

# CALIFORNIA Sheriff

CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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Supporting Law Enforcement

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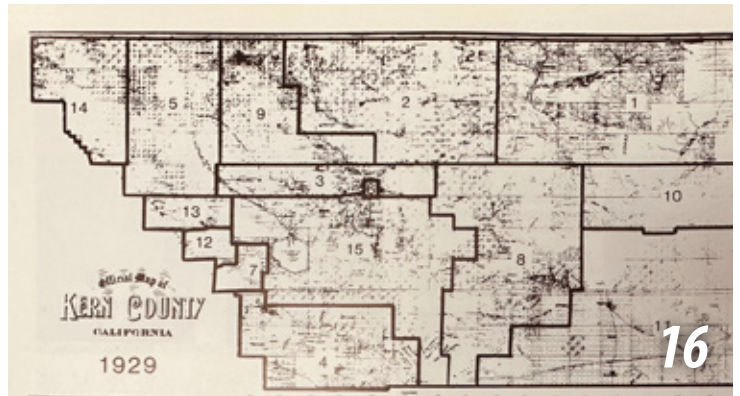
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**Association Mission Statement:** To support the role of Sheriff as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in each county and to speak as a collective statewide voice on matters of public safety.

**Foundation Mission Statement:** To provide education and training services to the 58 Elected Sheriffs of California, their departmental employees and other members of the California State Sheriffs' Association.

California State Sheriffs' Association

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▪ SHERIFF BRANDON BARNES  
▪ SUTTER COUNTY

Greetings from the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA). I recently found myself thumbing through past editions of the California Sheriff Magazine looking for inspiration on topics to write about. It didn't take me long to realize the sheriffs are at the forefront in a variety of areas, not just public safety.

Once I became sheriff, I realized I had to be a subject matter expert in areas that most people would not assume are part of my job description. Some areas include an understanding of complex service contracts, technology innovations, rehabilitative programs, and construction projects just to name a few examples.

Sheriffs are always looking for ways to engage with those in our custody, while reducing recidivism. In fact, the previous copy of this magazine (volume 40) highlighted the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and its "Freedom Braiders" program where women learn valuable skills, a sense of business and strategies for re-entry into the community. This is just one example of the amazing programs being run by sheriffs throughout our state.

Sheriffs have implemented innovative wellness programs that seek to improve staff's physical and mental wellbeing. Improved physical standards, peer support programs, and

even meditation have proven to be successful for a prolonged career in public safety

The state's realignment in 2011 (AB 109) created grant opportunities for jails to enhance facilities, or build new facilities, to serve the needs of a changing correctional landscape. I only have to look towards my neighboring County of Yuba to see their new facility designed to treat those with mental health issues. The facility is state of the art and will serve a vulnerable population for that community.

Innovations in technology can be seen throughout this profession. Some jail facilities use biosensor technology to monitor incarcerated persons with vulnerable medical conditions. CSSA has helped create several Apps for work efficiency, allowing sheriff offices to interact with real time information. Additionally, the use of drones and artificial intelligence are becoming more commonplace.

All sheriffs host community events in their areas. It's a chance to have a cup of coffee and share a conversation. But have you ever attended a sheriff's rodeo? Counties like Sacramento, San Luis Obispo and San Bernardino host some of the best rodeos in the state. Saddle up and check one out.

Law enforcement leaders are innovative and while they work to keep our communities safe, they are also working to make our communities better. So next time you see your county sheriff, ask them about their vision for a better tomorrow. Chances are your sheriff is working on something cool, and their response may just surprise you.

Sincerely,

**Sheriff Brandon Barnes**, *Sutter County*  
*CSSA President*



▪ M. CARMEN GREEN  
▪ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Happy New Year and Welcome to the January 2026 Edition of *California Sheriff!*

The California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) held its Annual CSSA **Medal of Valor Ceremony** on Thursday, October 16, 2025, hosted by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. During the ceremony, CSSA recognized 14 heroes' who were praised for their actions above and beyond the call of duty; and exhibiting exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind; or an unusual swiftness of action, regardless of their personal safety, in an attempt to save or protect human life.

### The recipients were recognized as follows:

- Butte County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Justin Chamness
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Corporal Paul Kowalski
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Deputy Bryant Moore
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Deputy Bradley Whitmer
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Deputy Jeffrey Dean
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Deputy David Moore
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Deputy James Blount
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Deputy Keegan Cutting
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Deputy Giulia Geary
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Deputy Karl Huey (*not pictured*)
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Deputy Joseph Nougier
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jeannine Yebra (*not pictured*)
- Ventura County Sheriff's Office Deputy Tyler Hackworth
- Ventura County Sheriff's Office Deputy Samuel Jones

We can't thank you enough for your incredible service to your communities.  
You are all assets to California law enforcement, and an inspiration to many.

***On behalf of the California State Sheriffs' Association and the California Sheriffs, we'd like to express Our Appreciation.***

The California State Sheriffs' Association would also like to say "Thank You" to the following Corporate 100 Partners for their support of this event.

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*Sergeant Justin Chamness - pictured with CSSA President Sheriff Brandon Barnes (Sutter County), Sheriff Kory Honea (Butte County) and Sheriff Shannon Dicus (San Bernardino County)*



*CSSA President Sheriff Brandon Barnes (Sutter County), Deputy Samuel Jones, Deputy Tyler Hackworth, Sheriff Jim Fryhoff (Ventura County), and Sheriff Shannon Dicus (San Bernardino County)*



*CSSA President Sheriff Brandon Barnes (Sutter County), Deputy Keegan Cutting, Deputy Giulia Geary, Deputy James Blount, Deputy Joseph Nougier, Sheriff Eddie Engram (Sonoma County), and Sheriff Shannon Dicus (San Bernardino County)*



*CSSA President Sheriff Brandon Barnes (Sutter County), Deputy Jeffrey Dean, Deputy Bradley Whitmer, Deputy David Moore, Deputy Bryant Moore, Corporal Paul Kowalski, and Sheriff Shannon Dicus (San Bernardino County)*



▪ **CORY SALZILLO**  
▪ **LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

**M**onday, October 13 was the deadline for the Governor to sign or veto all legislation on his desk for the first year of the 2025-26 regular legislative session. According to the Governor's Office, the Governor signed 794 of the 917 bills that reached his desk in 2025. Governor Newsom vetoed 123 bills, resulting in a veto rate of 13.4%. Bills signed into law take effect on January 1, 2026, unless another date is specified in the bill. Some of these new statutes supported by CSSA that have been passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor include:

**AB 486** by Assembly Member Tom Lackey (R – Palmdale) makes it a misdemeanor to possess a key programming device, key duplicating device, or signal extender with the intent to feloniously break or enter into any building, aircraft, vessel, or vehicle.

**AB 848** by Assembly Member Esmeralda Soria (D – Fresno) makes the fact that a defendant, who is convicted of felony sexual battery, was employed at a hospital where the offense occurred and the victim was in the defendant's care or seeking medical care at the hospital a factor in aggravation at sentencing.

**SB 19** by Senator Susan Rubio (D – Baldwin Park) creates a new crime of threatening to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury at a daycare, school, university, workplace, house of worship, or medical facility, punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor.

**SB 221** by Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R – Yucaipa) expands the definition of "credible threats" in the crime of stalking to include threats to the safety of a victim's pet, service animal, and emotional support animal.

**SB 459** by Senator Tim Grayson (D – Concord) gives law enforcement personnel the right to refuse to disclose, and prevent another from disclosing, confidential communications between the law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member or another law enforcement personnel.

Here is a sampling of public safety related statutes opposed by CSSA and signed by the Governor.

**AB 572** by Assembly Member Ash Kalra (D – San Jose) requires law enforcement agencies, on or before January 1, 2027, to maintain a policy requiring a peace officer who initiates a formal interview to gather evidence related to a law enforcement incident resulting in a person's death or serious bodily injury caused by a peace officer to clearly identify

themselves; inform the person of the status of their family member, if known, including whether the family member has been killed or seriously injured by law enforcement; inform the person that they are conducting a formal interview for the purposes of an investigation that may or may not involve an assessment of the conduct of the person that was killed or injured; and inform the person that they can have a trusted support person with them. Provides that no peace officer shall employ threats or deception, including knowingly using false information, fabricated evidence, or misleading statements, to coerce an interview or when conducting any interview subject to this requirement.

**AB 847** by Assembly Member LaShae Sharp-Collins (D – San Diego) grants access to the confidential personnel records of peace officers and custodial officers and records maintained by their employing agencies, as specified, to civilian law enforcement oversight boards or commissions during investigations or related proceedings concerning the conduct of those officers.

**SB 580** by Senator Elena Durazo (D – Los Angeles) requires the Attorney General, on or before July 1, 2026, to publish model policies for state and local agencies relating to interaction with immigration authorities consistent with federal and state law. Requires state and local agencies, on or before January 1, 2027, to implement the model policy or an equivalent policy.

**SB 627** by Senator Scott Wiener (D – San Francisco) requires a law enforcement agency operating in California, by July 1, 2026, to maintain and publicly post a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings (masks). Prohibits, with specified exceptions, a law enforcement officer from a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties and provides that a willful and knowing violation of this prohibition is punishable as an infraction or a misdemeanor. Provides that this criminal

penalty shall not apply to any law enforcement officer if they were acting in their capacity as an employee of the agency and the agency maintains and publicly posts, no later than July 1, 2026, a written policy as required by this bill. Provides that any person who is found to have committed an assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process, or malicious prosecution, while wearing a facial covering in a knowing and willful violation of this bill shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or immunity for their tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability, and shall be liable to that individual for the greater of actual damages or statutory damages of not less than \$10,000, whichever is greater. While the requirement to maintain a policy does not take effect until July 1, 2026, the rest of the bill, including the prohibition on law enforcement officers wearing masks, takes effect on January 1, 2026.

The Legislature has now reconvened for the second year of the 2025-26 legislative session. More than 2,000 new bills will likely be introduced leading up to the bill introduction deadline on February 20, 2026. The Legislature is also heading into the new year with a possible \$18 billion deficit, and Governor Newsom will announce his budget proposal for the 2026-27 fiscal year on or before January 10, 2026. While the actual amount of any budget deficit and revenues will adjust during the budget process, it will no doubt affect the Legislature's work in the upcoming year.

To prepare for the 2026 legislative session, the CSSA Legislative Committee met last fall to review bill proposals for possible inclusion in CSSA's sponsored bill package. Additionally, the Legislative Committee will also meet several times in 2026 to consider the hundreds of bills that have the potential to impact sheriffs' offices, criminal justice, and public safety generally. CSSA will take positions of support or opposition on many of these bills in an attempt to influence the Legislature's action on them.

The new year promises great opportunity and great risk, but sheriffs are prepared to

meet their challenges head on, and we look forward to an exciting year in Sacramento. ✨

*Cory Salzillo, CSSA's Legislative Director, is a partner of the firm WPSS Group, a pre-eminent team of advisors on matters involving state and local government. The firm effectively influences public policy in a broad spectrum of public sector issues.*

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■ JAMES TOUCHSTONE  
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## “Are You Liable Under Federal Law For Injuries To Hostages In An Incident”

In *Hawatmeh v. City of Henderson*<sup>1</sup>, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court’s dismissal of Plaintiffs’ constitutional claims in a case where, tragically, a minor hostage was shot by officers and died.

### BACKGROUND

In November 2020, Dianne Hawatmeh and her daughter Yasmeen had returned to their apartment complex when their neighbor, Jason Neo Bourne, confronted them. Bourne ran after them and subsequently kicked open the door of Diane and Yasmeen’s apartment. 12-year-old Joseph Hawatmeh and two housekeepers were already inside the apartment. Bourne shot and killed Diane and housekeeper Veronica Muniz, and shot and severely wounded Yasmeen. Joseph called 911, telling the Henderson (Nevada) Police Department (“HPD”) operator the name of the apartment complex and that someone was in the apartment with a gun. After threatening Joseph, Bourne located the family’s Cadillac Escalade car keys, took Joseph as a hostage, and left the apartment. He dragged Joseph to the Escalade, forced him into the front passenger seat, and sat in the driver’s seat.

Nine minutes after Joseph made his 911 call, Bourne called 911 and repeatedly threatened to kill Joseph while on the call and making threatening and odd statements. At least twice during the phone call, Bourne indicated that he had not taken his medications. He also threatened Joseph with sexual assault.

In response to multiple 911 calls, HPD officers soon arrived at the apartment complex. The Escalade was parked in front of a wall, and a police officer stationed himself on the opposite side of that wall. At least 16 other HPD officers circled the vehicle, ensuring that the Escalade could not leave the scene.

The HPD dispatcher told Sergeant Jaime Smith that Joseph “is saying that this man will kill him.” Sergeant Smith shouted at the Escalade, “Let me see your hands, both of you. Put your hands up, exit the vehicle.” Sergeant Smith announced over the radio that she saw a gun, and that “the child has his hands up.” Sergeant Smith yelled, “Sir, step out of the vehicle, let’s just talk. Let me see your hands sir.” Bourne told Joseph that “[t]his gun’s loaded,” asked Joseph if he wanted to die, and announced that he was going to “shoot [Joseph] in the brain.”

At 11:23:42 a.m., a female voice over the police radio stated, “[H]e’s saying open your mouth to the 12-year-old.” Sergeant Smith asked the HPD dispatcher to talk to Bourne and see if he would roll down the window, but the dispatcher did not communicate that request to Bourne. At 11:24:31 a.m., Sergeant Smith told Officer James Pendleton to “[t]ake the shot if you have it.” At 11:24:36 a.m., Officer Pendleton fired a single gunshot that killed Bourne. Two seconds later, at 11:24:38 a.m., the other HPD officers fired at the vehicle, during which Sergeant Smith repeatedly yelled “[s]top” and

“ceasefire.” In this second round of shots, Joseph, tragically, was killed.

After his death, Joseph’s father and siblings along with Joseph’s estate sued the City of Henderson, HPD, and several HPD officers on multiple theories of liability. The District Court dismissed Plaintiffs’ federal claims with prejudice (and found that HPD officers would be entitled to qualified immunity on the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment claims), and dismissed the state law claims without prejudice to reasserting them in state court. Plaintiffs appealed the dismissal.

### DISCUSSION

On appeal, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals observed that “[t]he doctrine of qualified immunity shields officers from civil liability so long as their conduct ‘does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known.’” *City of Tahlequah v. Bond*, 595 U.S. 9, 12 (2021) (per curiam) (quoting *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 231 (2009)). On the Fourth Amendment excessive force claim, the Court stated that “[e]xcessive force claims require (1) a seizure and (2) excessive force.” *Cuevas v. City of Tulare*, 107 F.4th 894, 898 (9th Cir. 2024). A police officer can seize a person either through a show of authority that in some way restrains the person’s liberty or by using force to apprehend the person. *Id.* at 899.

However, the Ninth Circuit concluded that officers do not seize an individual for Fourth Amendment purposes when they employ control tactics or force in an attempt to rescue him from an active hostage situation. Under the circumstances of this case, there therefore was no seizure. The Court reasoned that Joseph was never ‘seized’ because his freedom was constrained by Bourne, not police action.

The Court found that Joseph was also not seized by the HPD officers when they used force to shoot him. While “an officer seizes a person when he uses force to apprehend her,” neither “[a]ccidental force” nor “force intentionally applied for some other purpose” constitutes a seizure. See *Torres*, 592 U.S. at 309, 317. A “seizure requires the use of force *with intent to restrain*.” *Id.* at 317 (emphasis in original). The Court found that such intent was lacking here. Indeed, the officers here were trying to save Joseph’s life. The Court found the two-second window between Bourne’s death and Joseph’s death insufficient to transform the situation from hostage rescue to police seizure.

Moreover, the Ninth Circuit held that even had Plaintiffs plausibly alleged a constitutional violation, the HPD officers would be entitled to qualified immunity because Joseph’s right to be free of excessive force

during an active hostage situation was not clearly established at the time of the violation.

Turning to the Fourteenth Amendment substantive due process claim, the Court of Appeals explained that “[o]fficial conduct that ‘shocks the conscience’ in depriving parents of [the Fourteenth Amendment liberty] interest [in the companionship and society of a child] is cognizable as a violation of due process.” *Wilkinson v. Torres*, 610 F.3d 546, 554 (9th Cir. 2010). (quoting *Porter v. Osborn*, 546 F.3d 1131, 1137 (9th Cir. 2008)). “Where actual deliberation is practical, then an officer’s ‘deliberate indifference’ may suffice to shock the conscience.” *Id.* (quoting *Porter*, 546 F.3d at 1137). But where “a law enforcement officer makes a snap judgment because of an escalating situation, his conduct may only be found to shock the conscience if he acts with a purpose to harm unrelated to legitimate law enforcement objectives.” *Id.*

The Ninth Circuit determined the rapidly evolving hostage situation required split-second decisions with legitimate law enforcement objectives. The officers were forced to make “a split-second decision” in a rapidly evolving situation, and therefore, the deliberate indifference standard did not apply. The Court found no factual allegation that indicated that the officers had anything but legitimate law enforcement objectives in mind when they fired their guns.

In sum, the *Hawatmeh v. City of Henderson* case strikes a reasonable balance concerning federal liability exposure in terrible circumstances that law enforcement officers are sometimes placed in by the actions

of a suspect. For liability to accrue to the deputies or agency in these circumstances, essentially the plaintiff has to prove that an officer intended to actually shoot a hostage or was so deliberately indifferent to the hostage’s safety when actual deliberation under the circumstances was possible that liability should accrue. Where deliberation was not possible, due to time constraints created by the suspect, the plaintiff must prove that the deputy acted with a purpose to harm unrelated to law enforcement objectives. Each of these standards for liability are very difficult to establish from an evidentiary perspective.

Of course, the *Hawatmeh v. City of Henderson* case does not absolve deputies of the obligation to utilize proper planning and tactics. Moreover, this case does not affect liability exposure under state-law theories of liability, such as negligence. Appropriate training utilizing the latest tactics to attempt to peacefully resolve hostage situations should be a cornerstone of SWAT team training, specifically, and for patrol deputies as well. As this author is fond of noting, compliance with the Constitution doesn’t concern itself with training budgets. ✨

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*Information contained in this article is for general use and does not constitute legal advice. This article is not intended to create, and receipt and review of it does not constitute, an attorney-client-relationship with the author.*

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<sup>i</sup> *Hawatmeh v. City of Henderson*, 2025 U.S. App. LEXIS 29328 (9th Cir. Nov. 7, 2025).



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■ DR. CHERYLYNN LEE

## One of our own dies by suicide... WHEN KNOWING ISN'T ENOUGH

October 9th, 2024, was arguably one of the worst nights of my life. It started right after I fell asleep. The kids had been tucked in and the house picked up. My husband was downstairs playing one of his mind-numbing video games (we all need a way to disconnect from time to time) and I had been blissfully unaware of the external world, answering to no one but the sandman, until the phone rang.

*Jeremy the firefighter* flashed across my screen. I thought to myself, why is Jeremy calling me? Are his people okay? Do I need to suit up for a debrief? Is he in need of some support?

**Me** - "Hey, what's going on?"

**Jeremy** - *His voice was business like. Matter of fact. "Tony. Somethings wrong"*

**Me** - *Sitting up and shaking off the sandman dust "Somethings wrong with Tony?"*

**Jeremy** - *"I'm on my way to his house. Andrea (his wife) called. We think he may be suicidal. His car is gone. Jason (also a firefighter) is on his way too."*

It was in that moment I could feel everything inside me break. What I imagine it must feel like to get hit by a car and as you are flipping through the air, seemingly in slow motion, you can feel each of your bones snap and crumble one by one and turn to jelly.

**Me** - *I was in shock. Torturous Shock. "F\*\*\* you no he didn't. Shut the f\*\*\* up. You're lying."*

**Jeremy** - *The humanity crept back into Jeremy the firefighters voice, "Doc...Cherylynn... I'm texting you the address. Get in your car and start over. I'll meet you there."*

**Me** - *"I'm on my way"*

I hung up the phone and by this time was now standing alone in my bedroom. I shook away the emotion. It was time to act. Time to put on big girl pants. You shall not fall apart. Just get there. Get in the f\*\*\*ing car.

Tony and I had been colleagues and friends for a number of years. A goofy and tall, proud and humble servant. We met right after he retired from the fire service, because we were supposed to. We had a shared mission- to help first responders in our community connect with culturally competent clinical care. Admittedly, I don't remember the first time I met Tony. He entered my life like a bat out of hell (or, perhaps more like a firefighter out of a lazy boy when it's time to eat dinner). Tony had a story (most people worth their weight do) and he wanted to use his experiences to help others. I was down for the cause, and just like that we became partners. Joined at the hip, consistently problem-solving crises and long game initiatives, we became the we share an office kind of partners.

I went from standing in my bedroom to gathering my clothes, trying not to wake the kids. The idea of me leaving in the middle of the night is not uncommon. I am often answering work calls or responding to Crisis Negotiation Call outs at all hours. After the first half dozen my husband and I settled into a routine. He grabs me coffee while I'm getting dressed, I tell him a little bit about where I am going, and then poof- I pop smoke. He heard me take a call and meandered from the video games to the bedroom.



he didn't know where to go. It's not that he didn't know what to do. It's that he chose another path.

Now, because of his medical condition there is some debate about what state of mind he was in when he made the decision. That is not an issue I intend to broach here- but it should be noted that it is a real thread of this situation.

Back to the CP...

Neither Jason, nor Jeremy nor I were in any place to be leading or operating anything. We were a mess. Out of our element- as we are the ones used to managing the s\*\*\* storms and command posts not the ones wanting, needing, or asking for support.

I received no less than 3 dozen texts during those first 24 hours. Everyone knew how close Tony and I were. I had messages from Chiefs, from colleagues, friends, from patients- first responders I met when they were in the basement of their rock bottom and helped pull them through. It was something else to be on the receiving end of this support... and I chose to let it happen. What I wasn't prepared for was the deployment of my own peer team – the one I had help establish at my Sheriff's Office.

I vaguely remember a call from our Peer Support Sgt... "Hey Doc, how you holding up?". I must not have sounded okay (not that I was trying to) but no less than 45 minutes after that call I see two of our peer support members- close friends of mine- standing right outside the CP.

And then I broke.

They greeted me with big smiles and open arms... and I knew I now had the permission to let go. When I say I ugly cried- I mean I ugly cried. I hugged one of my deputies sobbing and he just held me. I was surrounded by cops and firemen I had helped through the years and here they were ready to return the favor. It was a beautiful and yet terrible moment.

One of the deputies, Alvi drove my car home. The other deputy, Rambo (he is a bit media shy so let's just call him Rambo) drove me home. On the way home he called my husband (I hadn't contacted him since last night before I got off the freeway!!) and read him in on the situation. He also texted him some pointers for how to help me navigate the next few hours and days. "Have someone else pick up the kids" Rambo told him. "This isn't a one and done" "She's going

to hurt in a way she hasn't hurt before... and it's going to be hard".

As you might imagine, the next few hours were an emotional roller coaster...and I hate rollercoasters.

Over the next few days, I spent a lot of time at the CP. I needed to be around people who loved Tony as much as I did and that "get it". In some sense I was still showing up for my first responders just not as a psychologist sitting in a therapy chair but as a human being sharing a moment of grief with people that mattered.

Over time the world moved on... as the world tends to do.

It's been almost a year now since that terrible night. I would be remised if I didn't mention some of the good that has come from this. Andrea and I have become close friends. We go on walks; I visit her and Donuts with my kids on the way to our family holiday events. I am more mindful of the friendships I have and try not to take for granted the time we have with those we love. It's so easy sometimes to say, "let's try for next week, I'm too tired...too busy... too overwhelmed". At the risk of sounding like a Hallmark card, this event taught me we may not have next week.

Jeremy and Jason and I have a text thread we have kept up – and for your own plausible deniability reasons- I will say no more on that. If you've been in a group text with anyone in public safety, you're picking up what I'm putting down.

Tony still lives on. In the quiet moments. In the belly laughs. In the memories and in the mission. Do I wish Tony was still here? Yes. Do I think about what I could have, should have, would have done differently? Yes. Have I fully "accepted" the circumstances and put the pain to bed? No. I don't know if anyone really does after someone close to you dies by suicide.

In the weeks and months that followed many that knew Tony started asking me why he did what he did. It was widely known that Tony was the go-to guy that "knew everything" he had "every resource". My response to this day is "knowing isn't always enough". As professional problem solvers we often want to know the "why" of an event so we can put all the pieces together in our minds and be at peace with an incident, a case, or a problem. Suicide doesn't always give us that opportunity, but they can help us reflect, both personally and professionally. The following are some reflections I have gleaned from this event...

1. Supplying your colleagues with passive resources, such as brochures and 1-800 numbers, are only part of what makes a wellness unit or peer support team valuable. Active interventions and tools are also needed.
2. Don't always wait to ask the person you are supporting "do you want us to send you peer support?" Most people in public safety will say no because they don't want to be a burden. Just send them.
3. When deploying peer support to an individual, hand pick the responders. Don't just rotate through an on-call list. This

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demands both intentionality and knowing your people and both are essential pillars of a good peer support and wellness program. Don't cut corners... not here.

4. Don't wait until you get to the Command Post to exchange business cards- have relationships with allied peer teams in the region because when the "big one" hits, resources run thin, and burnout is real.
5. Know yourself enough to know when to tap out. If you are emotionally connected to an incident or event, it may be best for someone else to take the reins. This is as critical for therapists as it is for peer support teams. We don't make the best decisions when emotions are high, and our people need and deserve our best.
6. Authenticity and vulnerability are necessary ingredients for building trusting relationships. Doesn't matter if you're a peer, a psychologist, or a supervisor. If you cannot be authentic and don't believe measured vulnerability is ever "appropriate" you need to ask yourself why you think it's okay to "do as I say, not as I do".
7. You can do everything right, and things still go wrong. In law enforcement especially, we know this to be true when it comes

to serving the public. It is also true when we are in-service to our colleagues. Bad outcomes don't always mean bad tactics.

8. The helpers are also hurting. Check on your peer supporters. Many responders on peer teams are on there for a reason- they've been through it and helping their colleagues is a form of healing from their own stuff. There is nothing wrong with that until the helping gets in the way of healing and then it could be disastrous. Having regular 1:1 check ins with your team is highly recommended.

If you have had a close colleague or friend or family member die by suicide my hope is that you find comfort in knowing you are not alone. Every event is different, but the devastation and confusion, the anger and the feelings of helplessness are universal. Healing can come from devastation, and we've seen that over and over with large events like 9/11 and large-scale natural disasters. Some of the best of humanity shines through when there is pain and devastation, and sometimes we need to be reminded of that. So, let me be the one to remind you to show up and do the work. Our brothers and sisters in public safety deserve our very best every time... but know when you need tap out, take a break, and be on the receiving end of that help. That is your responsibility to everyone you are in service of. Take care of yourself while you're taking care of everyone else. ✨

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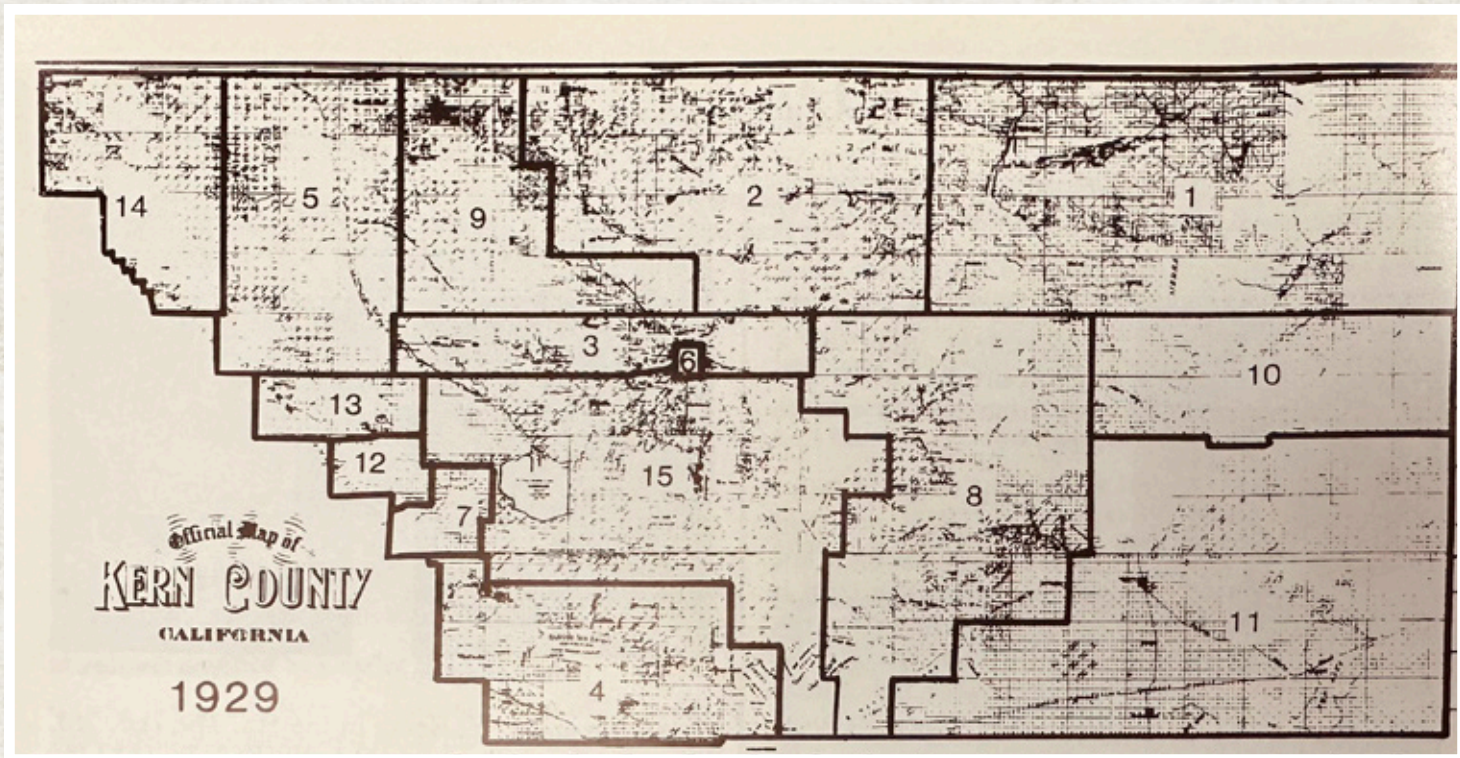
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## KERN COUNTY



## CONSTABLES OF KERN COUNTY

*The Kern County Sheriff's Office inherited a significant part of its history from county constables.*

### ▪ SHERIFF DONNY YOUNGBLOOD, KERN COUNTY

Indeed, constables were some of the foremost law enforcement officers of their era. They were court officers, and their principal duties were civil in nature, but the reality was that constables were frequently the only peace officers around. Therefore, the responsibilities of protecting the citizenry and apprehending criminal suspects, as well as investigating crimes, fell to them. In much of Kern County, constables were the primary form of law enforcement because the county Sheriff had so few deputies it would have been impossible for him and his deputies to cover the entire county while also keeping the peace in the county seat (originally located in Havilah and later moved to Bakersfield) and while exercising his lawful responsibilities to the county jail and superior court. Constables, on the other hand, lived and worked in the outlying and often rural areas, and because they were already there, it became their job to enforce the law as well as tend to their judicial duties.



*Constable Johnny 'Pegleg' Powers*



When Kern County was formed in 1866, it was divided into several political/judicial subdivisions known as “townships.” Each township had a justice of the peace and a constable. The first six townships were: 1st – Kernville, 2nd – Havilah, 3rd – Tehachapi, 4th – New River (Tejon), 5th – Bakersfield, and 6th – Linn’s Valley. By the turn of the century, there were fifteen townships, and in 1917, the 19th (and last) township was formed.

In California, the constables were always elected officers, except when a constable died or left office midterm, in which case the County Board of Supervisors would appoint a replacement. The constable was the chief law enforcement officer in his judicial district. He received mileage pay for transporting prisoners, but there was no compensation for making arrests or investigating criminal cases. He also received a small salary from the county every month; however, the majority of his income was derived from fees he received for serving civil papers and enforcement of court orders. The constable also served as the bailiff to his township’s court and would summon jurors for jury trials. Although a constable was elected from a particular district, he was not restricted in his duties by the borders of that judicial district. He could work anywhere inside the boundaries of the county where his judicial district was located.

Three of the first four line-of-duty deaths on record with the Kern County Sheriff’s Office were constables. The first was Constable William S. Metler of the 3rd Township (Tehachapi). Metler had arrested a doctor for the murder of a patient and was attempting to serve an arrest warrant on the doctor’s accomplice. The accomplice shot and killed Metler when Metler caught up with him in Havilah on November 6, 1873.

Thomas H. Godwin was appointed to replace Constable Metler on February 4, 1874. In 1875, Godwin attempted to arrest James Hayes along with one of his friends for disturbing the peace. Hayes fled, but Hayes’ friend was shot and killed by Godwin. Hayes vowed revenge, and although Constable Godwin left office at the end of 1875, James Hayes returned to Tehachapi on October 22, 1876, and fatally shot him. Godwin became the second Kern County peace

officer to die as a result of performing his duties. James Hayes was tried, convicted, and hanged; the first legal hanging in Kern County.

The fourth law enforcement officer killed in Kern County was 1st Township (Kernville) Constable John L. Powers, who was killed in a confrontation with members of the Shoshone tribe on July 3, 1891. Constable Powers was attempting to arrest a tribe member who had committed several crimes the day before. Knowing he would need help, Constable Powers deputized several other men to assist him. One of those men was Oliver McCoy, a local trapper, who was also killed that day, becoming the fifth law enforcement officer killed in Kern County.



*Constable Cora Bowen*

The first woman elected to public office in Kern County was Constable Cora Bowen. It is likely she was also the first full-time female peace officer in Kern County. Her husband had served as the 4th Township (Maricopa) Constable until his death, at which point, Mrs. Bowen was appointed to complete his term. At the end of that term, she was elected in her own right. She served as constable from 1936 to 1951.

In the 7th Township (Taft), Edward Coffee was appointed constable on August 27, 1943, and was elected and reelected to office six times. By serving more than 33 years, he established a tenure exceeding, by far, any other Kern County constable, or for that matter, any other elected peace officer in Kern County.

On January 1, 1952, the local courts of Kern County were reorganized. The result of that reorganization was that the numbered townships became judicial districts with place names and were reduced in number. Constables' and the judges' terms were expanded to six years and were arranged to alternate so that the constable and the judge were not up for reelection at the same time. After that, nearly every year the State placed a new regulation or restriction on the judicial districts while steadily reducing the number of districts. Indeed, by 1960, there were only eleven districts remaining, and, in 1967, the number was ten.

In 1975, the Legislature passed a law which limited some fees constables could collect, and, with the small base salary of constables, compensation was becoming so low that it was discouraging for anyone to continue in the job. In 1976, legislation passed, which mandated that all justice court judges be attorney-judges. Kern County's response to this legislation was to reorganize the courts and eliminate justice courts. In their place there were two judicial districts, East Kern Municipal Court, with branches at Ridgecrest, Mojave, and Kern River Valley; and West Kern Municipal Court, with branches at Bakersfield, Arvin-Lamont, Taft-Maricopa, Shafter-Wasco, and Delano-McFarland. The action also eliminated the office of constable effective January 2, 1977. The Board of Supervisors ordered that sheriff's deputies act as bailiffs in all county courts and would handle all civil process.

Thus ended the historic saga of Kern County Constables, after one hundred and ten years of faithful and courageous law enforcement service to the citizens of Kern County. ✨

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*By Frank Loustalot, Jr. and Brad Darling (circa 1991), edited by Helen Hays (2025)*



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# *2025 Training Overview*

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## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CSSAF**

The California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF) is pleased to present highlights of the educational trainings we provide to the professional and sworn staff of the Sheriff's Offices of California. Your generous donations assist in providing the following trainings:

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS/SHERIFFS SECRETARY SEMINAR

In conjunction with the Financial Managers Forum, CSSAF hosted its annual Administrative Assistants and Sheriffs' Secretaries Seminar in September. The seminar focused on key topics impacting Administrative Assistants and Sheriffs' Secretaries across California's 58 Sheriff's Offices. Sessions included presentations on Microsoft OneNote and Teams, AI in the Workplace, Compassion Training, and Hearing Voices—a powerful and humbling experiential exercise designed to deepen understanding of mental illness. The program also featured roundtable discussions and a Sheriffs' Panel, where attendees had the opportunity to ask candid questions directly to Sheriffs. A total of 40 Administrative Assistants and Sheriffs' Secretaries participated in this valuable professional development event.

The 2025 Executive Assistant/Secretary of the Year "Mary G. Walsh" Award was presented to Brenda Jones, San Diego County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Kelly Martinez writes, "Brenda epitomizes the values, dedication and commitment of former San Diego County Sheriff Bill Kolender's Executive Secretary, Mary G. Walsh. In 2018 she was promoted to Administrative Secretary II. Brenda's tenacity, dedication, and professionalism earned her a promotion, and skipped classification level, to Administrative Secretary IV for the Office of the Sheriff."



Brenda Jones is joined by Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue, and Sheriff Kelly Martinez

## BASIC CIVIL PROCEDURES SCHOOL

This class was held twice this year and is a 40-hour course. This class is designed to introduce Sheriff's Office Civil Division staff to the Civil Process and its associated duties. This includes, but is not limited to the Notice Process and the Enforcement Process. A combination of lectures, practical exercises and scenarios are employed to give students a solid platform with which to work from in their continuing education on the job. Students successfully completing the course will gain a better understanding of the writ system and basic civil process, in addition to use of the CSSA Civil Procedures Manual. A total of 86 Civil Personnel attended these trainings. *Certified through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.*

## BOATING AND WATERCRAFT SAFETY TRAINING

The CSSA Boating and Watercraft Safety Training focused on key issues currently affecting the Marine Units of California's 58 Sheriff's Offices. This seminar provides a collaborative forum for Marine Patrol personnel to explore role-specific challenges, share insights, and engage in interactive discussions tailored to their unique responsibilities. This year's program featured expert presentations from the Napa County Sheriff's Office, Department of Boating and Waterways, California Boating Safety Officers Association, Marine Law Enforcement Training Center, Yolo County Sheriff's Office, Kings County Sheriff's Office, and Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. A total of 40 participants attended, gaining valuable insights and practical skills to support their Marine Unit operations and professional growth.



## CIVIL PROCEDURES SEMINAR

This annual training is designed to provide updated information specific to Civil Process and Procedures performed by the Sheriff's Office. The seminar provides civil staff with the latest and most important information regarding laws and procedures such as research and resources, restraining orders, current civil trends and sheriff sales. This is a great opportunity for Professional Staff and Sworn Personnel to build important and lasting relationships with other civil staff across the State of California. 119 Civil Personnel were trained at this year's seminar. *Certified through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training*

The California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF) was pleased to present the fifth annual Civil Employee of the Year Award to Marianne Saindon, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Jeff Leikauf writes "Marianne has been a dedicated member of our department since May 2010, and during her 15 years of service she has consistently exemplified professionalism, innovation, and leadership in her role as Assistant Public Administrator and in the Sheriff's Office Civil Unit."



## CORRECTIONAL/ COURT SECURITY SEMINAR

This annual seminar focused on topics that are currently affecting the Correctional Officers and Jail Administrators, as well as the Court Security Administrators of the 58 Sheriff's offices of California. The Seminar included several case studies/incident debriefs, CDCR gang update, legislative update, behavioral threat assessment & management, and open dialogue discussing current issues in the jails and courts. 123 Correctional and Court Security personnel were trained at the seminar. Certified through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, as well as certified through the Board of State and Community Corrections' Standards and Training for Corrections program.

This year, the California State Sheriffs' Association also honored our Second Annual Correctional and Court Security Supervisors of the year.



The 2025 Correctional Supervisor of the Year Award was presented to Lieutenant Luis Martinez, Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez writes "In every way, Lieutenant Martinez has gone above and beyond the expectations of his role. He embodies servant leadership, initiative, and dedication."

The 2025 Court Security Supervisor of the Year Award was presented to Sergeant Christopher Reed, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. Captain David Rodriguez says of Sergeant Reed "There are no words to accurately convey how proud we have been of his dedication, performance, and willingness to take on every challenge. His efforts to interface constantly with the Bench, our staff, and everyone in between have undoubtedly positively impacted our service and thus the Sheriff's Office's reputation."



## INMATE CONNECTIONS

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## CRIME ANALYST INTELLIGENCE SEMINAR

CSSAF recently held its third Crime Analyst/Intelligence Seminar in spring 2025 and a virtual seminar in fall 2025. This seminar was specifically created to foster collaboration and communication, as well as share resources and intelligence gathering among the Crime Analysts/Intelligence personnel of the Sheriffs' offices of California, as they all face similar challenges related to law enforcement. The presentation topics included application technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber intelligence, and other pertinent topics, while also providing valuable networking to discuss the challenges associated with Intelligence gathering in law enforcement. There were approximately 45 personnel from various agencies that attended each of these valuable trainings.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

CSSAF held their annual Information Technology (IT) Training Seminar. This seminar was specifically created to foster collaboration and communication among the IT personnel of the Sheriffs' offices of California, as they all face similar challenges related to law enforcement and the increasing need for current technology and maintaining a secure network environment. The presentation topics included emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber intelligence, and other pertinent topics, while also providing valuable networking to discuss the challenges associated with Information Technology in law enforcement. There were 71 IT Professional Staff that attended this valuable training.

The fifth annual Information Technology Manager of the Year Award was presented to Commander David Sum, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.




Commander Sum is joined by Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna and Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes.


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## FINANCIAL MANAGERS FORUM

The annual Financial Managers Forum focused on topics that are currently affecting the Financial Managers of the 58 Sheriff's offices of California. During this Forum, topics customized to Financial Managers in the various Sheriff's Offices are presented and discussed amongst the group as a whole.

The seminar included sessions on the financial impact on emergency events, a legislative update on the state budget, and a Sheriff's Panel where attendees were able to ask candid questions to Sheriffs. 124 Financial Managers participated in this forum.

The California State Sheriffs'

Association Foundation (CSSAF) was pleased to present the Seventeenth Annual Financial Manager of the Year Award to Kellie Kennedy. Kellie never missed work, and created a budget that called for a nearly 30% reduction this year. Through her creativity and knowledge, Kellie was able to make the cuts, and use grants and other funding streams to bridge the gap without a single person being laid-off in our office. Sheriff Eric Taylor writes, "Her dedication to our office is unmatched and I would not enjoy success without Kellie."



## MEDIA RELATIONS SEMINAR

The annual Media Relations Seminar centered on key topics currently impacting the Public Information Officers (PIOs) of California's 58 Sheriff's Offices. This seminar provides a collaborative forum where PIOs can explore issues specific to their roles, share insights, and engage in group discussions tailored to their unique responsibilities. This year's program featured presentations on Critical Incident Reviews, AI Training, Social Media Strategies, Crisis Communications, and a PIO-Only Session on Roles and Responsibilities, where attendees exchanged experiences, challenges, successes, and best practices. A total of 72 participants attended this year's seminar, making it a highly engaging and productive professional development opportunity.




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## SECONDS IN COMMAND WORKSHOP

CSSAF held the Seconds in Command Workshop twice this year, focusing on current topics affecting the Undersheriffs and Assistant Sheriffs of the 58 Sheriff's offices of California. The workshops included guest presentations on topics of regional concern and open dialogue between the various represented counties, discussing leadership and teamwork, deploying to major events, prop 36 implementation, current legislation, officer wellness, advanced training, etc. as well as critiques of major incidents. Approximately 45 Seconds in Command attended each workshop. *Certified through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.*



*Second-In-Command Award - (from left to right) Sheriff Barnes, Undersheriff Ziegler, Sheriff Sanchez, Sheriff Cooper*

The ninth annual Second-in-Command "John Sully" Memorial Award was presented to Sacramento County Undersheriff Mike Ziegler. Sheriff Jim Cooper writes, "Ziegler has helped create a supportive, encouraging office climate and enhanced our mental health programs. His compassion, support and encouragement of deputies and staff is unprecedented. He is an excellent mentor, and role model - a true leader."

## WELLNESS SEMINAR



CSSAF hosted its third Wellness Seminar this past October, continuing its commitment to promoting resiliency and wellness within California's 58 Sheriff's Offices. These seminars were developed to provide focused training and serve as a valuable resource for Wellness Coordinators throughout the state. Presentation topics included Psychological Wellness, A Path to PTSD Prevention – Clinical Research Findings, Compassion Cultivation: Developing Self-Compassion, Mindfulness Practices, Level Up Your Nutrition in Five Simple Steps, Self-Talk and the Stories We Tell Ourselves, and a Personal Testimonial. In addition to the educational sessions, the seminar provided an important opportunity for networking and collaboration, emphasizing the shared goal of enhancing wellness and resiliency across the law enforcement community. A total of 27 participants from various agencies attended this impactful event.

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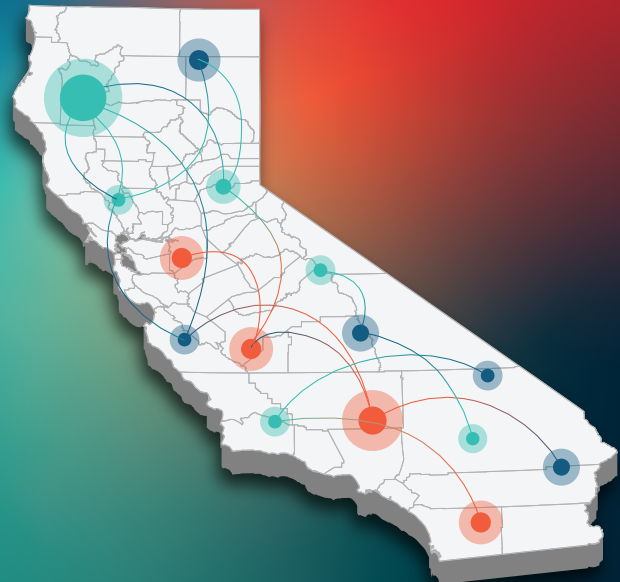
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# ***BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY***

***“Investing in rehabilitation of the jail population by bringing in services to equip people with the support, training, and skills they need in order to be set up for success once they re-enter the community.”***

This is part of the vision of Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez. The Re-Entry and Support Services Unit (RESS) at the Santa Rita Jail set forth to make that vision a reality. With the support of a federal grant from the United States Department of Justice: Bureau of Justice Assistance, and partnerships with the Northern California Laborer’s Training Center and Laborer’s International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 304, the Laborer’s Union Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program at the Santa Rita Jail began in early 2024. This program was established with the goal of providing the jail population the chance to learn in-demand skills and the opportunity to work in a field that pays a living wage.



# LiUNA!

*Feel the Power*

The Laborer's Union Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program is the first of its kind at the Santa Rita Jail. Incarcerated individuals participating in the program commit to a twelve-week curriculum taught by a certified instructor provided by the Northern California Laborer's Training Center. Participants can earn upwards of twenty certifications, including First Aid/CPR, Multi-Craft Core Curriculum, Construction Fundamentals (MC3), OSHA 10, Elevated Platforms, and Grade Checking. Graduates of the program are provided the opportunity for direct entry into the Laborer's Union Local 304 upon their release from custody. This will provide them the opportunity to work in a union-backed job. While economic conditions may vary, graduates of the program have received job placements within days of completing their union assessment and initiation.

The incarcerated individuals participating in the Pre-Apprenticeship Program receive comprehensive support by deputies and program staff during their incarceration as well as post-release. Deputies assigned to the program offer case management services to the participants, to identify and



reduce any barriers to re-entry. Program staff collaborate with community-based organizations and other entities such as social services and probation to establish housing, transportation, and other basic needs upon release. Deputies in the unit have helped graduates obtain right-to-work documents such as driver licenses and social security cards. Essential work equipment such as boots, hard-hat, clothing, tools, and a work belt are given to the graduates once they enter the Laborer's Union. Furthermore, union initiation fees, and the first three months of union dues are paid for by the program's federal grant. These steps provide the necessary support to increase chances of a successful transition from incarceration to employment and self-sufficiency.

As of August 2025, twenty-two graduates of the Laborer's Union Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program at the Santa Rita Jail have exited custody, passed their

assessments, and have successfully joined the Laborer's Union Local 304. Additionally, hundreds of incarcerated individuals at the Santa Rita Jail have expressed interest in Pre-Apprenticeship Program offered by ACSO and the Laborer's Training Center. Incarcerated individuals still in the program have been outspoken regarding the positive impact the program has on their spiritual, mental and physical well-being. These are all factors that have contributed towards the popularity and success of this innovative program.

Together with the Laborer's Union, as well as our community partners, Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez and her dedicated staff have created a comprehensive vocational program which provides resources and support for the incarcerated and their families. The goal of this program is clear; to reduce recidivism rates and promote successful re-entry transition into society.



# CSSA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST SHERIFFS

## SHERIFF KENNETH BINDER, *San Mateo County*



Sheriff Kenneth Binder, a law enforcement leader with nearly three decades of service, was sworn in as San Mateo County's 27th Sheriff on Nov. 12, 2025. A career public servant, he is known for his leadership, integrity and commitment to organizational excellence.

Sheriff Binder considers serving as San Mateo County's Sheriff the honor of a lifetime. He is committed to ensuring well-trained and professional delivery of public safety services by the men and women of the Sheriff's Office, who are deeply devoted to serving and protecting our communities.

Before becoming San Mateo County's Sheriff, Sheriff Binder had a distinguished 27-year career in law enforcement. He honorably retired with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office in 2024 after serving in nearly every division of the agency and as a member of the Executive Team for more than a decade. As Undersheriff in Santa Clara County, he oversaw all operations, managed a \$551 million budget and led nearly 1,800 sworn and professional staff. He also guided major

reforms within the county jails, implementing best practices and driving significant policy improvements across the organization.

Following his retirement from Santa Clara County, Sheriff Binder served as Interim Chief of Police for the City of Gilroy.

Sheriff Binder holds a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Finance) from San José State University. He is also a proud graduate of the FBI National Academy, Class 248.

Upon taking his Oath of Office, Sheriff Binder pledged to be a "Sheriff of Service," a commitment that will define his tenure. Sheriff Binder is proud to now call San Mateo County home. ✨

## SHERIFF LUKE BINGHAM, *Lake County*



Sheriff Bingham began his law enforcement career with the Lake County Sheriff's Office in 1998. A lifelong resident of Lake County, he graduated from Middletown High School in 1993 before enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served in Security Forces.

Throughout his career with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Bingham has held a wide range of assignments, including patrol deputy, field training officer, narcotics detective, DEA

Task Force Agent, firearms instructor and range master, and SWAT team member, team leader, and commander.

He was promoted to sergeant in 2015, lieutenant in 2019, and undersheriff in 2024. Following his promotion to undersheriff, Sheriff Bingham attended the FBI National Academy, Class #290. He was sworn in as the 26th Sheriff of Lake County on January 6, 2025. ✨

## SHERIFF CHRIS CLARK, *Santa Cruz County*



Sheriff Chris Clark was sworn in as the 27th Sheriff-Coroner of Santa Cruz County in December 2024. Sheriff Clark began his career with the Santa Cruz Sheriff-Coroner's Office in 2006 and has devoted nearly two decades to public service. Throughout his career, he has served in nearly every assignment, including

Patrol, Investigations, Administration, Air Unit pilot/Commander, Coroner, and Corrections. Before his appointment, he held the role of Undersheriff, overseeing the daily operations of the Office's Operations, Corrections, and Administration Bureaus.

Committed to continuous learning and leadership, Sheriff Clark earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento, and a master's degree in Emergency Services Administration from California State University, Long Beach. He is also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police and holds an executive credential from the California State Association of Counties.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Sheriff Clark has contributed his time and expertise to

several commissions and boards, including the Deputy Sheriff's Association, the Emergency Medical Care Commission, the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Board, and was recently appointed to the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Sheriff Clark is honored to lead a dedicated team of 360 employees, managing a \$140 million budget to serve and protect a community of 130,000 residents, as well as ensuring the safety and well-being of an incarcerated population of approximately 360 individuals.

Above all, Sheriff Clark values family and community. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and watching LSU football with his wife Sarah, and their three sons. ✨

# CSSA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST SHERIFFS

## SHERIFF BRADLEY W. DEWALL, *Solano County*



Bradley W. DeWall began his career with the Solano County Sheriff's Office in 1991 as a Correctional Officer. In January 1995, he was appointed Deputy Sheriff and graduated from the Napa Valley Police Academy, Class 27. Throughout his career, Sheriff DeWall has served in a wide range of assignments, including patrol, court security, and criminal investigations. He also served as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and is certified as both a Firearms Instructor and Taser Instructor.

Sheriff DeWall completed extensive specialized training at the Robert Presley Institute of

Criminal Investigation (ICI), with an emphasis on Homicide and Sexual Assault investigations.

In May 2006, he was promoted to Sergeant, where he supervised patrol operations and the K-9 Unit. In 2007, he was selected as Detective Sergeant in the Investigations Bureau.

In December 2010, Sheriff DeWall was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the Investigation Services Bureau. In this role, he managed several specialized units, including Criminal Investigations, the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (CALMMET), the Auto Theft Task Force, the Sheriff's Enforcement Team (SET), and Marine Patrol. He also oversaw the agency's Firearms, Defensive Tactics, and Taser training programs.

In November 2012, Sheriff DeWall was appointed Chief Deputy Coroner and Public Affairs Officer for the Sheriff's Office. Concurrently, he served as the Commander of both the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT).

From May through December 2015, Sheriff DeWall was assigned to the Solano County District Attorney's Office as Interim Chief

Investigator. Later that year, he was promoted to Captain and assigned to command the Field Operations Division. In December 2017, he became Division Commander of the Custody Division.

In February 2019, Sheriff DeWall was promoted to Undersheriff.

On September 26, 2025, Sheriff DeWall was appointed Sheriff of Solano County by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, recognizing his decades of dedicated service and leadership within the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff DeWall holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute and University and possesses multiple professional certificates issued by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 249, and the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP), Session 64, sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

Sheriff DeWall is also a proud veteran of the United States Navy. ✨

## SHERIFF CHAD HERMANN, *Plumas County*



Chad Hermann, a lifelong resident of Portola, began his law enforcement career in 1993 at the Plumas County Correctional Facility. In 1995, he transitioned to the Patrol Division after graduating second in his class from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy. During

his patrol tenure, he served as a Field Training Officer and instructor in defensive tactics, impact weapons, advanced ground tactics, less-lethal munitions, tactical gas deployment, and active shooter response.

Promoted to Sergeant in 2007, Chad worked throughout the county, primarily in his hometown, and spent 21 years on the Plumas County SWAT Team, ultimately serving as entry team leader. He also held leadership roles as President and Vice President of the Plumas County Sheriff's Employees Association for over a decade.

In 2011, Chad became Jail Commander, focusing on improving facility conditions and officer training. He introduced inmate programs in education, culinary arts, and vocational training, and played a key role in securing funding and

overseeing construction of a new correctional facility completed in 2024.

Appointed Undersheriff in 2020, Chad managed budget oversight, daily operations, and recruitment, while collaborating on infrastructure upgrades, including radio towers and technology enhancements. In August 2025, following Sheriff Todd Johns' retirement, Chad was unanimously appointed Sheriff by the Board of Supervisors.

Beyond his professional duties, Chad has coached youth and high school sports, served as a 4-H leader, and currently presides over the Rotary Club of Portola. He remains committed to community service and volunteerism. Chad lives in Portola with his wife of 35 years, Renee, and enjoys time with their seven grandchildren, outdoor recreation, and golf. ✨

# CSSA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST SHERIFFS

## SHERIFF DAVE PUTNAM, *Kings County*



Sheriff Dave Putnam brings diverse experience to his role as Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator. Dave joined the Kings County Sheriff's Office in October of 1990 as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to Patrol. During his initial tenure, Dave was assigned to Headquarters Patrol along with the contracted City of Avenal. In 1996, he was promoted to the rank of Senior Deputy and

was assigned to the Investigative Division. After this tenure, Dave was promoted to the rank of Sergeant (in the year 2000), where he spent tenures in Patrol, Detectives, and oversaw Animal Services. In 2005, Dave was promoted to Sheriff's Commander where he served tenures as the Avenal (contract city) Commander, Support Division Commander (Investigations) and Headquarters Patrol Commander. Upon Sheriff Robinson taking office in early 2011, Dave Putnam was promoted to the position of Assistant Sheriff (2nd in Command of the agency) and this position was later re-classified to Undersheriff, where Dave finished out his initial career with the Kings County Sheriff's Office, when he retired in April of 2023 after nearly 33 years with the agency.

Shortly after retirement, in July of 2023, Dave Putnam was asked by the City of Corcoran to act as their (Interim) Chief of Police. Dave accepted

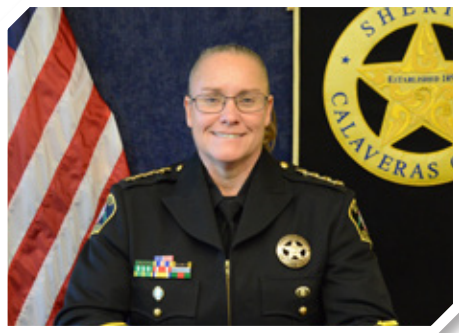
this job and provided executive leadership to the police organization and assisted with the recruitment of a permanent Chief of Police. Dave retired from the Corcoran Police Department in February of 2024.

Dave Putnam came out of retirement once again and accepted an (Interim) job as the Chief Investigator at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, providing executive leadership to this professional organization from December of 2024 – September of 2025.

Dave Putnam was sworn in as Kings County Sheriff on November 24, 2025.

Dave is married to his wife, Lucy, and they have three adult children along with nine grandchildren, keeping them extremely busy with sporting events and school activities. ✨

## SHERIFF RACHELLE WHITING, *Calaveras County*



Sheriff Rachelle Whiting is the 24th Sheriff, and first female Sheriff, of Calaveras County. She is a fifth generation Calaveras County native, born and raised. Sheriff Whiting holds a bachelor's degree in business management from attending San Diego State University, where she started her law enforcement career with the SDSU Police Department as a Community Service Officer. Her career with the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office began in 2000 when she worked in the Calaveras County Jail as a Correctional Officer. In 2001, she was sponsored through and graduated from the Modesto Police Academy, becoming a Deputy Sheriff. Throughout her career, Sheriff Whiting had the opportunity to work in every

division of the Sheriff's Office including patrol, investigations, and being a field training officer. As a Sergeant, and at different times over the years, she supervised patrol shifts, investigations and narcotics, dispatch, the office of emergency services, was the public information officer, and in charge of the department's field training program. She spent several years as the jail commander at the rank of Lieutenant as well as being the patrol commander and later the Operations Bureau Captain. She has worked for CCSO continuously for the past 25 years, promoting through every rank in the department. In 2022, she was appointed as Undersheriff and second in command, until her appointment to the office of the Sheriff in August of 2024. Sheriff Whiting served 18 years as a Hostage/Crisis Negotiator, managing numerous critical incidents as team commander. She was also a member of Sheriff's SCUBA Drive Recovery Team, Bike Team, and Peer Support Program administrator. Sheriff Whiting holds a graduate certificate in criminal justice and a master's degree in public safety from the University of Virginia. She is a graduate of the POST Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute and the prestigious FBI National Academy. ✨

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# Recently Retired Sheriffs



## **Sheriff Rick DiBasilio, Calaveras County**

On August 9, 2024, Sheriff Rick DiBasilio retired from the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office after a 21-year career in law enforcement, serving 8 years as Sheriff.

Sheriff DiBasilio was a dedicated member of the California State Sheriffs' Association.



## **Sheriff Thomas "Tom" A. Ferrara, Solano County**

On September 25, 2025, Sheriff Thomas A. Ferrara retired from the Solano County Sheriff's Office after a 47-year career in law enforcement, serving 13 years as Sheriff.

Sheriff Ferrara served as the CSSA Training Committee Vice-Chair, the Financial Managers Committee Vice-Chair, the CCW Committee Chair, and the Court Security Committee Chair.



## **Sheriff Jim Hart, Santa Cruz County**

On December 6, 2024, Sheriff Jim Hart retired from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office after a 36-year career in law enforcement, serving 10 years as Sheriff.

Sheriff Hart was a dedicated member of the California State Sheriffs' Association.



## **Sheriff Rob Howe, Lake County**

On January 2, 2025, Sheriff Rob Howe retired from the Lake County Sheriff's Office after a 27-year career in law enforcement, serving 2 years as Sheriff.

Sheriff Howe was a dedicated member of the California State Sheriffs' Association.



## **Sheriff Todd Johns, Plumas County**

On July 28, 2025 Sheriff Todd Johns retired from the Plumas County Sheriff's Office after a 34-year career in law enforcement, serving 7 years as Sheriff.

Sheriff Johns was a dedicated member of the California State Sheriffs' Association.



## **Sheriff David "Dave" Robinson, Kings County**

On November 24, 2025 Sheriff David Robinson retired from the Kings County Sheriff's Office after a 30-year career in law enforcement, serving 15 years as Sheriff.

Sheriff Robinson served as the CSSA Civil Committee Chair, Seconds in Command Committee Chair, The Legislative Committee Chair, served as CSSA President 2020-2021, and CSSA President's Counsel 2021 -2025.

*Congratulations on your well-deserved retirements.  
We sincerely thank you for your contributions to CSSA and wish you all the best! ✨*

# ***Welcome New Lifetime Members***

*The California State Sheriff's Association Foundation would like  
to thank and welcome our newest Lifetime Members!*

**2025**

**Shahram Alae**

**Brian S. Araki**

**Durward Ayre**

**Nicholas T. Barnes**

**Trinity N. Barnes**

**Dianne M. Blackburn**

**Robert Wayne Blackburn**

**Dion Bregman**

**Philippa Bregman**

**Roberta Castro**

**Christopher Robert Celona**

**Lindsay Celona**

**Seth D. Clark**

**Mark J. Cunningham**

**Edna L. Deeb**

**Benjamin B. Eshbach**

**Dennis Haack**

**David Kalian**

**Nasrin Safari**

**Nikhil V. Srinivasan**

**Mathew Townsend**

**Matthew Waite-McGough**

# California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation Membership Program

Individuals and Businesses who want to take a proactive approach to support public safety in their communities may join the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF). CSSAF is entirely funded by the generous contributions and support from our members. We are a qualified, non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, which means that your donations qualify as tax deductions. The sheriffs of California have full control and direction of all association operations and activities.

## Individual Membership Levels

### ASSOCIATE, STUDENT & RECENT GRADS, & JOINT MEMBERS

- ★ Personalized membership card
- ★ Two Bumper stickers
- ★ One-year subscription to *California Sheriff*

### LIFETIME & JOINT LIFETIME MEMBERS

- ★ Personalized plastic member card
- ★ Metal license plate holder
- ★ Two Bumper stickers
- ★ Name recognition as a Lifetime Member in *California Sheriff*
- ★ Lifetime subscription to *California Sheriff*
- ★ Lifetime Member specific merchandise

## Business Membership Levels

### BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD & PLATINUM MEMBERS

- ★ Membership Plaque (plaque size and star color depends on membership level)
- ★ Membership cards
- ★ Two Bumper sticker/window decals
- ★ One-year subscription to *California Sheriff*
- ★ Partner listing on our website, [calsheriffs.org](http://calsheriffs.org) (Gold Members Only)
- ★ Partner listing with your website link on our website, [calsheriffs.org](http://calsheriffs.org) (Platinum Members Only)

We never solicit by telephone.



# 2026 Membership Form

Please check the membership level you wish to join or which you would like to renew your current membership at:

## Individual Membership Levels

- Associate (\$50)
- Joint (\$65)
- Lifetime (\$400)
- Joint Lifetime (\$450)
- Student & Recent Graduate (\$25)

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Year you will graduate/graduated \_\_\_\_\_

## Business Membership Levels

(Renewal rate will be at business level joined)

- \$100 Bronze (7x9 plaque)
- \$500 Gold (9x12 plaque)
- \$250 Silver (8x10 plaque)
- \$1000 Platinum (10 1/2x13 plaque)

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To participate in the Refer-A-Friend promotion, please list the name/ phone number of the friend that referred you:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Joint Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your business (Business Members Only) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Send order form to California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation, 1231 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814.

### Check Enclosed

Please make all checks payable to **California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF)**.

### Credit Card

- MC
- VISA
- AMEX
- DISCOVER

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the form and mail.



# CSSAF Merchandise

## Exclusive Lifetime Member Merchandise

Lifetime Merchandise can only be purchased by Lifetime Members.



P.

Now available in Charcoal!



I.

Lifetime Merchandise now available online!

Please Note: You must be logged in to view Lifetime Merchandise.



U.

T.



ZB.



Z.



ZF.



V.



Y.



ZA.



New!

FF.



E.

Golden Doodle Cowboy Cash Chocolate Lab

New!



G.



ZE.



X.

S.



F.



ZC.



ZD.

New!



R.

New! Q.



New! C.



K.



B. New!



A.



O.



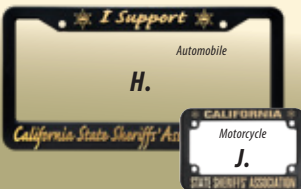
M.



L.



N.



H.

D.



New Merchandise Store Coming Soon!

To place a merchandise order, mail in this form or call the office at (800)761-2772

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# Merchandise Form



ITEM	COLOR/SIZE/DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT PRICE	SUB TOTAL
A	14 oz. Travel Coffee Mug			
	Laser Engraved Logo		\$25	
B	Breast Cancer Awareness Belt Bags <b>New!</b>			
	Black with Pink Star • Beige with Pink Star (CIRCLE ONE)		\$40	
C	Belt Bag <b>New!</b>			
	Gray • Black • Beige (CIRCLE ONE)		\$40	
D	Belt Buckle			
	<b>OUT OF STOCK</b>		\$40	
E	CSSA K9 Plush Dogs			
	Cash • Cowboy • Golden Doodle • Chocolate Lab (CIRCLE ONE)		\$25	
F	Challenge Coin			
	Thin Blue Line Challenge Coin		\$10	
FF	CSSA Ornament			
	CSSA Ornament		\$15	
G	Lapel Pin			
	Green, Gold, and White Circular Lapel Pin		\$6	
H	License Plate Frame			
	I Support CSSA - Automobile		\$10	
I	Lifetime Member Metal License Plate Frame			
	Car		\$20	
J	Motorcycle License Plate Frame			
	CSSA - Motorcycle		\$10	
K	Star Lapel Pin			
	Size is 1" wide		\$5	
L	Baseball Cap			
	<b>OUT OF STOCK</b>		\$15	
M	Black Flexfit Hat with Black Logo			
	S/M • L/X (CIRCLE ONE)		\$45	
N	Black Trucker Hat with Black Logo			
	<b>OUT OF STOCK</b>		\$40	
O	Black Beanie With Black Logo			
	Embroidered Logo		\$25	
P	Lifetime Member Hat			
	Green • Charcoal (CIRCLE ONE)		\$20	
Q	Women's Tank			
	Gray S • M • L • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black S • M • L • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE)		\$25	
R	T-Shirt			
	Black with White Logo: S • XL • 2XL • 3XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black with Black Embroidered Logo: S • M • L • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Green with White Logo: S • L • XL • 2XL • 3XL (CIRCLE ONE)		\$30	
S	Women's Pebble Beach Zip Polos			
	White: L • XL • 2XL		\$20	
T	Women's Cotton Polo Shirt**			
	Black • S • M • L (CIRCLE ONE)		\$20	
U	Men's Cotton Polo Shirt—Short Sleeve**			
	White S • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black S • L • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Olive S (CIRCLE ONE)		\$20	
V	Men's Camp Shirts**			
	Ivory Silk Blend L • 2XL • 3XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black Silk Blend S • M (CIRCLE ONE)		\$20	
X	Long Sleeve T-Shirt			
	Dark Gray: M (CIRCLE ONE)		\$10	
Y	Button Down Men's Long Sleeve Dress Shirt			
	Black S • 2XL • 3XL (CIRCLE ONE)		\$30	
Z	Men's Puffer Vest – Embroidered Logo			
	Black: M • L • XL • 2XL		\$65	
ZA	Quarter Zip Sweatshirt			
	Charcoal Gray: S • M Black: 2XL		\$25	
ZB	Microfleece Zip-Up Jacket			
	Heather Charcoal Color Womens: S • L • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Mens: M • L (CIRCLE ONE)		\$30	
ZC	Black Full Zip Sweatshirt			
	Black hooded sweatshirt with CSSA logo Black: 2XL (CIRCLE ONE)		\$30	
ZD	Black Hooded Pullover with Black Logo <b>New!</b>			
	Embroidered Logo M • L • XL • 2XL • 3XL		\$60	
ZE	Black Soft-Shell Jacket with Black Logo			
	Womens: M • L • XL (CIRCLE ONE) Mens: L • XL (CIRCLE ONE)		\$35	
ZF	Black Soft-Shell Jacket with Gold Logo			
	Womens: M • L (CIRCLE ONE) Mens: L (CIRCLE ONE)		\$35	

PRICES GOOD FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2026

\*\* Limited Quantities Available

TOTAL FOR MERCHANDISE:

PLUS 8.75% TAX:

SHIPPING & HANDLING:  
(SEE S&H CHART BELOW)

CONTRIBUTION:

ORDER TOTAL:

**CHECK ENCLOSED:** Please make all checks payable to **California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF)**.

Send order form to the address found on bottom right of page.

**CREDIT CARD:**

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Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

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	\$20.01—\$40.00	\$7.50	\$60.01—\$80.00	\$12.50	\$100.01—\$150.00	\$14.50

All orders over \$150 receive Free Shipping

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[www.calsheriffs.org](http://www.calsheriffs.org)  
[cssa@calsheriffs.org](mailto:cssa@calsheriffs.org)



HAPPY

# New Year

2026

The central text is rendered in a highly decorative, golden, serif font. The word 'New Year' is the largest and most prominent, with 'New' on the top line and 'Year' on the bottom line. The word 'HAPPY' is positioned above 'New' in a smaller, simpler font. The year '2026' is centered below 'Year'. The text is embellished with various decorative elements, including small snowflake icons and starburst motifs.