membership. It seems as if we are hosting benevolent membership events at least once per month now, and all are highly attended. I have spoken to members of our Vegas

Golden Knights, and they appreciate the support the LVPPA has shown them. In turn, we appreciate all that they have done for us. When we hosted a Knights viewing party at the office, the Knights provided us with hats, T-shirts and authentic game jerseys to give away to the members in attendance. We hope to strengthen our relationship with the Knights and continue to be a part of their growth. *Go Knights Go!*

We continue to have our battles with the Department. While we have a good working relationship with them, there are times when we must litigate issues for the best resolution. Understand that when we win or lose a case, those outcomes can become binding and either greatly benefit or greatly hurt our membership. Whenever possible, we try to work these issues out in advance for the best possible outcomes for our folks.

We will also find ourselves involved in contract negotiations as our current contract expires June 2019. Your PPA team has been and will continue to work hard toward a contract that will satisfy all of our members. The Executive Board has some new ideas for the coming negotiations that will enhance our Department's reputation as one of the most sought-after agencies in the country.

The law enforcement profession is finally seeing some relief from the federal government, especially with the support of President Donald Trump, and it has been a welcome breath of fresh air. The passage of national legislation to enhance penalties for crimes against officers (H.R. 5698) was a huge win for all law enforcement personnel.

I hope this message finds our members happy and healthy; we look forward to a safe and prosperous year. As always, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Executive Board; we are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Thank you and stay safe! **VB**

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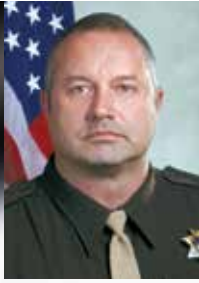
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Where Is Everybody Going?

CORRECTIONS OFFICER SCOTT NICHOLAS

Vice President

Across the nation, large agencies are being hit hard when it comes to senior officer retention. Current studies show that law enforcement has the highest rate of attrition among all professions, leading the way at 14%, and overtaking teaching (13%) and nursing (12%).

Officers are leaving law enforcement careers earlier than ever before because many don't think the pay and benefits are worth the trouble. Officers' actions, especially in use-of-force incidents, are constantly under media scrutiny, and this backlash has played a major role in many officers' decisions to leave their careers.

Many officers are complaining that their communities don't support them, which adds stress to an already high-stress job. Making decisions on deadly force — if it's going to be "him or me" who goes home at the end of the night — weigh heavy on officers' minds. When you combine the stress that arises from life-and-death situations with the outcomes of cases like those from Ferguson and Baltimore, where officers faced criminal indictments for their actions, it doesn't help with officer retention either.

As a result, many officers are taking jobs in the private sector that are far

less stressful on themselves and their families; many view the loss of pay or benefits worth the peace of mind that it brings their families. Some officers have made the decision to stop working altogether, choosing to retire early and find hobbies to keep themselves busy.

How many times has a conversation started with someone saying, "I've got 13 months and seven days to go!" It's sad to think that officers are counting the days left before they leave the job! Every day, someone asks me, "How much longer are you gonna stay?" When I say 10, they look at me like I'm kidding! I'm not saying that I'll really stay for 10 more years, but as long as I'm healthy, why not?

Some of the feedback I've gotten from retirees soon after they've left our Department is to be prepared for boredom! Many said that they were sorry they retired when they did, stating that after the first month or so off the job they found P# 9014 themselves missing some of the day-to-day activities and some of the people with whom they worked.

One of the reasons for writing this article was to bring attention to how officers across the country have been leaving law enforcement jobs at an alarming rate. Long careers in law enforcement — officers staying 30 years or more — will not be the norm unless things drastically change for the better.

As always, be safe, and thank you for your membership! **VB**

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The Importance of Being Articulate

POLICE OFFICER BRYAN YANT

Sergeant-at-Arms

Now more than ever, in a time when every word and thought is scrutinized, one must be articulate. This holds especially true for officers, who must be articulate in daily interactions on calls, tense moments of giving verbal commands, report writing, interviews with Internal Affairs and, most importantly, in interviews related to officer-involved shootings. Officers must wear many hats and have many skills; however, our words and the ability to use them effectively is possibly our most crucial skill.

Far too often, we see others lacking the ability to communicate effectively. With the advancement of technology, communicating through texting has taken over. Back then, I remember you had to hit a number several times on the phone to cycle through letters in order to send a message; it took so dang long to text. Now people would rather text than physically talk to one another. So much can be lost in translation in a text. But let's not overlook the abbreviations that have evolved from texting and even the emoji faces. Oh yeah, and let's not forget about autocorrect, which is sometimes helpful, except when I type my favorite four-letter word, and it changes it to duck... I'm sure in my mind the word "duck" has never been used. Thanks to autocorrect, spelling has been overlooked.

Articulate

adjective

(of a person or a person's words) having or showing the ability to speak fluently and coherently
synonyms: eloquent, fluent, effective, persuasive, lucid, expressive, silver-tongued

verb

express (an idea or feeling) fluently or coherently; produce (something) clearly and distinctly
synonyms: express, voice, vocalize, put in words, communicate, state

In the law enforcement profession, it is paramount to be able to articulate what you are told, what you want someone to do, or what you saw or did. You have to be able to take what you remember or are thinking and reproduce it in a written document and recall it verbally in an interview. Being articulate is like being a storyteller; sometimes being articulate is like being a word ninja. Our thoughts are translated into words, and these words and thoughts will be used to judge our performance in the field. Sharpen your tools and use your words effectively. Review your body-worn camera footage prior to writing a report or doing an interview, so you can actively listen to what was said and recall all the facts. Paint the picture of what occurred and relay your thoughts and feelings. You can't assume the reader or interviewer will understand your points, so you must thoroughly describe everything as if they were a layperson.

At the end of the day, your ability to be articulate can make all the difference. It could mean the difference between whether your felony arrest is fully prosecuted (due to your well-written case and reports) or it being dealt out (because of a lack of information provided). It could mean your internal interview for a discourtesy is closed on a preliminary investigation because an on-body camera shows your words and orders were clear and concise, or if you are brought before IA, you effectively explain your actions and decision-making. Use your words to your advantage. Use them to document what occurred and paint the entire picture. No one knows your story unless you tell it. If you are not articulate, someone may tell your story for you or their own version of the story. Don't let this happen. Be your own Picasso with your words. **VB**



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The Vegas Golden Knights' Impact on Our Community

POLICE OFFICER MIKE RAMIREZ

Director of Governmental Affairs

As you know, sadly, our Vegas Golden Knights lost to the Washington Capitals in the Stanley Cup Final. I usually write about what we have done in the political arena, but I wanted to switch gears and talk about how much the Knights have done for the people of our city.

Our city has never had a professional sports team; the talk surrounding the topic had always been that our city could not successfully support a franchise. All of that changed when a new NHL expansion team created its roster in summer 2017. As it turns out, not only does our city wholeheartedly support the team, but the Vegas Golden Knights organization also wholeheartedly supports our city and, in particular, our first responders.

When the Knights were first introduced, they were new to town, both as a team and as individuals (except for one player). Las Vegas certainly wasn't their hometown, and it was going to take some time for them to feel like they were part of the community; however, this transition period didn't last long. Everything changed on October 1, 2017. The tragedy at the Route 91 festival that left 58 people dead was a time for our city to pull together in mourning and support each other, and the Vegas Golden Knights organization wasted no time in getting involved to help. Within days, the players were visiting victims and their families, blood donors, as well as our very own first responders. Although new to town, they were creating bonds with the people of the city. With their inaugural home game only a week or so away, it was a tough time for our city to find joy and excitement in a sporting event, but the VGK was determined to honor those who lost their lives and loved ones, as well as those who put their own lives at risk to help. The opening ceremony was dedicated entirely to those involved in the most devastating event to ever occur in our city; in doing this, the VGK spearheaded the healing process for our city. One by one, each player skated out on the ice with a local first responder by their side, including police officers, firefighters and medical professionals. The tribute was amazing, selfless and moving. They could have chosen to focus on the players and the team in the opening ceremony, but instead, the emphasis was shifted to the important people from the tragic event. In that instant, the VGK won the hearts of our city.

The organization didn't let any grass grow under their feet; they immediately utilized the #VegasStrong phrase on their merchandise, the scoreboard and the décor around T-Mobile Arena. Throughout the season, they continued to honor those involved in various ways, including raising a giant banner with the names of the 58 victims to hang from the rafters and holding a 58-second moment of silence in the pre-game ceremony. In April 2018, in their final home game of the regular season, they officially retired the #58 jersey.

Although so much of the focus has been on the victims, the VGK organization has never let us forget that the actions of the first responders were equally as important. As a result, players and first responders have developed close relationships; players have had the opportunity to check in to make sure first responders are doing well and, in turn, first responders



have been able to shoot over quick texts to players congratulating them on a win. On a couple of occasions, the team has hosted hockey clinics for first responders of 1 October at City National Arena (the VGK practice facility). Police and firefighters were invited to join them on the ice to learn a few tips and tricks of the game and have lunch afterward in the locker room complex. The "pay it forward" approach that the VGK has adopted has also trickled down to the fans. In one instance, a fan and partial season ticket holder was so moved by the team's efforts to keep the first responders in the spotlight that he wanted to be part of the effort. His wife had passed away very recently, so he decided to give extra tickets to a handful of games to a first responder. The first responder was selected, and the two of them attended the rest of the season's games together.

Publicly, privately and personally, throughout their inaugural season, the players of our hometown hockey team have both inspired, as well as been inspired by, the people of our city. With their winning record, one can't help but be a fan (even if they had not made it all the way to the Stanley Cup playoffs). My guess is that their generosity and thoughtfulness would have garnered them a myriad of fans anyway. Their support of our very own first responders goes a long way in both boosting morale within our organization and fostering a positive public perception of our Department, and for that, I am personally thankful. #VegasStrong.

As always, be safe out there. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (702) 373-1006 or email me mramirez@lvppa.com. **VB**

CONGRATULATIONS

*to the contest winners
from the last issue!*

May/June

Hidden Symbol Contest (\$250)

Joshua Carbone, P# 15053

P# Contest (\$50)

Nicholas Squeo, P# 15881

Pablo Torres, P# 8232



Welfare Check?

CORRECTIONS OFFICER MYRON HAMM

Director of Corrections

Few jobs in this great land of ours afford us the same opportunities as those in the LVMPD. When I began my career, I was pleasantly surprised when the accruing of leave and sick and bonus hours were explained to me. I have worked with people who have saved an enormous amount of leave, and under the provisions of Article 9, which explains the purpose and accrual of our vacation leave, an employee is able to earn and use their leave for relaxation and enjoyment. Under this agreement, employees are able to sell back 40 hours of leave and receive two professional leave days per year. Having come from the military and a job in the civilian sector, I have realized how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to earn and use this leave for the enrichment of our lives and to take time away from a stressful career to enjoy with family and friends.

Article 10 of the CBA governs our sick leave, which allows a Department member to be away from the job in the event of illness, injury, death in the family or birth of a child. This system is also of great comfort to those who are facing unfortunate circumstances. Unfortunately, management does not always adhere to terms of utilization when attempting to govern the use of sick leave. An officer recently contacted me and informed P# 9298 me that

a supervisor stated the member needed to fill out a leave request form from their residence before returning to work. Article 10.7 of the contract states, "Employees are required to file and sign a sick leave request as evidence that the reason for the employees' absence was a legitimate use of sick leave as outlined, within 24 hours of returning to work." I urge all members to familiarize themselves with these provisions and ensure that your supervisors are adhering to them. It has also come to my attention that Article 10.8, which covers the residence requirement, is a hot topic and a debatable point between officers and supervisors. No one is arguing the point that a member is required to be at his or her residence when utilizing sick leave and must inform their supervisor of their location when using sick leave. An officer recently called in sick, and two supervisors went to the officer's residence. The supervisor informed the officer that he was there to make sure they were home. No question as to how the officer was feeling or if any member of their family was OK. So, in my opinion, this was not a welfare check, which is what it is called when a supervisor arrives at your door. I would think that a phone call would have sufficed if the intent were only to check if the officer was home. Personally, I would be insulted if my supervisor had a doubt about my integrity and felt that I needed to be checked on for simply my location. So are we to assume that everyone is being treated in this manner? I'm willing to bet that the answer is no. I spoke to a member and learned that on this same shift and under the same supervisor, they were not treated in this manner. One officer stated that they called in for three days and did not receive a phone call or a visit. So, I am led to believe that either the supervisor did not care or just liked them better than the other employee.

I (or any member) am under no obligation to answer my door, or even my phone, for any supervisor who decides to come to my home to merely see if I am there. The time I spend away from my chosen career is private and personal. I have searched and asked for the policy that states whether a supervisor is allowed to come to my home and check to see if I am there. I think time would be better spent supervising the officers who are at work; spending time on a shift driving to an officer's home seems to be a waste of resources. And since everyone is not being held to this standard, I wonder about the sincerity of the so-called "welfare check." We as officers are under no obligation to answer the door, let someone into our home or answer the phone when we are away from work. In all my years on this Department, I have never had a supervisor come to my home. I have had a supervisor contact me to see how I was feeling, but I truly felt that this particular supervisor was concerned about my welfare. If supervisors spent more time learning about their people instead of assuming that everyone was out to scam the system, they might find their jobs a little easier. A really great supervisor once said to me, "I spend my time caring for the people I am charged with supervising, and thus I never need to question their loyalty or commitment to me or the task at hand." **VB**



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Back to the Streets

POLICE OFFICER TYLER TODD

Treasurer

After almost two years of being on our Association's Executive Board, I am heading back to patrol. No, I was not fired, and no, I am not leaving due to some fallout. I am leaving because I hope to promote someday (preferably while on this list) and want to be up to date on what changes I have missed out on in patrol over the past four years.

I can honestly say that I have given this Association my best. Some will say I was very helpful; others will say I did not do a very good job. The reality is, no matter how hard you try, you cannot make everyone happy. I can only hope that the majority of the officers I have helped put me in the former category.

I thank Steve and Scott for giving me the opportunity to be on the Executive Board. I also thank the rest of the Executive Board and the staff — David Roger, Kelly Sweeney, Laura Paletta, Adella Solano and Roy Hoernke — for all the help they have given me and, more importantly, for all the hard work that I have witnessed them put into our Association to make it a successful one. **VB**



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Honored Only in Death?

DETECTIVE KIRK HOOTEN

Director

In May, I was struck by an odd dichotomy upon my return home from the national police memorial ceremonies in Washington, D.C. After having spent a week surrounded by people respecting and honoring our profession and our fallen officers, I found myself surrounded P# 7774 by people, comments and media stories attacking and demeaning our profession. Why is it that the only time the media supports us is when someone dies? Do we really have to pay the ultimate price to legitimize our profession in the eyes of the media? I have genuinely developed such disdain for modern media that I rarely watch the news, read the paper or engage in any sort of casual conversation with people regarding police matters. The media are as two-faced as some of the most corrupt politicians.

I have often wanted to sit down and write something that expresses the sentiments of most of my colleagues in a calm, professional, but hard-hitting manner. I have struggled to accomplish this because I am unable to remain calm about this topic; I am unable to write without words laced with anger or the use of profanity. I did find a simple post that circulated on Facebook that did a good job of expressing my feelings. I felt it worthy of a reprint.

Whoever the author is, I doubt they would mind it being included in the context of my article.

"Today, I will not answer the radio call that your boyfriend has come home drunk and is beating you again. Today, I will not answer the radio call that your 16-year-old daughter, who is very responsible, is four hours late coming home from school. Today, I will not answer the radio call that your store has been robbed or your house has been burglarized. Today, I will not stop a drunk driver from killing someone; I will not catch a rapist or a murderer or a car thief. Today, I will not answer the radio call that a man has a gun or tried to abduct a child or that someone has been stabbed or has been in a terrible accident. Today, I will not save the child you locked in a car or the child you were too busy to watch, who went outside and fell into the swimming pool, but whom I still revived. No, today I will not do that.

"Why? Because today I was killed by a drunk driver while I was helping push a disabled car off the highway. Today, I was shot and killed during a routine traffic stop to tell someone that they had a taillight out. Today, I was killed in a traffic accident rushing to help a citizen. Today, I was shot and killed serving a warrant on a known drug dealer. Today, I was killed by a man when I came by to do a welfare check because his family was too busy. Today, I was killed trying to stop a bank robbery or a grocery store robbery. Today, I was killed doing my job.

"A chaplain and an officer will go to a house and tell a mom and dad, or a wife or husband, or a child, that their son or daughter, or husband or wife, or father or mother, won't be coming home today. The flags at many police stations will be flown at half-mast today, but most people won't know why. There will be a funeral, and my fellow officers will come. A 21-gun salute will be given, and taps will be played as I am laid to rest. My name will be put on a plaque, on a wall, in a building, in a city somewhere. A folded flag will be placed on a mantel or a bookcase in a home somewhere, and a family will mourn.

"There will be no cries for justice. There will be no riots in the streets. There will be no officers marching, screaming 'no justice, no peace.' No citizens will scream that something must be done. No windows will be smashed, no cars burned, no stones thrown, no names called. Only someone crying themselves to sleep tonight will be the only sign that I was cared about.

"I was a police officer."

Enough said. **VB**

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Using the Taxi Voucher Card Program

BRIAN GRAMMAS
Secretary

I would like to talk about the Taxi Voucher Card program. When I came up to the PPA, I was assigned the role of secretary. For the last two months, I have been transitioning to the role of treasurer. One of the duties of treasurer is to process bills for the Taxi Voucher program. During the past two months, I have seen some reimbursements that seemed unusual. After speaking to the officers who used the Taxi Voucher program, I believe many officers are unaware of how the program works.

This program is intended to help our members when they have had too much to drink and need a ride home. I think this is an extremely valuable program and one that has probably saved the jobs of many officers. This program is not intended to be a car service that picks people up from their residence and takes them to where they are going to drink. This is also not a program where a car picks you up and takes you shopping or bar hopping. Again, I believe this is not about officers trying to “get over” on the system; it’s about them not understanding how the program works.

This program is sponsored by the Sgro & Roger law firm and cab companies Whittlesea Bell and Frias Transportation. These cab companies give the LVPPA credit for using their services. This is important to know, as some officers may use Lyft or Uber and then ask the LVPPA for reimbursement. Lyft and Uber compete

against the companies that give us an actual credit, so they provide the LVPPA with nothing in return for their services. Because of this, we need to continue to use the cab companies listed and not their competitors.

The proper way to use this service is, first, have the Taxi Voucher Card with you (it makes everything easier). The card has phone numbers for Frias and Whittlesea Bell (as well as a 24-hour PPA number). Contact one of the companies and wait for your ride. Once the cab arrives, hand them the Taxi Voucher Card, and they will fill it out. Once you arrive at your residence, you will sign the card and write down your P#. Leave the card with the driver and you are done. The cab company will then bill the LVPPA and send us the card.

In the event you cannot get a cab from either service listed on the card, you may call any other cab company. If you are still having trouble, then try Lyft or Uber (only as a last-ditch effort). If another cab company does not accept the card, then pay the fare and seek reimbursement from the LVPPA later (please get a receipt). If you use Uber or Lyft, send us a printout for reimbursement.

Please remember, this program is only to get members who are intoxicated a ride from where they were drinking to their residence, and that’s it. We here at the LVPPA hope officers will now have a better understanding of this program and use it correctly. If anyone has any questions about the Taxi Voucher Card program, please call us so we can clarify anything you are unsure about. **VB**

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DAVID ROGER
General Counsel

Note to Criminal IAB: Cops Have Rights

As we previously informed you, PPA filed a lawsuit challenging Criminal IAB's use of NRS 289.020(3) to threaten and coerce off-duty officers to provide statements in criminal investigations. The Department recognized the merits of the lawsuit, which lead to President Steve Grammas and the Sheriff hammering out a resolution.

Our constitutional challenge involved NRS 289.020(3), which states, "If a peace officer refuses to comply with a request by a superior officer to cooperate with the peace officer's own or any other law enforcement agency in a criminal investigation, the agency may charge the peace officer with insubordination." (Emphasis added.)

The statute, as written, is unconstitutional, as it requires peace officers to waive their rights guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment, *Garrity v. New Jersey* and *National Relations Board v. Weingarten, Inc.* As you are aware, as a citizen, you are not mandated to speak to law enforcement.

The Department has agreed to refrain from using the statute to coerce off-duty officers to cooperate in criminal investigations. If you are a witness to an alleged crime, while off duty, you are not required to speak to criminal investigators.

Additionally, you are entitled to the assistance of a representative or an attorney if you choose to give a statement. You should always contact your representative

before speaking with criminal investigators. It is your right to get the advice of a representative who is tasked with looking out for your best interest.

If you decide to speak with Criminal IAB, you risk incriminating yourself. For example, even though you did not personally commit a crime, you may be considered an accomplice if you assisted the person during the commission of the crime. Additionally, you may be deemed a co-conspirator in the crime. If you assisted after the crime, you may be considered an accessory to the crime. In sum, even if you are not a target of the investigation, you may still be criminally responsible under the theories of vicarious liability.

Likewise, providing a statement to Criminal IAB, without representation, may lead to an SOC for your own conduct, which may have violated Department policy. For example, an officer who is armed while drinking in a bar, and who witnesses a fight between a fellow P# 14914 officer and a patron, may be violating policy by being intoxicated while in possession of a firearm. If such information is revealed during the criminal interview, the witness officer will likely be called upon to respond to an SOC. Using the same example, if the officer admitted to drinking and driving, such information could be used against the officer by IAB.

Even if you are on duty and required to cooperate with the Department's criminal investigation, as set forth in policy, call time out and contact PPA. You always have the right to speak to a representative before talking to Criminal IAB.

As always, be legally careful as it can be really dangerous out there. **VB**

RETIREMENTS

1/25/2018	Darren Letchworth, P# 3717	PO II	28 years
4/4/2018	Christopher Arnold, P# 3653	PO II	29 years
4/5/2018	Michael Richards, P# 3745	PO II	28 years
5/22/2018	Daryl Keithley, P# 5291	PO II	21 years
5/22/2018	Derrick Maloney, P# 7987	CO II	15 years
5/24/2018	Mark Gregory, P# 4112	PO II	27 years
6/13/2018	Dennis Grazioso, P# 5040	PO II	22 years



Challenge Coins Available

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ICE CREAM PARTY



On May 7, LVPPA joined County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick and educators to host a special ice cream party for the students at Helen Herr Elementary School. The PPA helped serve approximately 700 ice cream sundaes to students, who were celebrating the power of reading. PPA members spent time talking to students, encouraging them to

finish the school year strong. In a thank-you letter to the PPA, Commissioner Kirkpatrick said, "Our interactions with the community continue to make a positive impact on students' lives and inspire them to aim high." The PPA was proud to work together with the Commissioner and educators to make a positive impact on the youth in our community. **VB**





HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

ADELLA SOLANO Events Coordinator

Every year, during the week in which May 15 falls, the law enforcement community gathers in Washington, D.C., to honor our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and serving their communities. Tens of thousands of attendees from U.S. police departments and even international agencies are joined by dignitaries and officials from the top levels of our government to pay tribute.

Members of the LVPPA Executive Board and staff attended numerous ceremonies, including the Police Unity Tour Arrival Ceremony, the 30th Annual Candlelight Vigil and the National Association of Police Organizations' Top Cop Awards. The Executive Board was joined by the five lucky winners of the PPA's annual raffle for an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the memorial ceremonies. The two general member winners were Jason Seely (CCDC) and Al Mermini (SEAC), and the three winners from the Board of Directors were John Abel (NWAC), Troy McArthur (CCDC) and Mike Malone (Retirees). Some of the attendees share their experiences from the trip in the letters on the opposite page.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL WALL

This year's National Police Week ceremonies carried a deep meaning for the city of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Metropolitan

Police Department. Over 20 of the Department's fallen officers are carved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall. Unfortunately, this year we had to add one more name to the wall: Officer Charleston Hartfield. Officer Hartfield was off-duty attending the Route 91 Harvest Festival on 1 October and tragically lost his life along with 57 others during the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. He died performing lifesaving actions, escorting numerous concertgoers to safety in the moments leading up to his death. We will never forget his bravery and commitment to protecting and serving others.

TOP COPS AWARDS

The Department has an impressive number of Top Cop recipients, and this year was no exception. Sheriff Joseph Lombardo accepted an award on behalf of the entire Department, which was honored for its heroic response to 1 October. Sergeant Josh Bitsko, Sergeant Greg Everett, SWAT Officer Levi Hancock, Officer Richard Goltart, Officer Casey Clarkson and Officer Brady Cook were also recognized for their valiant efforts during the 1 October shooting. We congratulate everyone in the Department for coming together and exhibiting strength and resiliency in the aftermath of one of the most devastating events in our city's history. **VB**

Dear President Steve Grammas,

To you and the Executive Board, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the trip to Washington, D.C., from May 10 to 15. Many parts of this memorable experience have been shared with others in our community because our PPA members in attendance joined together for National Police Week 2018.

Memorable experiences: As far as the eye could see, was the glimmering of candlelight on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, May 13. Attended by law enforcement from all over our nation, LVPPA joined with surviving families and others to honor officers who died during their service responding to calls for help to protect life and property. One of the featured speakers was the chief law enforcement officer of the United States, Attorney General Jeff Sessions. He spoke of our fallen officers, who he said were “more than a name etched in stone on a memorial; they were persons who meant the world to someone — to a parent, a sibling or a child” (<https://tinyurl.com/yb5f3pbt>). Attending this vigil signified the importance of Saturday’s Unity Tour to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which honors the 21,183 officers who died throughout American history. On Monday, May 14, the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) paid tribute to seven LVMPD officers for their heroic actions. It was interesting to watch the videos of Top Cop stories.

Your LVPPA events coordinator, Adella M. Solano, did a magnificent job of organizing the LVPPA events and activities for this Police Week experience. I appreciate how she kept us informed and organized and ensured our safety and being together during our time in Washington, D.C.

— MIKE MALONE, RETIREES REPRESENTATIVE



I won a raffle at an LVPPA Board of Directors meeting earlier this year to be a part of the LVPPA delegation to Washington, D.C. I believe to qualify to win the raffle as a Board of Directors member, you had to attend a certain percentage of Board meetings and trainings. After my name was read as a winner, I knew it was going to be a great experience.

While in D.C. (for about five days), each day had some free time associated with it. With this time, we went to many of the national monuments and memorials, all of which were amazing. My favorite of these was the Lincoln Memorial, the White House and the Arlington National Cemetery, where I witnessed the changing of the guard. There was so much more I wanted to see and do. I will definitely make time to go back to D.C. and see more of the history in that part of our country.

Every day had a National Police Week event or LVPPA business; this included the Police Unity Tour, LVPPA group dinner, 30th Annual Candlelight Vigil and the NAPO Top Cops Awards dinner. Every event was amazing. What stands out for me was the NAPO Top Cops Awards dinner. It was an evening filled with a variety of emotions, and great heroes from throughout the country were recognized, including members of the LVMPD.

The city streets and subways during the week were filled with officers, their families and friends of the blue. You could not go anywhere and not notice the presence. It was a good feeling, and one could not help but feel a bond with each other.

I’m certainly grateful for the experience, and it will be something I remember forever.

— TROY McARTHUR, CCDC 1 BOARD MEMBER

TOP COPS



Each year, the LVPPA Executive Board holds a raffle for three Board members and two general members to attend an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Police Week ceremonies. This year, my name was lucky enough to be drawn, and I was able to accompany other Executive Board members to Washington, D.C., to attend Police Week and the NAPO Top Cops Awards dinner, where our agency was recognized for its actions during 1 October. This trip was especially meaningful for us because we lost Officer Charleston Hartfield during the events of 1 October. His name was engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and read aloud during the candlelight vigil that took place on the National Mall.

While I had a wonderful time and met many officers from around the country who shared their own stories with me, I never lost sight of why I was there: to honor our fallen brothers and sisters from around the United States. Seeing their stories on the internet does not compare to hearing and seeing their stories in person, which is something I experienced during the different Police Week events. I will never forget seeing all of the Police Unity Tour riders arriving in our nation's capital, making their way to the police memorial to pay their respects to all of the fallen officers who lost their lives in the line of duty throughout the decades.

During the different events throughout the week, our LVMPD Honor Guard represented our agency well and showed the rest of the country what a top-notch agency we have in Las Vegas. It gave me chills and a sense of pride when I heard the bagpipes and drums play, knowing that it was officers from our agency behind the instruments. I tried to take in as much as I possibly could, but in reality, I needed two weeks to truly appreciate Washington, D.C. I encourage every police officer to visit Washington, D.C., at least once during Police Week, just to experience all of the pomp and circumstance surrounding the different events. It helped me put things into perspective about the dangers that we face on a daily basis. I cannot thank the LVPPA enough for drawing my name and taking me on this trip. I also encourage every LVPPA member to be involved and come to membership meetings, because that is what makes trips like this possible.

— JOHN ABEL, SECRETARY





See what's new at **LVPPA.COM!**

Our redesigned website brings you the latest law enforcement news, Association information, member resources and more.



CALENDAR

HOLIDAYS

July 4: Independence Day

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

June 29: LV 51s game

June 30: PPA Movie Night

TBD: Gravady

**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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Metro: Our History, Our Story

STAN OLSEN

Retired LVMPD and President, Metropolitan Police Museum and Historical Society

Living Our Own History

The El Rancho Vegas Hotel was built in 1941, before the famed Bugsy Siegel Flamingo Hotel, and it was the first hotel and casino on what we know today as the Las Vegas Strip. The El Rancho Vegas cost less than \$500,000 to build and was located across the street from what is now the SLS Hotel.


The idea to build the hotel came from Tom Hull, who ran several hotels in California. He had envisioned a resort-type facility without gaming, but with other properties having gaming at the time, the hotel struggled. In 1948, Hull sold the El Rancho Vegas to a consortium. This group included: L.B. "Tutor" Scherer, who had a history of questionable gaming operations, murders and police raids; Guy McAfee, a known mob associate connected to violent crimes and an attempted murder (see the March/April 2017 issue of *Vegas Beat* for more details); Milton Farmer Page, who had multiple murders attributed to him; and Jacob "Jake" Katleman, Mike Schapiro, Sam Boss, Leo Kind and Bernard Van Der Steen. This group fit right in with the other casino operators at the time.



The El Rancho Vegas Hotel was built in 1941 at a cost of \$425,000.

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

Giveaway #1: One **\$250** prize

Members who find the hidden  in this issue of *Vegas Beat* and register through www.LVPPA.com will be entered into a drawing for \$250. You must enter by Thursday, August 9, 2018, to be considered eligible. Telephone entries will not be accepted. Visit our website for more details.

Giveaway #2: Five **\$50** prizes

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 Fit for Duty 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
- Retirement considerations
- Association news
- Benefit changes
- Hot topics on the job
- Upcoming events

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

The El Rancho Vegas was a mecca for the celebrity class; Clark Gable stayed at the hotel during the search for his wife, who was killed in a plane crash on Mount Potosi. (See the March/April 2016 issue of *Vegas Beat* for more details.)

At about 4:30 a.m. on June 17, 1960, a fire erupted in the hotel's new kitchen, which was converted from the property's old stage dressing rooms. Many guests and celebrities, such as orchestra leader Harry James and Betty Grable, were in the hotel and immediately ran out a side door.

County Sheriff's Detectives Robert Metler and Conrad Simmons were in the hotel at the time and were some of the first to smell smoke and see the flames. Metler ran to investigate the flames in the showroom while Simmons began evacuating gamblers in the casino area. In his report, Simmons stated that the evacuation was orderly, but the flames were extremely hot and moved fast. Clark County Sheriff W.E. "Butch" Leypold and his Undersheriff Lloyd Bell also responded. In an attempt to help save as much casino cash as possible, the pair assisted in pulling open the vault door and handing cash to employees as the fire raged. Come P# 13870 daylight, a melted pile of silver dollars, worth thousands of dollars, would be recovered.

The property suffered a near-complete loss of an estimated \$5,000,000 in 1960 dollars. (That would equal approximately \$45,000,000 today.) Rumors abounded about arson, and there was some indication that a Chicago organized crime "wise guy" had been thrown out earlier in the evening. However, as the investigation went on, it was decided that the source of the fire was unknown and no arrests were ever made.

A few years later, what was left of the property would be sold to Howard Hughes, a former visitor to the El Rancho Vegas, for \$8,500,000. **VB**

EDITORIAL POLICY

1. 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.
4. Freedom of expression is recognized within the bounds of good taste and limits of available space.
5. 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.



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LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
PAYROLL RECURRING DEDUCTIONS SHEET

Employee Name	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)				

MISCELLANEOUS DEDUCTIONS					
5200	Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (LEAF) (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5435	PMSA Foundation (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5403	Police Museum (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5404	Prepaid Legal Svcs. (24 pay periods)				
5400	United Way (26 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> 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 your request through PERS. You may stop the deduction using this form.			\$
5413	Purchase Retirement 2 (24 pay periods)				\$

Employee Signature & PN (Sign name as it appears on paycheck)	Date	Representative Signature	Date	

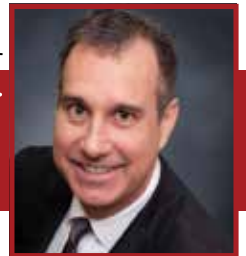
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