

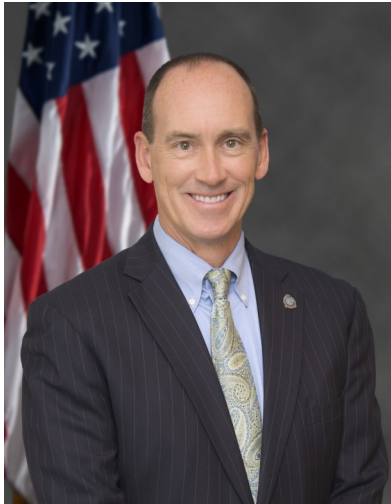
# FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY ASSOCIATES, INC., CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



FBINAA California Chapter Newsletter

December 2019

## Message from our Chapter President



*“Appreciation  
can make a day,  
even change a  
life. Your willing-  
ness to put it into  
words is all that  
is necessary.”*

Margaret Cousins

Dear National Academy Associates,

As I pen this final letter of 2019, it's hard to believe where the time has gone. That being said, your Executive Board was hard at work throughout the year. Despite starting the year with a Federal government shutdown, the FBI National Academy continued on as law enforcement does day-in and day-out.

We graduated four sessions from the academy this year - #275, #276, #277, and #278 – for a total of 81 new associates; please take the time to congratulate and mentor them about the Association and the California Chapter. We currently stand at 1,090 members in California. The membership renewal period is upon us, so renew early for 2020.

We made some improvements in our abilities to communicate with our members. First, we standardized the contact e-mail addresses for the entire board:

[LosAngelesVP@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:LosAngelesVP@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Eric Sonstegard (Randy Goddard, VP Elect)

[SanFranciscoVP@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:SanFranciscoVP@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Craig Chew

[SanDiegoVP@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:SanDiegoVP@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Eric Thunberg

[SacramentoVP@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:SacramentoVP@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Josh Ehlers

[President@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:President@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Daman Christensen (Eric Sonstegard, Pres Elect)

[Secretary@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:Secretary@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Max Santiago

[Treasurer@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:Treasurer@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Cris Trulsson (Mike Barletta, Treasurer Elect)

[Training@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:Training@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Russell McKinney

[Historian@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:Historian@FBINAACalifornia.com) – Gina Haynes Di Napoli

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## PRESIDENT CHRISTENSEN'S MESSAGE CONT...

Next, we completed a brand standardization project. You will see in the coming weeks and months changes to our website and overall branding. This standardization will keep us consistent with the National Office and protecting the National Academy brand entrusted to us by the FBI.

On the training front, we hosted 13 training sessions throughout the state. In the Spring we hosted a successful Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS) in San Diego. During June, we sent two students, Annabel Goldman (San Francisco) and Gianna Marie Chiaramonte (Sacramento) to the Youth Leadership Academy. Finally, in September we capped the summer with an education enriched annual conference in Newport Beach.

Unfortunately, 2019 brought plenty of sadness to our ranks throughout the state. With the support of Verizon, the California Chapter presented financial support to eight families to assist with their tragic loss. We must always remember these heroes. Please remember our lost officers this holiday season.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support of National Academy Associates and specifically, the California Chapter. It has been a pleasure to serve the California Chapter these past five years. From my family to yours, we wish you the very best during the holidays and prosperous 2020!

Daman Christensen, President, NA 242  
2019 FBINAA - California Chapter



## FBINAA MEMBER—ALBERTO LEOS



As the Historian who puts these newsletters together, I am always on the prowl to find interesting people and articles to write about. In the August, 2019 newsletter I published the names of all our new graduates, but by some quirk of fate, a new member's name was left off the list. Thankfully, that member, Alberto Leos, reached out and very politely told me he was a proud graduate of NA Session #276.



The crime scene at McDonalds.



Alberto Leos, 17 years of age.

With Alberto reaching out I got to learn a little about him and was shocked to find out that he had been a victim of the July 19th, 1984, McDonald's massacre in San Diego when he was 17 years old. In that incident 21 people died and 19 were injured, Alberto was one of those injured. Alberto is currently a Captain with the San Diego Police Department and his statement to me he said, "I am not looking for any accolades however, I made lots of sacrifices throughout my 31 year career to get to attend this prestigious academy and wanted you to be made aware of it". He went on to say that although he rarely conducts live Media Interviews, he recently did one and felt it was important to mention the FBI-NA Academy. Here is the link where Alberto talks about that tragic day back in 1984. Click on the link if you wish to learn more.

<https://bit.ly/2qSKqxK>

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHIEFS—MANY NA GRADS



Every 2nd Thursday of the month the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs get together and discuss crimes and events occurring in their cities. Some weeks there are presentations, others there is training and lessons learned, but looking around the room it appeared a large majority of those represented were all NA grads. What a proud moment and a wonderful achievement,

### From Left to Right:

Asst. Sheriff Ken Binder, Santa Clara County Sherriff's Office, NA #248  
(missing was Sherriff Laurie Smith, also an NA grad!).

Chief Armando Corpuz, Milpitas PD, NA #257

Captain Pedro Espinoza, Gilroy PD, NA #270

Chief Gina Di Napoli (Your Historian), San Jose State University PD, NA #225

Chief Andy Galea, Los Altos PD, NA #215

Chief Max Bosel, Mountain View PD, NA #255

U.S. Marshal Don O'Keefe, USMS, NA #172, Past President, California Chapter.

Chief Pete Decena, Los Gatos PD, NA #230

Asst. Chief Dan Winter, Santa Clara PD, NA #250

## PROMOTIONAL PANEL - ALL NA GRADS

In October, the Livingston Police held a sergeants promotional exam which included a community panel and a professional panel. The Department reached out to several command officers in Merced and Madera Counties and asked for their help to sit on the professional panel. A group of excellent professionals were found, which amazingly turned out to all be NA grads!

While this wasn't planned, it was proof that when you ask for the heavy hitters, you usually get the best...FBINA graduates! Hats off to this group who apparently did a great job in identifying the best candidate.



### From Left to Right:

Captain Bimley West, Merced Police Department NA 270;

Lieutenant Darin McMechan, Madera Sheriff's Office, NA 252;

Chief Ruben Chavez, Livingston Police Department, NA 232;

Commander Jason Hedden, Los Banos Police Department, NA 272 and

Captain Chris Soria, Livingston Police Department, NA 257

# THE NEW LOS ANGELES 4TH VICE PRESIDENT



## **Welcome Captain Randy Goddard**

Captain Randy Goddard was born in Huntington Beach, CA and as far back as he can remember he has always wanted to be a police officer, to “Protect and Serve.” In his teen years Randy was an Explorer with the Westminster Police Department and served there for four years. After a ride-along with the Los Angeles Police Department, Randy knew that was where he wanted to serve, in the City of Angels. In 1996, three days before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Captain Goddard was sworn in as a LAPD officer. As an officer, Randy worked patrol, detective school car officer, training officer, and vice investigator. He was promoted to sergeant and worked for three years in patrol moving to Internal Affairs, Training, Office of the Chief and finally to the Personnel and Training Bureau where he served as the Department Uniform Coordinator.

On New Year’s Day 2012 then Sgt. Goddard was promoted to Lieutenant and began his new assignment in West Los Angeles as a Watch Commander. He then went on to become the Detective Commanding Officer in charge of all criminal investigations for West Los Angeles (WLA) significantly contributing to WLA’s crime fighting strategies. After six years at WLA, Randy moved to Pacific Area as the Detective Division Commanding Officer where he served until his promotion to Captain.

After completing his first year with LAPD, Randy went back to school and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach, and went on to complete his graduate degree in Leadership, and a Graduate Certificate in Public Management, from the University of Southern California. He also attended the P.O.S.T. Supervisory Leadership Institute, Class 231, the LAPD’s Leadership Program and is a proud FBINA graduate of NA Session #267.

Randy has been blessed with a wonderful wife and two wonderful kids. He spends as much time as possible with his family and is dedicated to his Faith (and now, the FBINAA California Chapter too!).

# SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS

The Sacramento Division held its third quarter lunch and golf outing at the Club at Copper Valley in western Calaveras County. The luncheon was co-hosted and organized by Under-sheriff Jim Macedo of the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). The CCSO provided an overview of an active investigation. It was a great venue and golf course!



The Sacramento Division and the FBI Sacramento Office is planning the 2020 FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar. The Seminar will be held in South Lake Tahoe, CA from May 18th—21st, 2020, at the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel. For more information and to register please visit our website at [www.fbinaacc.com](http://www.fbinaacc.com).



# SAN DIEGO DIVISION NEWS

A message from Vice President Eric Thunberg:



Thank you to all who have supported the FBINAA, the CA Chapter and the San Diego Division this past year. We hosted a successful and well-regarded FBI-CA LEEDS Conference in April and are busy planning events for 2020!

I would like to wish you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday and all good wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!



The Holiday Luncheon was on 12/11/19 is at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar O-Club. 1130-1330. Speaker was Senior CPO Christopher Swallow of Naval Special Warfare Group Coronado. Currently fulfilling lead for SEAL Team BUDs training.

A raffle was held for the members present and some of the prizes will be consisted of a handgun, a 50" TV, an iPad, and many other cool gifts. If you have never attended a holiday luncheon, you are missing out, so look out for the training luncheons in 2020 and come meet fellow grads, learn new and interesting things and have fun networking.

Thanks  
Eric (Big E)





# CHAPTER NEWS

## Scholarship Recipients:

### San Francisco

- Sarah Wenzel, attending the University of Nevada at Reno this fall. She was sponsored by her father, Chris Wenzel, from NA Session #237.



### Sacramento

- Ethan Orcutt, attending the University of Oregon this fall. He was sponsored by his father, John Orcutt, from NA Session #204.

### Los Angeles

- Cassidy Palka, attending the University of Southern California this fall. She was sponsored by her father, Cory Palka, from NA Session #246.

### San Diego

- Kayla Walters, attending Boise State University this fall. She was sponsored by her father, Scott Walters, from NA Session #274.

## Chapter Resolutions:

- Cris Trulsson (NA #227)
- Mike Barletta (NA #222)
- Stacey Deal (FBI SA, Los Angeles Division NAC)



## Sergeant At Arms:

4th Vice President-Randy Goddard, Commander, Los Angeles Police Department (NA #267)

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

(If you missed the Holiday Luncheon you missed a treat, look out for the luncheons in 2020)



## SACRAMENTO DIVISION

- The Christmas luncheon was held on Tuesday December 10th at the Randy Peters Event and Catering Center in Roseville, CA. A holiday themed buffet lunch was enjoyed by all. Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea was the guest speaker who discussed his experiences policing before, during and after the Camp fire in Paradise California.

## LOS ANGELES DIVISION

- Friday, December 13th, unlucky for some, but not for those who attended the Holiday Luncheon at The Frontrunner Restaurant overlooking the beautiful Santa Anita Racetrack. There was a Seabiscuit tour at 10:45 am, followed by lunch. Connect with your NA buddies and meet new NAA members as we say goodbye to 2019 and get ready to welcome in the New Year.



## SAN DIEGO DIVISION

- San Diego's Holiday luncheon was Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar O-Club. The speaker was Senior CPO Christopher Swallow of the Naval Special Warfare Group Coronado. Swallow is currently fulfilling lead for the SEAL team BUDs training.

## SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

- San Francisco Division held their Holiday Luncheon on December 4th.

*Merry Christmas*



## GLAD NEWS:


- Congratulations go out to the following:
- Congratulations to **Chief Michael Connolly, NA Session #250**, who was sworn in as Chief of Police for Broadmoor Police Department in June of this year. Chief Connolly retired from the San Francisco Police Department where he served as Deputy Chief.



- Congratulations also go out to FBINA **Session #278** graduates. Please reach out to the new graduates and welcome them into the biggest and the best NA Chapter!

## RETIREMENTS:

## SAD NEWS:

- **Serhij “Jack” Lewtschuk, NA Session 136**, Retired Monterey County Sheriff’s Department Commander, died peacefully on Friday November 15th, 2019. Jack was born in 1935 in Ukraine, which was then part of the U.S.S.R. Jack lived under the communist regime of Joseph Stalin, just years after the manmade famine (Holodomor) in which more than 11 million Ukrainians perished, victims of hunger, executions and gulags. Then came the Second World War and once again the Ukrainians were treated brutally, only this time under the Nazis. Jack and his family made their way westward eventually meeting up with the United States Armed Forces in Bavaria. Unfortunately, the flight across Europe and through refugee camps, proved too much for Jack’s mother and she died of tuberculosis. With the help of a Catholic Church, Jack and his father were able to immigrate to the U.S. While waiting to immigrate, Jack, at only 16 years of age, was hired by U.S. Customs for his foreign language skills (fluent in English, German, Russian and Ukrainian. Comfortable in Polish, Czech and Latin).  
In 1951, Jack and his father sailed to the United States on a troop ship and entered via Ellis Island. In 1955 Jack joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division and later the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division when he became a paratrooper. While stationed in W. Germany Jack met and married a young Danish woman and after the birth of their first child moved stateside to Fort Ord in Monterey. It was there that Jack joined the Monterey Co. S. O. where he enjoyed a long (33yrs) and full career, doing everything from firearms instructor, search and rescue, negotiator, homicide detective, to name but a few. In 1984 Jack attended the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. Jack often said, “If you love what you do you’ll never work a day in your life” and that was how he felt about his career. Jack, at the prompting of his children, wrote a book about the first 16yrs of his life. The book is self- published and is titled, “From There To Here In Sixteen Years”. Jack, we thank you for your service!  

- More sad news, retired Coronado Police Chief, **Paul Crook, NA Session 179**, passed away suddenly at the beginning of October following surgery. Paul and his wife had moved to Arizona about 7 years ago. Paul’s wife and son were with him at his bedside. Our sympathies go out to the Crook family.

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

**BIG REMINDER FOR THOSE BEING PROMOTED,  
TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER AGENCY OR RETIRING...  
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION. THANK YOU!**

## Contact Us

Please call our Historian, Gina Haynes, if you have information you would like to have put in the Newsletter or if you have information you feel our members would enjoy reading.

We are also interested in any events which would include our members.



Gina Di Napoli

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Visit us on the web at [www.fbinaacalifornia.com](http://www.fbinaacalifornia.com)



# **SAVE THE DATE!**

## **CA LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR (CALEEDS)**

The Sacramento Division of the FBI and the FBI National Academy Associates, would like to invite you to the 2020 CALEEDS in beautiful South Lake Tahoe, CA, from May 18-21, 2020. The seminar will be held at the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel located at Stateline, just a few blocks from Lake Tahoe, casino/resorts and championship golf!

