

Retired Peace Officers Association of California



Newsletter

April 2016

President's Message by Alex Bernard

Just When You Thought It Was Safe



As you probably heard, the pension reform initiative scheduled to appear on the November, 2016 ballot has been withdrawn by the backers of the initiative. At this time they plan to put it on the 2018 ballot. It would appear that public employees are safe at the moment, but that is not the case. Between a contract proposal in Kern County and Gavin Newsom's gun control initiative we need to be concerned.

The tentative contract between the County of Kern and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has a provision in it that would allow employees to opt out of the retirement health care plan. Currently employees pay 2.1% of salary towards the retiree health care plan. Under this proposal if an employee opts out of the plan they will

receive an additional 2.1% in their paycheck. It is the contention of one of the union negotiation team members that newer county employees don't benefit from the retiree health care plan because they can't retire until they are 65 years old. I don't personally believe that is the case.

It is true that Kern County doesn't have the best retiree health care benefits out there, but I believe it is better to be covered than not covered. My concern is that given human nature, many employees will opt out of retiree health care coverage to have an additional 2.1% in salary now instead of thinking about their needs in the future. We all must plan for our needs in retirement. I have personally known quite a few retired public employees who didn't plan for their future needs and ended up in pov-

(Continued on next page)



Inside this issue

Keeping Connected	2
Director's Chair	3
Member Spotlight	5
Benefits Corner	8
Article Links	10

How To Contact RPOAC

- Phone: (800) 743-7622
- Fax: (530) 346-2681
- Mail:
PO Box 1239
Colfax, CA 95713
- Email:
rpoac1@yahoo.com

RPOAC Keeps Connected

RPOAC continues to stay connected to the ever-changing political and legislative landscape. Board members attend many meetings and functions throughout each year to protect your interests and benefits. These meetings also provide opportunities to expand our range of influence, build new relationships with other law enforcement agencies and remain alert to potential threats that could affect our retirements.

Pictured are RPOAC Board members attending the 62nd Biennial National FOP Conference and the January California FOP Board meeting.



Our annual RPOAC general membership meeting will be held on October 18, 2016 at the Atlantis Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada. Contact Dennis Wright for details.

President's Message (Continued from previous page)

erty. It is a very sad situation. I should point out that SEIU wasn't offered a raise in this contract, but this is a bad way to get an increase in pay.

So what is the advantage for the County of Kern? It lowers the liability for retiree health care benefits in the future. Less retirees will be in the health plan. However, it lessens the funding for retiree health care benefits for current retirees who are covered by the plan. In the future it will cause funding problems for the plan. It is my fondest hope that no other county or city goes down this path because it is a bad thing for public employees.

Gavin Newsom's gun control initiative presents issues for retired peace officers as there are no exemptions for them. First of all, your grandfathered high capacity magazines will be banned from your possession. If this initiative is passed by the voters, you will have

to dispose of all these magazines or you will be guilty of a crime. This makes no sense for individuals who have put their lives on the line to protect the public. The other issue for retired peace officers is having to get a background check and buy a license to purchase ammunition. Again, this doesn't make sense.

There is gun legislation in the Legislature that may have an adverse affect on retired peace officers including possession of certain firearms that they may classify as assault weapons. We will keep you informed on these issues. RPOAC will work with others groups to protect your rights.

Mark your calendar that the RPOAC Annual Meeting has been set for Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno, Nevada. More details will be coming shortly on the website and in the newsletter. I hope to see you there.



The Director's Chair



Burt Quick —San Diego/Imperial Chapter

Recognizing True Heroes

On December 2, 2015, law enforcement officers working in San Bernardino, California left their homes that early morning and then drove to their respective law enforcement agencies. Not knowing what the day would hold, they prepared themselves like they do each and every day; putting their uniforms on, getting their daily briefings and then knowing that they have to be vigilant and prepared for whatever may occur on their shift.

On this same day two cowardly Islamic terrorists; Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, also prepared themselves for what they would do, in fact, according to law enforcement investigators they had been planning numerous attacks for years.



These cowards, one of which who worked for the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, as a restaurant and food inspector decided that on Wednesday morning that he and his terrorist wife would fulfill their plans by attacking innocent co-workers (approximately 80 people) during a training seminar and then Christmas party at the San Bernardino Inland Regional Center.

During this event one terrorist left the meeting and then came back several minutes later with his co-conspirator wife equipped with two 223 caliber AR-15 rifles, 9mm semi-automatic handguns and numerous pipe bombs.

As they unloaded their horrific and cowardly attack on innocent co-workers, killing 14 and injuring 22, they then either planted or had already planted numerous booby trapped pipe bombs within the building, leaving them to explode when law enforcement entered the building.

After and during the attack numerous 911 calls were received by San Bernardino Police Department, who then responded officers to the scene. Within minutes these hero officers arrived and began an immediate search for the suspects and the victims.

Aiding in this search were officers from the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department as well as other adjoining law enforcement agencies.

[\(Continued on next page\)](#)

Heroes (continued from previous page)

As the search inside the building was continuing other officers began a search for the suspects out in the community. After receiving possible suspect information uniformed as well as plainclothes officers spotted the suspects leaving their Redlands, California residence in a dark colored SUV, approximately four hours after the initial attack. An immediate vehicle pursuit began which lead them back into San Bernardino and within a short distance of the Inland Regional Center.

During the pursuit these terrorists fired their semi-automatic weapons at the officers as well as throwing what appeared to be pipe bombs at them. Numerous rounds struck the officers vehicles, but they were not deterred from capturing or neutralizing these terrorists.



“Numerous rounds struck the officers vehicles, but they were not deterred ...”



Braving this onslaught of fire power these brave officers continued until they were able to get the terrorist vehicle stopped. Even after the suspect vehicle had come to a stop, the terrorists continued to fire their weapons at these brave officers, which caused two officers to be wounded; the terrorists were finally neutralized, which finally ended their reign of terror.

These brave and heroic officers not only placed their lives on the line, but they also showed to the world their excellent training, professionalism, character, but also their valiant and heroic deeds.

Thank you to all the law enforcement officers that gave up their safety to protect the citizens of San Bernardino, on this day. You're to be congratulated and thanked for a Job Well Done!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Clarence “Clancy” Faria

Clancy Faria’s law enforcement career spanned 5 decades from 1967 until his retirement in 2004. During this time, Clancy obtained an Associate of Science Degree in Police Science from Contra Costa Junior College and a Bachelor and Master’s degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University. Clancy said while it was slow process, it was worth the effort.

Clancy began his career with the El Cerrito Police Department in Northern California’s East Bay. Clancy recalled that the city loaned new officers the money to buy uniforms, a side arm and related equipment. Thereafter, the city took money from the new officers’ pay checks until the debt was repaid.

El Cerrito practiced “Community Oriented Policing” before there was such a term. One of the outgrowths of this was what would today be called a modified school resource officer, which was one of Clancy’s assignments. El Cerrito was where Clancy first became involved (which he describes as being

“drafted”) in labor negotiations in which he would remain involved in for the rest of his career.



Clancy joined the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department in 1974. He was assigned, for one day, to the county jail. Then captain, Charley Kishbaugh, decided that Clarence would be better placed in patrol because of Clancy’s prior experience and transferred Clancy to graveyard patrol the next day.

Later, Captain Charley Kishbaugh, recognizing Clancy’s abilities asked him to review and revamp a proposed field training officer’s program. After completing this

Continued on next page

Member Spotlight

This section is available to RPOAC Directors who wish to “spotlight” a specific RPOAC member for their accomplishments and dedication to the law enforcement profession.

Each member appearing in this section has shown their commitment to the betterment of law enforcement and we commend them for their efforts.



Chapter Meetings

The Directors of each of the RPOAC Chapters holds an annual meeting prior to the General Membership meeting that is usually held in the last quarter of each year.

These Chapter meetings are designed to keep you informed of the many benefits offered to RPOAC members as well as providing you with important information regarding any legislative actions currently being discussed or processed at local, state and federal levels.

Upcoming meeting dates will be posted on the RPOAC website.



“Clancy” (continued from previous page)

assignment, Clancy became one of the two first training officers.

In 1980 Clancy became the department’s first hostage negotiators (“we never lost anyone or injured anyone”). This also required Clancy to cross train with the SWAT team, exposing him



to SWAT’s missions and tactics, allowing Clancy to maintain an outstanding relationship with SWAT members. Clancy remained a hostage negotiator until his retirement. Clancy is a founding member of the California Association of Hostage Negotiators.

In 1979, Clancy was assigned to the detectives’ property crimes unit and then the violent crimes unit until his promotion to sergeant in 1981, when he was assigned as a graveyard sergeant. As a sergeant, Clancy had a number of assignments including: main office sergeant, Russian River sub-station sergeant, detective’s administrative ser-

geant dive team supervisor, court security supervisor, transportation sergeant and public information officer.

Clancy served PORAC for many years, first as a committee member, a member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and President. In 1998 he was elected to vice president, followed by four years as president. Clancy is proud of his time as a PORAC leader and some of the things the organization accomplished including; enhanced PERS retirement colas, “airtime” purchases and 3% at fifty retirements. While at PORAC Clancy was on PORAC’s Memorial Committee and served as Vice President of the CA Peace Officers. He asked to join the team at the “Center for Collaborative Solutions” which helps serve over 400,000 children in after school programs.

Asked to think of some highlights of his career, Clancy mentioned three things which came to his mind. The first was providing the supervision of security for the Polly Klass murder trial of Richard Allen Davis which garnered national attention for its brutal murder of the

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (continued from previous page)

12 year old girl. Second Clancy mentioned providing security and conducting the investigation into a member of the Posse Comitatus for threatening a superior court judge. Lastly, Clancy talked about the horrific murder of Sheriff's Deputy Frank Trejo by Robert Scully. Clancy was not only responsible for providing security for a member of the Arian Brotherhood who were rumored to be planning an incident in the jail, but also to

testify at Scully's trial. After murdering Deputy Trejo, Scully and his female accomplice entered a residence and took the occupants hostage (which includ-

ed the father a Sonoma County Correctional Officer). After a successful negotiation, in which Clancy served as the department's negotiator, Scully and his female accomplice were taken into custody without further bloodshed.

While retired, Clancy remains active, serving as a trustee for the Redwood Empire Medical

Trust Fund (a medical trust for retired deputy sheriffs), on an advisory committee for helping juvenile offenders learn life and job skills. As a side note, the items produced by the juvenile offenders are sold and the money used to pay back victims and expose the young male teens, which are often lacking a male figure in their lives, to the outdoors. Clancy's son, Cory now a Sacramento City Police Officer, recalls going on some of these

trips which he refers to as "camping with the delinquents".

Clancy spends part of his retirement time teaching at the local police

academy sponsored by the Santa Rosa Junior College. When not teaching, Clancy spends most of his weekends, actually Friday/Saturday, working for Mill Creek Winery in Healdsburg. If you get a chance, stop by the tasting room and say Hi. There is ways time for some old stories with friends and peers. Great job Clancy!



Dues Payments

It's easy to renew your RPOAC and FOP dues using our on-line payment system.

Just visit the RPOAC website at RPOAC.ORG, find the "Services" listing in the left-hand column, and click on the "Online Dues Payment" link.

You can choose 1, 2 or 3-year memberships and charge your dues to your credit card.

It's simple, convenient and quick!



Your Benefits

Our benefits are managed through Pacific Financial Design, Inc. and Shane Cobb is our contact person.

For more details about any of our benefit offerings or if you have questions regarding the benefits, please contact Shane Cobb at (800) 733-4487 x305.

RPOAC is dedicated to providing its members with an outstanding selection of insurances and other benefits.

We welcome suggestions from members regarding any other benefits you would like to see offered.

Thank you for your continued support of RPOAC!



Benefits Corner

Social Security Survivor's Benefits

When you think of Social Security, you probably think of retirement. However, Social Security can also provide much-needed income to your family members when you die, making their financial lives easier.

Your family may be entitled to receive survivor's benefits based on your work record

When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible to receive survivor's benefits (based on your earnings record) if you worked, paid Social Security taxes, and earned enough work credits. The number of credits you need depends on your age when you die. The younger you are when you die, the fewer credits you'll need for survivor's benefits. However, no one needs more than 40 credits (10 years of work) to be "fully insured" for benefits. And under a special rule, if you're only "currently insured" at the time of your death (i.e., you have 6 credits in the 13 quarters prior to your death), your children and your spouse who is caring for them can still receive benefits.

Survivor's benefits may be paid to:

- Your spouse age 60 or older (50 or older if disabled)
- Your spouse at any age, if caring for your child who is under age 16 or disabled
- Your ex-spouse age 60 or over (50 or older if disabled) who was married to you for

at least 10 years

- Your ex-spouse at any age, if caring for your child who is under age 16 or disabled
- Your unmarried children under 18
- Your unmarried children under 19, if attending school full time (up to grade 12)
- Your dependent parents age 62 or older

This is a general overview--the rules are more complex. For more information on eligibility requirements, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) at (800) 772-1213.

How much will your survivors receive?

An eligible family member will receive a monthly survivor's benefit based on your average lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings, the higher the benefit. This monthly benefit is equal to a percentage of your basic Social Security benefit. The percentage depends on your survivor's age and relationship to you.

For example, at full retirement age or older, your spouse may receive a survivor's benefit equal to 100 percent of your basic Social Security benefit. However, if your spouse has not yet reached full retirement age at the time of your death, he or she will receive a reduced benefit, generally 71 to 94 percent of your basic benefit (75 percent if your spouse is caring for a child under age 16). Your dependent

Social Security Survivor's Benefits

child may also receive 75 percent of your basic benefit.

A maximum family benefit rate caps the total amount of money your survivors can get each month. The total benefit your family can receive based on your earnings record is about 150 to 180 percent of your basic benefit amount. If the total family benefit exceeds this limit, each family member's benefit will be reduced proportionately.

You can get an estimate of how much your survivors might be eligible to receive using one of the benefit calculators available on the Social Security website, www.ssa.gov.

Don't forget the lump-sum benefit

If you've accumulated enough work credits, your spouse may receive a lump-sum benefit of \$255. Your spouse must have been living with you at the time of your death or have been receiving benefits based on your earnings record if living apart from you. If you're not married at the time of your death, the death benefit may be split among any children you have who are eligible for benefits based on your earnings record.

If a loved one has died, contact the Social Security Administration immediately

If a loved one has died and you

are eligible for survivor's benefits, you should contact the SSA right away. If you're already receiving benefits based on your spouse's earnings record, the SSA will change your payments to survivor's benefits (if your children are receiving benefits, their benefits will be changed, too). But if you're not yet receiving any Social Security benefits or if you're receiving benefits based on your own earnings record, you'll have to fill out an application for survivor's benefits.

It's helpful to have the following documents when you apply, but if you don't have all the information required, the SSA can help you get it:

- Proof of death (a death certificate or funeral home notice)
- Your Social Security number, as well as the deceased worker's number
- Your birth certificate
- Your marriage certificate, if you're a widow or widower
- Your divorce papers, if applicable
- Dependent children's Social Security numbers, if available
- Deceased worker's W-2 forms, or federal self-employment tax return, for the most recent year
- The name of your bank, as well as your account numbers, for direct deposit

Visit your local SSA office or call (800) 772-1213 for more information on survivor's benefits and how to apply for them.

Available Benefits

- ◆ Life Insurance
- ◆ Long-Term Care
- ◆ AD&D
- ◆ Vision Plans
- ◆ Dental Plans
- ◆ Medicare Supplements
- ◆ Medical Insurance
- ◆ Pre-Paid Legal
- ◆ Deferred Comp
- ◆ Hearing Aids
- ◆ Mortgages
- ◆ Telehealth Program
- ◆ My Notification Service

Visit the [RPOAC](http://RPOAC.org) website for more information about these benefit plans.

RPOAC.ORG



Article Links

ARTICLE LINKS

As a service to our members, we provide these links to articles and legislative actions that might adversely affect retirement pensions and/or benefits, or are topics that may be of interest to RPOAC members.

RPOAC

PO Box 1239
Colfax, CA 95713

Phone: 800-743-7622
Fax: 530-346-2681
E-mail:
rpoac1@yahoo.com



[Judges win lawsuit as pension conflicts continue](#)

[S.F. announces shift in police gun policy](#)

[CalPERS president's vote allows him to run again](#)

[Police Union Calls for Law Enforcement Labor to Boycott Beyonce's World Tour](#)

[The State Worker: The man who honed California civil service laws](#)

[Scalia's death likely to alter outcome in Friedrichs lawsuit](#)

[San Diego pension-to-401\(k\) reform goes to court](#)

[Public service unions face big challenge at Supreme Court](#)

[Deputies Union Sues O.C. Sheriff, Alleging 'Unsafe Working Environment' At Jail](#)

[CalPERS loses key court decision in lawsuit over long-term care](#)

[Airport Police Renege on Pledge to Enforce Anti-Smoking Laws](#)

[CalSTRS gets new power to set state, school rates](#)

[Police organizations squabble over proposed use-of-force guidelines](#)

[Former Port of L.A. police chief admits to tax evasion and lying to the FBI](#)

[Under New Law, Cops Carrying Overdose Drug Are Saving Lives](#)

[School districts begin reporting pension debt](#)

[San Francisco police recite pledge to root out intolerance](#)

[Deputies' Union Fails in Effort to Block Release of Negotiation Records](#)

[Deputies' Union Sues County to Block Release of Labor Negotiation Records](#)

[Pension initiative refiling may include legislation](#)

[Measure to curb California public pensions is pulled - for now](#)

[MLK knew value of the labor movement](#)

[Concealed carry, HR 218, and the retired police officer](#)

[State plan for automatic IRA may surface soon](#)

[Dan Walters: Supreme Court could hit unions in wallets](#)

[High court considers public-sector unions' mandatory fees](#)

[The new way police are surveilling you: Calculating your threat 'score'](#)