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**WELCOME NEW CRPOA MEMBERS**

Between 2/16/2017 and 3/15/2017

Jared Higgins  Pleasanton PD  
Gus Patel  Los Angeles PD  
Paul Smith  Redlands PD  
Trevor Samorajski  Los Angeles SD  
Rex Nance  Sonoma SD  
Jason Kawczyk  Carlsbad PD
Leaving Your Gun in Your Vehicle

New Firearm Safe Storage Law

The risks of leaving your firearm in your car should be pretty obvious. That being said, sometimes it is just unavoidable. There are some places we go where bringing a firearm is not possible (think sporting events – they almost all forbid off-duty carry – and don’t forget places like the U.S. Post Office, federal government buildings, and so on). It astounds me how many times both CCW holders and, yes, law enforcement officers leave their guns in their car, sometimes in plain view and sometimes unsecured. The results can be tragic. Often, these guns are stolen and used in horrible crimes, including the shooting of Kate Steinle in San Francisco (a terrible tragedy) and numerous others. The Kate Steinle incident highlights recent trends in theft from vehicles and the legal and human costs these crimes impose on society, and in many cases they are completely preventable:

The rising trend in gun thefts from vehicles is not limited to law enforcement officers. A recent article in The Trace describes the troubling increase in this statistic (corresponding to the increase in CCW holders nationwide) as noted here

This year a new law went into effect in California which places added duties on everyone, including law enforcement officers, with regard to safe storage practices in vehicles. Senate Bill 869, which is now codified at Penal Code Section 25140(a) and made applicable to peace officers per PC Section 25452, requires that all firearms left in an unattended vehicle must be either locked in the vehicle's trunk, locked in a locked container and placed out of plain view, or locked in a locked container that is permanently affixed to the vehicle's interior and not in plain view. There is an exception for situations in which an officer is required to render immediate aid or take action that is within the course of the officer's official duties. What that means to me is that this is for the most part limited to on-duty critical incidents in which all hell is breaking loose and securing your firearm just isn’t feasible without putting yourself or others in harm’s way.

There are some great gun vault products on the market now which you can use for your vehicle. If you can get a lockbox for your car or truck, and (even better) bolt it to the frame of your vehicle, that is the best option. At a minimum, if leaving your firearm in your vehicle is the only option, put your firearm in a gun vault of some kind and store it in the trunk. Do whatever you can to harden the target.

Stay safe everyone.

If you have a question or comment for Jim, please email Jim at rene@crpoa.org. Jim René is the General Counsel for the California Reserve Peace Officers Association and a reserve police sergeant for the San Fernando Police Department, and previously was an LAPD reserve police officer for 15 years.

This article does not constitute legal advice and the recipient shall not be entitled to rely on it for any purpose whatsoever. The transmission of an email request for information does not create an attorney-client relationship, and the transmission of any response to such request or any other information contained herein is not intended to create, and the receipt thereof does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship between sender and recipient. All liability with respect to any information contained herein is expressly disclaimed. Under no circumstances may the recipient hold the CRPOA (or its directors and officers) responsible for any acts the recipient decides to take or not to take based on any information contained herein or otherwise. The recipient is strongly advised to consult his or her personal attorney in connection with any issue discussed herein.
The California Reserve Peace Officers Association is proud to announce the Annual Awards Program for 2017. We invite you to nominate a deserving member of your organization for one of several recognition awards.

The awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon to be held at 12 noon on Friday, August 18, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, CA. The luncheon is held in conjunction with ARPOC 2017, the Annual Reserve Peace Officers Conference, which offers 28 hours of POST approved training.

Do not miss out on an opportunity to honor a deserving individual within your organization. Reserve peace officers, search and rescue members and volunteers in policing as well as reserve coordinators.

Review the award nomination information to determine which award is best suited to your nominee. Along with the Award Nomination Application, a letter of nomination must be submitted detailing the nominee’s qualifications and accomplishments. Documentation supporting the nomination letter should be included. Questions can be forwarded to nancy@crpoa.org. Nominations must be submitted no later than July 1, 2017.

We look forward to receiving your nomination.

**Award Criteria**
Please note, in 2013 the CRPOA Board of Directors voted to modify the time restriction on awards to three years. You may now submit nomination for events which occurred up to three years ago. The Board will also consider exceptions for older events on a case-by-case basis.

**Award for Valor**
For an act of conspicuous bravery in the line of duty, performed in conscious disregard of peril to the officer. To be awarded, all of the following criteria must exist:

- The bravery exhibited must be above and beyond that expected in the line of duty.
- Failure to take such action would not justify censure.
- The risk to the officer’s life actually existed and the officer was able to perceive the risk and disregard it.
- The objective was of sufficient importance to justify the risk.
- The officer accomplished the objective or was prevented from accomplishing it by incurring serious injury or death.

**Notes:**
- The criteria for this award include consciousness of the peril and the disregard thereof. Thus, merely finding oneself in the middle of a perilous situation and having to take action to get out of it would not qualify.
- There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.
- May be awarded to a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing.
- The nominee does not need to be a CRPOA member.
- The act must have occurred between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

**Award of Honor**
Presented to the family of a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing whose life was given in the line of duty due to the action of a third party.
Notes:
- This award recognizes supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. It does not require that the officer knowingly placed himself or herself in a perilous situation nor does it require an act of heroism in order to be awarded. It does require the action of a third party in causing the death.
- There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards. In an appropriate case, an Award for Valor and an Award of Honor could be made for the same action.
- May be awarded to a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing.
- The decedent need not have been a CRPOA member.
- The death must have occurred between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

**Reserve Officer of the Year, Search and Rescue Member of the Year, and /or Volunteer in Policing of the Year**
Awarded to the nominee excelling in all the qualifications for the Meritorious Service Award which place the reserve officer/search and rescue member/volunteer in policing clearly above all other candidates.

Notes:
- Only one qualifying award shall be made each year for each of three categories: reserve peace officer, search and rescue member and volunteer in policing.
- The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.
- The qualifying actions must occur prior to May 31, 2017.

**Meritorious Service Award**
For especially meritorious service to the department in a duty of great responsibility. The duty may be either assigned or self-initiated. Superior performance of the normal duties of the position will not alone justify the award.
Considerations for the award include all areas of:
- Outstanding performance of the officer's duties either in a single act or over time
- Extraordinary level of assistance to the reserve unit and/or the department
- Extraordinary level of service to the community;
- Training or teaching within the department
- Longevity with the department.

Notes:
- The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.
- There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.
- The qualifying actions must occur between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

**Distinguished Service Award**
For distinguished service by a reserve officer, SAR member or volunteer in policing.
Considerations for the award include one or more of the following:
- Distinguished service either in a single act or over time
- Substantial assistance to the reserve unit and/or the department
- Substantial service to the community
- Training or teaching within the department
- Longevity with the department

Notes:
- The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.
- There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.
- The qualifying actions must occur between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

**Award of Appreciation**
For distinguished service to the members of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association.
Considerations for the award include:
- Distinguished service to the Association either in a single act or over time
- Substantial assistance or contribution to the Association

Notes:
- There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.
- The qualifying service must occur between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.
Coordinator of the Year
Presented to the coordinator of reserve peace officers, search and rescue members or volunteers in policing who excels in:

- Displaying a strong commitment to the unit
- Dedication to the enhancement of the professionalism and training of the unit members
- Promoting a positive image of unit members within the department and the community
- Demonstrating efforts to use unit members in non-traditional roles or assignments

Notes:
- The nominee must be a full-time employee of the department in which he or she serves as the coordinator of a reserve peace officer, search and rescue or volunteer in policing unit.
- The nomination must be made from within the unit supervised by the nominee. It may not be made by the department or by another full-time employee of the department. Supporting letters from the department are encouraged.
- Only one qualifying award shall be presented.
- The qualifying service must occur prior to May 31, 2017.

General Notes

**Important note to nominators:** Nominators for any CRPOA award shall be:
- A chief executive of a law enforcement agency; or,
- A full-time officer who serves as a reserve coordinator; or
- A General Member of the Association.

When submitting a nomination please review the awards criteria thoroughly to assure that your nominee meets the criteria. You may submit a nomination for the highest possible award for which you believe your nominee meets the criteria. The Awards Committee may determine that your nominee qualifies for the category nominated or may select the nominee to be recognized in a different category. For example, a candidate nominated for Reserve Officer of the Year might receive that award, or may be honored with the Meritorious Service Award or other qualifying award.

Nominations packets **must** include:
1) An application, completed and legible.
2) A letter of nomination summarizing the qualifications of the candidate for a specific award.
3) Documentation supporting qualifications, such as awards, certificates, commendations, letters.

Nominators must also assure that information provided for contact for award notification is current.

Note - nominations must be sent to the Awards Committee at:
- **California Reserve Peace Officers Association, P.O. Box 5622, San Jose, CA 95150-5622**
  or scan and e-mail your nomination packet to nancy@crpoa.org.
- If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of the nomination packet by the Awards Committee within 2 weeks of mailing or emailing documents, contact Nancy Elam by email or phone immediately.

All questions about the nomination process can be forwarded to Nancy Elam, Awards Committee Chairman at nancy@crpoa.org or by phone at 408-309-8756.

**The deadline for the receipt of nominations is July 1, 2017**

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**Just the “FAX” Please!**

Because of very low usage (less than 10 faxes in 2016) and to save CRPOA funds, the CRPOA Membership Office has cancelled our current fax telephone number. With the use of PDF attachments, we don’t feel this will be a hardship. Please give us a call at our office 1-855.552.7762 ext. 102 to share your thoughts if you wish.
Chief Financial Officer’s Report

It is my pleasure to report that our financial condition remains sound. The current month closed with all our current obligations met. We added 3 new members that joined from the 16th of last month to the 15th of the current month.

At our last Board of Directors meeting the Board adopted a membership dues change to take place immediately. The new annual rates are: for CA Reserve Officers, Search & Rescue and VIP’s $96; for Out-of-State Reserve Officers $72; for Retired Reserves Officers $48; for Full-Time Peace Officers and Supporting Member $36. Reserve Coordinators will continue to receive complimentary memberships.

Also, approved at this meeting were the rates for the Annual Reserve Peace Officers Conference (ARPOC) to be held August 16th to 19th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mission Valley, San Diego. There remains a prerequisite membership requirement. The Full Conference Early Bird (before 7/1) rate $325; Full Conference Regular (7/1 – 7/31) rate $355; Full Conference Late (8/1 or after) rate $375. Any agency that would like to establish a group payment account to pay for their attendees should contact the Membership and Finance Office to set up this process. Please watch the Backup Newsletter for additional information regarding ARPOC 2017.

Tax season is upon us. That means we can all use some entertainment. While many members dread the process of completing and filing taxes, some see it as an opportunity to test the boundaries of the system. Here are a few deductions Americans have taken that have failed to pass muster in tax court, courtesy of Kiplinger.com:

- **You cannot deduct the cost of a good night’s sleep.** A tax preparer who worked from home escaped to a hotel because her clients were calling in the wee hours of the night and causing her to lose sleep. When she attempted to take a business deduction for the hotel expense, the tax court ruled a good night’s sleep is a non-deductible personal expense.

- **You cannot take a theft loss deduction for poor construction.** A couple moved into their newly built dream home only to realize the builder had cut some corners. The house had some serious issues, including its foundation. The couple claimed the builder had defrauded them and took a large theft loss deduction. While taxpayers can deduct losses from a home-related theft, shoddy construction doesn’t qualify.

- **You cannot take a depletion deduction for bodily fluids.** A woman earned $7,000 a year donating blood plasma because of her rare blood type. She took a depletion deduction, claiming “the loss of both her blood’s mineral content and her blood’s ability to regenerate,” wrote Kiplinger. While companies that take coal, iron, and other minerals from the ground can take a depletion deduction, the tax court ruled that individuals cannot claim depletion on their bodies.

- **You cannot deduct a business trip if there are no formal business meetings involved.** A repo firm sponsored a trip to Las Vegas for its bank customers. The firm’s employees chatted with clients about business on the way to Vegas, but no formal meetings were held. The tax court denied the deduction.

Before you get creative with your taxes, consult with a tax professional.

*Chuck Adams is the Chief Financial Officer for CRPOA. And is also a retired reserve commander for Los Gatos Police Dept.*

*Chuck welcomes your calls and emails; you may contact him at 408-371-8239 or cadams@CRPOA.org*
Robert G. Rasmussen, a Cotati original passes

By: Robert Stewart
March 3, 2017

‘Raz,’ who served City of Cotati for 35 years and after whom police facility is named, dies at age of 91

Robert (Bob) G. Rasmussen, a dedicated Reserve Police Officer who served the City of Cotati for 35 years, passed away on Wednesday Feb. 22, 2017 at the age of 91.

Bob was affectionately nicknamed “Raz” by his co-workers throughout his many years of service. He began his volunteer law enforcement career in 1965 as a Reserve Police Officer, just a couple years after the City of Cotati incorporated. In 1966, adding to his volunteerism efforts, Bob also served a two-year term as a Cotati city councilman.

In the early days after Cotati’s incorporation, the city’s first police chief was the only paid police officer. This, of course, changed over time. Part-time and full-time staff was hired, and the police department was supplemented with volunteer police officers. Bob was one of those original reserve officers and he served in that capacity far longer than anyone else. In many respects, the Reserve Police Officer program for the Cotati Police Dept. was the backbone of the organization. In the 1970s and 1980s it was not uncommon to have 10-15 police reserves to supplement the efforts of six or seven full-time officers.

For Bob, the security of local businesses was often his primary focus while he worked the night shift, getting out of the police car to “shake” doors ensuring they were locked. These efforts were supplemented by Bob shining the police car spotlight at the businesses’ exterior as he drove by. While this practice no doubt was a huge deterrent to burglaries, it did result in higher equipment costs because of the number of burned out spotlights that needed to be replaced. Bob was truly the “spotlight king” of Cotati.

During his 35-year career, Bob volunteered thousands of hours – patrolling, transporting individuals to jail and providing basic police services. In 1989, then Reserve Police Capt. Rasmussen received the Exemplary Professional Service Award from the state Attorney General. In addition, on two occasions Bob was the recipient of the Meritorious Service award from the California Reserve Police Officer’s Association.

One of Bob’s proudest moments was on Sept. 11, 2002 when the City Council held a ground breaking ceremony for the new police facility that would be constructed next to Cotati City Hall. During this ceremony the facility was officially dedicated to Bob as the Robert “Raz” Rasmussen Police Facility and now the building honorably bears his name above the front entrance.

Bob, while a quiet individual, truly gave of himself while volunteering as a Reserve Police Officer for all of those years. He will be missed by all who worked with him and we salute his efforts. Bob is survived by his loving daughter Sandra Brown, grandchildren; Todd Brown, Jennifer Reed and Jeff Brown, and great grandchildren Kate Reed and JJ Brown. He was preceded in death by his wife June, father George, mother Lena and his brother Stanley. A longtime resident of Cotati and Sonoma County, Bob was a cabinet maker by trade and also served in the United States Navy.

As my friend for over 42 years, Raz and I shared many experiences including golf which he loved and was able to play into his late 80’s. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future time.

Rest in peace my friend!

Robert Stewart is the retired Cotati Police Chief.

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association would like to sincerely thank Robert Stewart and The Community Voice for a great article about a great man who will be missed but not forgotten.
“Because of your smile, you make life more beautiful.”

—Thich Nhat Hanh, Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist

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**Board Meeting Updates**

*From Secretary Frank Barnes*

**January 24, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting**

Chief Executive Officer Bernzott called the meeting to order at 1834 hours. The following Directors participated: Bernzott, Cantrell, Elam, Lucas, Lujan and Torres. Chief Financial Officer Chuck Adams, Office Manager and Editor Janet Adams and Chairman Emeritus Voorhees also participated. President Lombardi joined the meeting at 1845 hours. Secretary Barnes joined the meeting at 1853 hours. Vice President Downs and General Counsel René were absent.

Minutes of the October 25, 2016 Meeting were approved as submitted.

Chief Financial Officer Adams advised that the January 2017 financial reports had been posted to the SharePoint website. Adams noted that the Association was in sound financial condition. The January 2017 financial reports were received and filed. Board members with questions on the January 2017 financial reports are to contact CEO Bernzott within the next week.

Chairman Emeritus Voorhees led a discussion of the General Counsel’s Report

Editor Janet Adams advised that The BackUp had been released on time.

CEO Bernzott advised that Vice President Downs reported that we had only one request for an endorsement, Ryan Vienna, a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff who was running for San Dimas City Council.

CE Voorhees and CEO Bernzott led a discussion on the 2017 and 2018 Annual Conferences.

CEO Bernzott solicited a motion to approve the expenditure of $6,000 to add a module for online registration to the website. Director Cantrell moved that “the amount of $6,000.00 be approved to add a module for online registration to our contract with 911 Media”. The motion was adopted with President Lombardi abstaining.

CEO Bernzott solicited a motion to approve a 3% COLA for Office Manager Janet Adams. Vice President Lucas moved that “the salary for Office Manager Janet Adams be increased from $1917 per month to $1974 per month”. The motion was adopted unanimously.

It was noted that the next meeting would be held in the Bay Area office of General Counsel René on February 23rd from 0900 through 1500. Jeff Dunn and Christine Ford from POST will be invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 1858 hours.

If you have a question for the Secretary, please contact him at barnes@crpoa.org

Secretary Frank Barnes is in his 45th year as a reserve deputy with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

In his day job Frank is a transportation engineer with the City of Santa Monica.
March 2017 Legislative Report

Well the 2017-2018 Legislative session is under way and it looks like a busy one for Law Enforcement. We only have a small portion of the bills (1,790 introduced in the Assembly and 888 in the Senate) that could impact us but so far I am tracking 47 individual pieces of Legislation almost equally split between the Assembly and the Senate.

For this report I will highlight a few bills that I believe we should support but the official position for CRPOA will be established by the Legislative Committee. That meeting will take place in April.

Here are a few of the Assembly bills:

**AB 2 (Obernolte R)  Hate crimes: peace officers**

**Summary:** Current law prohibits committing a battery upon another person. Violation of this prohibition is punishable as a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the extent of injury. Under existing law, there is a penalty enhancement for a battery committed against a peace officer who is engaged in the performance of his or her duties. Current law defines “hate crime” as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of actual or perceived characteristics of the victim, including, among other things, race, religion, disability, and sexual orientation. This bill would make any criminal act, except the crime of resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer, committed in whole or in part because of the victim’s status as a peace officer, as defined, a hate crime.

**AB 6 (Lackey R)  Driving under the influence: drugged driving task force.**

**Summary:** Current law specifies the duties and powers of the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol. This bill would require the commissioner to appoint, and serve as the chairperson of, a drugged driving task force, with specified membership, to develop recommendations for best practices, protocols, proposed legislation, and other policies that will address the issue of driving under the influence of drugs, including prescription drugs.

**AB 537 (Acosta R)  Serious felonies.**

**Summary:** Current law, as added by Proposition 8, adopted June 8, 1982, and amended by Proposition 21, adopted March 7, 2000, among other things, defines a serious felony. Current law, also added by Proposition 8, adopted June 8, 1982, and amended by Proposition 36, adopted November 6, 2012, commonly known as the Three Strikes Law, requires increased penalties for certain recidivist offenders in addition to any other enhancement or penalty provisions that may apply, including individuals with current and prior convictions of a serious felony, as specified. This bill would amend those initiatives statutes by adding certain felonies, including threatening a witness and human trafficking, to the definition of a serious felony, as specified.

**AB 693 (Irwin D)  Firearms.**

**Summary:** Current law generally requires that a firearms transaction be conducted through a licensed firearms dealer. This bill would exempt the loan of a firearm from the requirement that the transaction be conducted through a dealer if the loan is made to a student enrolled in the course of basic training prescribed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, or any other course certified by the commission, for purposes of participation in the course.

**AB 702 (Lackey R)  Driving under the influence: chemical tests.**

**Summary:** When a person is convicted of violating specified driving-under-the-influence (DUI) provisions, and at the time of the arrest leading to that conviction the person willfully refused a peace officer’s request to submit to, or willfully failed to complete, a specified chemical test, existing law requires a court to impose additional penalties, as specified. This bill would increase, as specified, the additional penalties that a court is required to impose if the person...
convicted of violating specified DUI offenses who willfully refused to complete a breath test at the time of arrest has previously been convicted of specified DUI offenses.

**AB 721 (Bigelow R)  Firearms: prohibited firearms.**

**Summary:** Current law prohibits the manufacture, importation, sale, or possession in the state of short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns, as defined. Current law authorizes certain government entities and certain peace officers to purchase and possess these firearms under certain circumstances, as specified. This bill would add district attorney’s offices and peace officer members of these offices to the specified entities and persons authorized to purchase and possess these weapons under specified circumstances.

**AB 1192 (Lackey R)  Firearms: retired peace officers.**

**Summary:** Current law defines “honorably retired” for purposes of certain exceptions to the law involving the carrying of firearms by a retired peace officer. This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to this provision.

These are just some of the bills we are following for you. The last one, AB 1192 is actually our bill to try to address the issue of retired reserve officers having to relinquish their high capacity magazines on July 1st due to not being included in the exemption for retired peace officers. We have our work cut out for us on this one since we had to make it an “urgency measure” due to the deadline established by the ballot measure that was passed last year. An urgency measure requires a 2/3 vote in order to get it to the Governor for signature. Lots of work going on at the Capitol. And, as Sherlock would say “the game is afoot.”

Pete Downs is a CRPOA Director, Co-Chairman of the Law & Legislation Committee and a volunteer in policing with the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office.

We thank Pete Downs for his Legislative update and you may contact him at Downs@CRPOA.org.
ARPOC 2017
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San Diego - Mission Valley

To book your room online, go to our booking website: special booking website. Or, if you prefer book by phone, call 1-888-233-9527 and ask for the “California Reserve Peace Officers” rate.