



President's Annual Report 2022

by Alex Bernard



2022 IN REVIEW JANUARY 2023

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2022 has been a better year for RPOAC because we have able to hold our Spring Board meeting and our Chapter meetings this year due to the

easing of Covid restrictions. That has made it easier to conduct business. RPOAC is reaching out to potential members through links on various Websites. We are also working with other organizations to promote recruitment for RPOAC. We are utilizing social media to help with recruitment. We have a social media expert to help us with our social media use. Even in these difficult times, we are still recruiting new members. Through these efforts we believe that our membership will grow in the next year. I would like to encourage the membership to help us recruit new members by telling retirees about the benefits of belonging to RPOAC. There is strength in numbers.

Benefits for members have always been a focus for RPOAC. In the past few years, many different insurance programs and other programs have been added for our members. CCW Safe is a legal defense plan to protect members in self-defense incidents. It not only protects in firearms use incidents; it would

cover you if you used some other kind of force to protect yourself. It comes with up to \$1,000,000 bail bond coverage. It is a program I would encourage you to look into. We are constantly exploring what new benefits we can make available to our members. A number of additional programs are on the horizon for the near future. Some of the insurance programs we currently have include group dental insurance, group vision insurance, group AD&D, term life insurance, long term care insurance, and supplemental insurance programs. For more information on these programs, go to <http://www.rpoac.org>.

As you know, RPOAC publishes the RPOAC Newsletter. It is an e-newsletter that is published quarterly. It will be sent to the email address we have on record for you. Please make sure RPOAC has your correct email address. It will contain information on what RPOAC is doing, pension news, available insurance products, and etc. RPOAC wants to pass on information that is important to the membership.

Let's all work together to move RPOAC forward in the coming year.

October 2022 Board Meeting

The Retired Peace Officers Association of California Board of Directors held their Annual General Membership meeting on October 18, 2022.

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Tips to Avoid Scams

Scammers are always around trying to steal your money or identity. Knowing what to look for can help protect you from these thieves.

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Google Voice Scam Explained

Trying to sell something online but a potential buyer is asking you to send them a verification code to prove you are real? DON'T...IT'S A SCAM!!!

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RPOAC Board Meets in Reno

Your Board of Directors met in Reno for our Annual General Membership meeting on Tuesday, October 18. This meeting provides the Directors



an opportunity to discuss current events and decide on the direction of the Association for the upcoming year.

During this meeting, which was held at the Atlantis Hotel & Resort, the Board received reports from our Benefits Administrator, Shane Cobb from Pacific Financial Designs.

Reports were also received from President Alex Bernard, Treasurer Joe Doll and our website and newsletter editor, Director Randall Blayney.

During the General Membership meeting, elections

for President and Treasurer were held and both positions were retained by their current holders. Discussions were also held on recruitment and by-law amendments.

BOARD MEETINGS

The RPOAC Board of Directors meets twice a year, usually in May and again in October or November. Members are invited to attend any of these meetings. Visit the RPOAC website for the dates and locations of upcoming meetings.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS



Tips for Spotting a Scam!

Protect yourself and your money. Be on the lookout when someone:

Pretends to be someone you know. Scammers often pretend to be contacting you from the IRS or Social Security Administration, or from a company you're familiar with like your bank. They might make up a name that sounds official or say they're calling on behalf of a loved one.

Presents you with a conditional prize or problem. Scammers may say you've won a prize that's too good to be true, and you have to pay a fee in order to receive it. They might say you're in

trouble with the government, or a family member is in trouble and needs money.

Pressures you to act immediately. Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. They may say a family member has an emergency or your computer has a virus. Sometimes they threaten legal action, arrest or to freeze your bank account.

Asks you to pay in a specific manner. Scammers will often insist you pay by sending money through a payment app, wire transfer or by putting money on a gift card and then reading them the number on the back.

Don't be Afraid – Be Aware!

FAST FACTS



California Crime Rates 2020 vs 2021

According to the California Attorney General's website, the following data compares crime statistics from 2020 to 2021:

- Reported homicides increased by 7.2%
- Violent crime rate increased by 6.7%
- Property crime increased by 3%
- Homicide arrests decreased by 2.9%
- Total arrest rate decreased by 7.3%



Crime increases but enforcement decreases. Is it any wonder that California is in the situation that it is when our law makers coddle the criminal and persecute the victims.

What Does a Strong Dollar Mean for the U.S. Economy?

BY SHANE COBB - BENEFITS MGR.

In late September 2022, the U.S. dollar hit a 20-year high in an index that measures its value against six major currencies: the euro, the Japanese yen, the British pound, the Canadian dollar, the Swedish krona, and the Swiss franc. At the same time, a broader inflation-adjusted index that captures a basket of 26 foreign currencies reached its highest level since 1985. Both indexes eased slightly but remained near their highs in October.

Intuitively, it might seem that a strong dollar is good for the U.S. economy, but the effects are mixed in the context of other domestic and global pressures.

World Standard

The U.S. dollar is the world's reserve currency. About 40% of global financial transactions are executed in dollars, with or without U.S. involvement. As such, foreign governments, global financial institutions, and multinational companies all hold dollars, providing a level of demand regardless of other forces.

Demand for the dollar tends to increase during difficult times as investors seek stability and security. Despite high inflation and recession predictions, the U.S. economy remains the strongest in the world. Other countries are also battling inflation and the strong dollar is making their battles more difficult. The United States recovered more quickly from the pandemic recession, putting it in a better

position to weather inflationary pressures.

The Federal Reserve's aggressive policy to combat inflation by raising interest rates has driven demand for the dollar even higher because of the appealing rates on dollar-denominated assets such as U.S. Treasury securities. Some other central banks have begun to raise rates as well — to fight inflation and offer better yields on their own securities. But the strength of the U.S. economy allows the Fed to push rates higher and faster, which is likely to maintain the dollar's advantage for some time.

Exports and Imports

The strong dollar makes imported goods cheaper and exported goods more expensive. Cheaper imports are generally good for consumers and for companies that use foreign-manufactured supplies, but they can undercut domestic sales by U.S. producers.

At the same time, the strong dollar effectively raises prices for goods that U.S. companies sell in foreign markets, making it more difficult to compete and reducing the value of foreign purchases. For example, a U.S. company that sells 10,000 euros worth of goods to a foreign buyer would receive less revenue when a euro buys fewer dollars. Some experts are concerned that the strong dollar will dampen the post-pandemic rebound in U.S. manufacturing. More broadly, the ballooning trade deficit cuts into U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), which includes imports as a negative input and exports as a positive input.

What Does a Strong Dollar Mean for the U.S. Economy?

by Shane Cobb – RPOAC Benefits Manager (Continued from page 3)

Overseas Exposure

Generally, large multinational companies have the most exposure to risk from currency imbalances, and the stock market has shown signs of a shift from large companies — which have dominated the market since before the pandemic — to smaller companies that may be more nimble and less dependent on overseas sales. The S&P SmallCap 600 index has outperformed the S&P 500 index through late October; if the trend continues through the end of the year, it would be the first time since 2016 that small caps have eclipsed large caps. The S&P MidCap 400 index has done even better. In the current bear market, however, better performance means lower losses; all three indexes have had double-digit losses through October 2022.

Global Pain

A weak currency can be a boon for a country by making its exports more competitive. But with the world economy weakening, other countries are not reaping those benefits, while paying more on debt and imported essentials such as food and fuel that are traded in dollars. The Fed is focused on domestic concerns, but it is effectively exporting inflation while trying to control it at home, and global economic pain could ultimately spread to the U.S. economy.

Slowing the Dollar

In the near term, the Fed's aggressive rate hikes may reduce domestic demand for foreign goods, reducing the trade deficit and weakening the dollar. The advance

Q3 2022 GDP estimate showed the trade gap closing, but it's unclear if the trend will last.

In the longer term, as inflation eases in the United States, the Fed will likely take its foot off the gas pedal and ultimately bring rates down. This would allow other central banks to catch up if they choose to do so and would make foreign currencies and securities more appealing. Lower oil prices (denominated in dollars) and/or any reduction in world tensions — such as a slowdown in the Russia-Ukraine war — might also help reduce demand for dollars.



The dynamics of these factors are complex, and it may take time for any of them to unfold. In the meantime, the strong dollar is a sign of U.S. economic strength, and it would not be wise to place too much emphasis on it for long-term investment decisions. However, this could be a great time for an overseas vacation.

U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. The principal value of Treasury securities fluctuates with market conditions. If not held to maturity,

they could be worth more or less than the original amount paid.

All investments are subject to market volatility and loss of principal. Investing internationally carries additional risks such as differences in financial reporting, currency exchange risk, and economic and political risk unique to the specific country. This may result in greater share price volatility. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The value of a foreign investment, measured in U.S. dollars, could decrease because of unfavorable changes in currency exchange rates.

The S&P 500 index is an unmanaged group of securities that is considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market in general. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Benefits page of the RPOAC website or contact Shane Cobb at (800) 733-4487.

The Legislature and Law Enforcement by Alex Bernard

It appears that the Legislature wants to hurt recruitment and retention in law enforcement. They are passing bills such as AB 89 that make it more difficult to become an officer in times when recruiting



is very tough. This bill raises educational requirements for applicants. Don't get me wrong, I am for raising standards. But this is not the time when almost every department can't get enough applicants to meet their needs. SB 2 has changed POST from a standards and training agency to a licensing agency. This change has had consequences for current and future officers. The Legislature has passed many other bills that have an adverse effect on law enforcement, but I will focus on these two issues.

AB 89 raised the minimum age for a peace officer from 18 to 21. I personally don't have an issue with that. What I do have an issue with is raising the educational requirements for peace officers when we are having a recruitment crisis. They want recruits to have a minimum of an AA degree. They are asking POST and the California Community Colleges to come up with a modern policing degree program. The Legislature believes that more

educated officers will provide kinder and gentler services to the public. I don't personally believe that to be true. There was a lot of talk of raising educational requirements in the 70's, but it didn't happen because of the practical consequences of doing it. Departments can't get enough qualified applicants with a high school diploma, let alone a college degree. The Legislature needs to deal with the current hiring crisis and worry about raising educational standards in the future when departments have enough peace officers on the job to protect public safety. But knowing how the Legislature thinks, that won't occur.

SB 2 has transformed POST from a standards and



training agency to a licensing agency. As of January 1st, the provisions of SB 2 are in effect. SB 2 is known as the police decertification bill. If an officer is found to have committed serious misconduct as defined by regulation, they can have their POST certificates suspended or revoked by POST through a complicated hearing process. Serious misconduct includes dishonesty, abuse of power, physical abuse, sexual assault, actual or perceived discrimination, acts that violate

the law, participation in a law enforcement gang, failure to cooperate in an investigation of potential police misconduct, and failure to intercede when another officer uses unnecessary force. I think how some of these regulations are defined there will be litigation on them. I personally have an issue with the regulation on actual or perceived discrimination. I have no problem with disciplining an officer for actual discrimination, but perceived discrimination leaves an officer open to all types of issues. Everybody's perception is different. What an officer did and/or said can be perceived differently by different people. Perception is totally subjective. This part of the regulation puts all officers in harm's way because an individual may perceive things their own way, not the way it actually occurred. I believe there will be a lot of litigation on perceived discrimination. I believe these new regulations will only add to the recruitment and retention crisis.

Once again, it's good to be retired. Law enforcement has changed in ways I can't even imagine. I am grateful not to be in the middle of the chaos. I am sure you are grateful too.

Stay safe.

Beneficiary Update

The beginning of a new year is a great time to think about updating your beneficiary information. Your trusts, wills and bank accounts are just a few of the places where you can designate a beneficiary.



If a designated beneficiary has died or you've gone through a divorce or have gotten married, you should make sure you have the correct person listed as your beneficiary.

Too many times people have neglected to keep their information up to date and loved ones have suffered because of it. An officer who got divorced, later remarried, then was tragically killed in a vehicle accident forgot to change his beneficiary designation. His ex-wife ended up getting his pension and the current wife received nothing. Don't let this happen to you!



Contact your pension provider, your insurance agent, and your banks to make sure you have the correct person listed as your beneficiary. When your time comes, don't add additional stress to your loved ones by forgetting to make these simple updates. And while you're at it, if you've moved or changed your contact info, be sure to update your RPOAC info as well!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recruitment A continuing challenge



Recruitment is still the most challenging aspect of our continued quest to remain a viable organization. Our credit card payment program has been a great success again this year.

I know that some of you have been actively recruiting new members. Having said that, we still will always need to be very active in the recruitment area. So, keep up the good work!

Our insurance programs are going strong with more members taking advantage of the excellent programs available through Pacific Financial Designs.

Our newest program, CCW SAFE is very desirable and appears to be still drawing membership. Check it out on our web site. Remember, the brotherhood is alive!

So, until the next meeting, stay well and enjoy your retirement.

Fraternally,

Dennis Wright
Executive Director RPOAC



CCW Safe is a legal service membership plan that was designed for CCW permit/license holders, active and retired military and law enforcement officers, and gun owners. They are not an insurance plan, they are a legal defense service plan. CCW Safe takes on the burden of the expenses associated with defending a self-defense/use of force critical incident. These expenses can include attorney's fees, investigators, experts, and other associated costs, such as depositions, document fees, trial exhibits, and more.

CCW Safe does not have the conflicts of an insurance product because the company is designed to indemnify the cost of the incident and not the outcome of a trial. It is not a reimbursement package and no money is required to be paid back to the company regardless of the outcome.

You are covered where your permit is honored in all states and Washington DC (New Jersey, New York, and Washington excluded). CCW Safe members will not have any out of pocket expenses associated with defending a self-defense incident, nor will they be limited by a policy cap on defense costs.



Visit the Benefits page of the RPOAC website for more information about this very important program.

Don't Send That Verification Code!

THE GOOGLE VOICE SCAM EXPLAINED

Is Someone Asking for Your Google Voice Code?

An Ohio resident who posted on Facebook looking for their missing cat was relieved to get a response from someone claiming to have found the beloved pet. But that relief quickly turned to confusion when the person demanded “proof” of the cat’s true ownership — in the form of a six-digit Google Voice activation code.

Stories like this happen over and over again. Scammers bypass your natural suspicions by pretending to be cautious themselves, asking for “verification” from their targets.

But although they claim to be protecting themselves from a scam, it’s just an excuse to request your private information.

The Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) reported a record-breaking 26% increase in identity crimes from 2020 to 2021. Among those crimes, a staggering 53% involved Google Voice verification code scams.

So, why do scammers want your Google Voice verification code? What can they do with it? And what should you do if you’ve given a scammer your code?

What Is Google Voice? Why Do Scammers Want Access to Your Number?

Google Voice is a call app offered by Google. It generates a phone number for you that is linked to your Google account. Once it’s set up, the number can automatically forward text messages and calls to other cell phone numbers that you specify (or even to your Gmail inbox). It can also be used like a regular phone number to make and receive calls — all for free.

Criminals like Google Voice because it gives them a free, mostly

untraceable phone number that they can use to scam people.

But here’s the catch: Google Voice is only available in the United States and needs to be linked to an existing U.S. number. Scammers who are based internationally don’t have access to a U.S. number; so to set up Google Voice, they need to find someone who does have a number.

How Does the Google Voice Verification Code Scam Work?

Google Voice scams occur when fraudsters link a Google Voice number to your phone number. All they need is a unique verification code that they get from you.

This allows scammers to forward all calls and texts made to your phone to a number that they control.

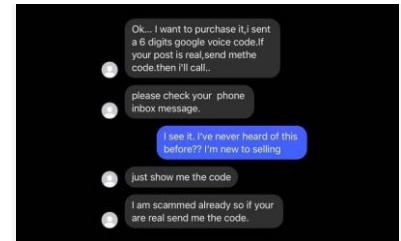
609173 is your Google Voice verification code. Don't share it with anyone else. <https://goo.gl/UERgF7>

Never give away your Google Voice code, or any two-factor authentication (2FA) codes. Source: [Google](#)

Here’s how the Google Voice code verification scam works:

- First, scammers visit online marketplaces like Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and [OfferUp](#). Other common targets include people looking for help finding a lost pet via social media.
- Scammers contact the number on the listing and express interest. However, they use an excuse to request that the seller send them a Google Voice verification code. For example, they’ll say that they

need to “verify” that you’re a real person.



- If the seller agrees, the scammer sets up a Google Voice account and links it to the target’s cell phone number (which they got from the listing).
- The Google authentication process prompts the scammer to prove that they own the number by entering a six-digit code sent to the victim’s phone.
- The scammer tricks the victim into sharing the verification code, then uses this to “prove” they have access to the victim’s U.S. number.
- Once the verification process is complete, they can use the Google Voice number to scam others.

Here’s what scammers can do once they’ve gained access to a Google Voice account linked to your phone number:

- Commit crimes that can be traced back to you.
- Scam your friends and family using your phone number.
- Open new accounts in your name.
- Take over your online accounts using verification codes.
- Harvest more sensitive information to steal your identity.

The Briefing Board

Links to articles that may be of interest to our members

- [How Secure Public Pensions Are In California](#) - 12/12/22
- [Yvonne Walker Wins CalPERS Retiree Board Seat](#) - 12/9/22
- [US police rarely deploy deadly robots to confront suspects](#) - 12/5/22
- [How did confidential gun permit data get leaked?](#) - 12/5/22
- [CalPERS boosts staff's investment authority, checks crypto](#) - 12/5/22
- [Voting Begins for CalPERS Special Retired Member Board Election Runoff](#) - 11/4/22
- [Gov. Newsom's veto on bill affecting Ventura County pensions to lower payouts](#) - 10/4/22
- [Runoff Election Needed to Determine Winner of CalPERS Board Retired Member Seat](#) - 9/29/22
- [47 Alameda County Sheriff deputies get unsatisfactory on psych evaluations; relieved of duties](#) - 9/27/22
- [H.R.82 Social Security Fairness Act passed by Committee](#) - 9/21/22
- [California Pension Fund Seeks to Halve Exposure to Carbon Emitters](#) - 9/12/22
- [US pension funds up real estate exposure to offset rising risks](#) - 8/29/22
- [CalPERS Special Retired Member Board Election Underway as Voting Begins](#) - 8/26/22
- [Rule Change Reversed; H.R. 82 back on track](#) - 7/30/22
- [New police accountability laws up demands on state agencies](#) - 7/27/22
- [Assemblyman Patterson Makes Audit Request of Calif. DOJ Over Leaked Gun Owners List](#) - 7/20/22
- [CalPERS Announces Preliminary Net Investment Return of -6.1% for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year](#) - 7/20/22
- [Upland attorney sues California attorney general over concealed weapon database leak](#) - 7/19/22
- [CalPERS Announces Health Plan Premiums for 2023](#) - 7/12/22
- [Experts: California lacked safeguards for gun owner info](#) - 7/2/22
- [California Department of Justice Alerts Individuals Impacted by Exposure of Personal Information from 2022 Firearms Dashboard](#) - 6/30/22
- [Data breach exposes private info of all California concealed-carry permit holders](#) - 6/29/22
- [California bill would make gunowners buy liability insurance](#) 6/17/22
- [\\$2.7 billion settlement in CalPERS long-term care insurance lawsuit is canceled](#) 5/23/22
- [Why the Push to Lower Standards For Becoming A District Attorney Investigator?](#) 5/15/22
- [CalPERS Rules Out Santa Ana Police Union Boss' Pension Boost](#) - 5/5/22
- [3 Southern California sheriffs say state lawmakers hurting cops' efforts to improve public safety](#) - 4/24/22
- [U.S. lawmakers introduce bill to protect tax credit for retired cops, firefighters](#) - 4/3/22
- [Cop cash: California law enforcement gives big to campaigns](#) - 4/1/22
- [CalPERS to reassess investment portfolio, divesting from Russia](#) - 3/28/22