



## CALIFORNIA RESERVE PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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April 24, 2020

### **An Open Letter to Our Members: The Coronavirus, ARPOC, Your Agency and You**

We are indeed in extraordinary times and law enforcement and health care workers are in the front lines of possible exposure to the virus. The directors, officers and committee members of your association have been working diligently to plan for ARPOC 2020 while determining whether it is in the best interest of our members to hold a conference this year.

#### **ARPOC 2020**

After 42 consecutive conferences it has been a tough decision, but we have regretfully decided to postpone until next year. Here are the reasons why:

- The results of the survey sent two weeks ago disclosed that an insufficient number of members were “very likely” to attend the conference, mostly due to the virus. The fixed costs of presenting the conference require at least 250 to attend and we lacked that number.
- When will the “shelter in place” and “social distancing” cease? Government projections are that “large groups” may not be permitted or recommended during June, July and August. That is not a safe bet for an August conference. And, our survey also disclosed that moving the conference from August to September or October only changed the numbers by 2 attendees!
- Many of our members have been out of work for more than a month already with no hard date for returning. They will be unable to afford the conference or get the time off from work.
- Many law enforcement agencies, particularly in southern California, are dependent on our members serving alongside full-time officers and will not be able to spare our members. Nor will many agencies be able to afford to pay for attendance as they usually do.

#### **ARPOC 2021**

With that disappointing news comes some good. The great arrangements with the MontBleu Resort are fully in place for ARPOC 2021! Same prices, same quality sleeping rooms and classrooms and we have the dates locked in, August 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. And, because we already have classes lined up and most instructors are already committing for next year, we will likely open conference registration by January!

Many of you made reservations for this coming August with the MontBleu. Please cancel your reservations for this August as soon as possible. We do not want anyone to be charged for a room they will not be using. We will announce when reservations will be open for 2021.

### **There are other issues for you to consider**

- While the virus is a threat, should you continue to work as a reserve, search & rescue member or volunteer in policing?
- Should you be **required** to work, even though you deem it an unnecessary risk?
- Are you concerned about losing your reserve status, based on POST regulations or your department's policies?

**CRPOA's board believes that we cannot recommend a hard and fast policy; every case is distinct.** But we can offer some input to help you make your decision:

- You and your family come first. This is no different for regulars. Are you in a risk group due to age, medical condition or other factors that would make it unwise to expose yourself? Do you have a family member who would be at high risk should you carry the virus home? **No one should be required to work if they have a reasonable and genuine concern for their safety or that of their family!**
- Having the preceding in mind, your obligation to your department is the same as it would be for someone who is full-time. Pay should not be a factor. None of us became reserves for the money! These are unusual times and, with some departments being seriously affected with people out with the virus or quarantined because of exposure, reserves become a necessary component just as they would in the event of massive fires or an earthquake.
- For those who are not allowed by their department to work, or for those who determine that they should not work taking into account their personal and family situation, POST has declared that it will temporarily not enforce the 16-hour per month average requirement for Level I reserves. That means that if you are a Level I reserve and you are not able to work due to the pandemic, you do not need to worry about running afoul of that POST requirement.
- In a similar vein, POST has declared that it will temporarily not enforce the CPT requirements or deadline, if the failure to meet the CPT requirements is due to the pandemic. Departments **should** likewise recognize that few if any of their officers/deputies, full-time or reserve, is likely to meet the CPT requirements this year. Most training, whether intra-departmental, or provided outside, has been cancelled. **We recommend** that reserves inform their department, at the highest level possible, of POST's temporary policy changes. Department policies, whether based in whole or in part on POST regulations, **should not be enforced** against a member who has made the decision that the risk is too great to themselves or their family to continue working. **No member should have their status**

**jeopardized for refraining from working due to a reasonable and genuine concern for their safety or that of their family.**

Again, CRPOA is not in a position to declare whether its members report for duty or stay home and refrain from working. Each person must examine his or her situation vis-à-vis themselves, their family and their commitment to their department.

### **Our Election**

Our annual election is in progress for three directorships. Five people are vying for those positions and your vote is needed. All general members were previously sent balloting instructions and a link by email. If you voted already, thank you! If not, please take **less than 5 minutes** and do it now. If you can't find or didn't receive the email, contact our Pacifica office by emailing [Carrie@crpoa.org](mailto:Carrie@crpoa.org) or by calling 855-552-7762 x 108.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers, I wish you and your families well!

*Mike Voorhees*

Chief Executive Officer