



FBINAA | CA NEWSLETTER

FBINAA California Chapter Newsletter

APRIL 2020

Message from our Chapter President



Dear Fellow Associates:

I hope everyone is doing okay under these trying circumstances. This is certainly not how I envisioned my "presidential" year but life throws us curve balls all the time.

Much has been happening behind the scenes as the Sacramento Division was actively preparing for the upcoming LEEDS conference in Lake Tahoe. Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances relating to COVID-19, we have decided to postpone the LEEDS conference until May of

2021. I am regularly in touch with the Divisional VP's. Fortunately, the Sacramento Division and the San Diego Division managed to hold their first quarter luncheons. Hopefully, the Los Angeles Division and the San Francisco Division can make up for theirs when the world starts to get back to some kind of normal.

Everyone-Please keep an eye/ear out for FBINAA members that may be going through personal/family issues related to COVID-19. The FBINAA Foundation is available to assist during tragedies and this certainly fits the bill. So check the website, or contact your Divisional Vice President if you know of a member going through a difficult time. I thank you in advance for this.

For those members still working at LE agencies, I certainly don't have to tell you that this is what we get paid for. Our folks want strong, decisive, and compassionate leadership. Make good decisions based on the information you have available and don't be afraid to change your mind or shift gears based on constantly evolving intel. The FBINAA is full of leaders; I know you guys and gals will be awesome!

I want to close with by drawing special attention to the Santa Rosa Police Department and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department on the losses of Detective Marylou Armer, Deputy David Werksman, and Deputy Terrell Young. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, their communities, and their departments.

Godspeed,

Eric S. Sonstegard, President

Contact me anytime at 805-990-1079 or president@fbinaacalifornia.com
FBINAA-California Chapter, 246th Session.

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you"

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message from our Chapter President
- Getting Through The Pandemic
- Sacramento Div News
- Los Angeles Div News
- San Diego Div News
- San Francisco Div News
- Glad News
- Sad News



GETTING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

As we all are faced with the challenges that come along in unprecedented times, we, as leaders are charged with trying to bring stability in an unstable world, protecting a department and community from an enemy you cannot see and one the world is trying to figure out, reassuring our officers and families that we are keeping them safe and have a plan and through it all we have to try and remain sane!

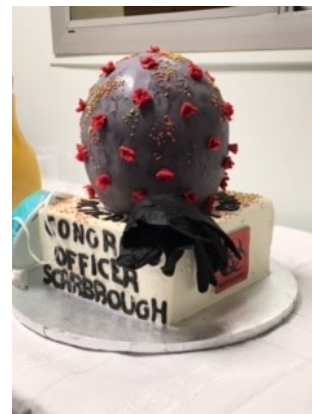
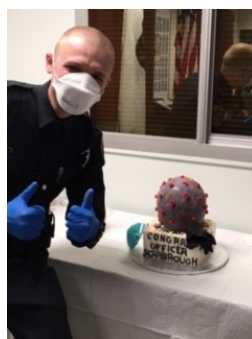
We all know that a good therapy to help you through any difficult and trying time, is humor. I, your Historian, will share what my department did recently to bring in a little humor and welcome a new officer. This is by no means meant to downplay the seriousness of the Corona Virus, only to bring some light into the situation and make the events of 2020 memorable.

On March 27th, our newest officer, Officer Scarborough, was being sworn in. Sadly, he had graduated from his class with no ceremony, no family or friends present, no way to celebrate with his class, no closure to the hard work he had gone through all those weeks in the Academy. Now he was starting his career with us, with no celebration and no family member to pin his badge on. So, we decided to show him that we were his new family. As much of our support staff was working from home, we gathered a few officers, dispatchers and command staff and we had our talented sergeant make him a cake. When he showed up to be sworn in wearing his crisp, sharp, new uniform, we had him put on his mask and gloves, stand six feet away (per CDC regulations) and raise his right hand to take the oath. We reminded him that he was part of history and we wanted it to be memorable. It worked out well, he laughed, we laughed and a good time was had by all.

If you have a Corona Virus story that has helped get you through this time, please share it, we would love to hear about it.



Historian, Gina Di Napoli, NA #225, swears in her newest officer during the Corona Virus pandemic



A memorable cake and the best way to have a virus.



SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS

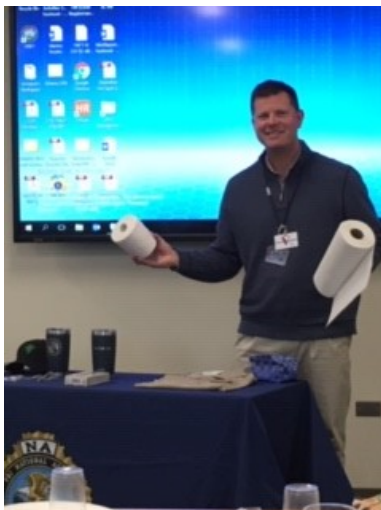
The Sacramento Division held its first quarter luncheon on March 16th, 2020 at the FBI Office in Roseville. Although some members had cancelled, as the Governor's mandate was in place, everyone was seated as per the CDC guidelines for social distancing. There were hand sanitizers on every table and lunch was individual sandwiches and salad, so very little touching and minimal contact. Fortunately, no one was coughing or looking like they were sick, so we were able to focus on the training, which was very well presented by Jason Collins, from the Sacramento Police Department Human Trafficking Unit. Jason presented a human/sex trafficking case where the task force utilized the resources of the DOJ/CHP Special Operations Unit to conduct a specialized investigation into a cold case. The investigation resulted in multiple arrests, and prosecutions are now ongoing in Federal Court.



Social distancing was maintained at all times and although it seemed strange, everyone was glad to see each other.



Detective Jason Collins presents a complicated and involved Human Trafficking case.



The Sacramento Division VP, Josh Ehlers holds up the prestigious raffle prizes.



SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS - CONTINUED

DIVISION GRADUATES

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new Sacramento Division graduates of the recent FBI National Academy, who are:

Session #279:

- Jeffrey Kool, Roseville PD
- Nicholas Moraweznski, Yuba County S.O.
- Andrew Williams, California Highway Patrol
- Joseph Wren, Placerville PD

MESSAGE FROM THE 3rd VICE PRESIDENT:

As we continue to navigate uncharted waters, stay informed and above all remain safe and well. Let us all remain hopeful that we will conquer this virus and return to our normal lives with a new appreciation. Please reach out and continue letting me know what your interests are and what events/trainings you would like to see in the future.

If you would like to present at a luncheon, or host one, please contact me at:

Sacramentovp@fbinaocalifornia.com



Josh Ehlers
CA FBI NAA 3rd Vice President
Sacramentovp@fbinaocalifornia.com
916-284-3107
FBI NA #259



LOS ANGELES DIVISION NEWS

A LETTER FROM 4TH VICE PRESIDENT - RANDY GODDARD:

Dear Los Angeles Division Members,

I want to take a moment to introduce myself as your new 4th Vice-President and to thank all who have and are supporting this Division.

My name is Randy Goddard and I attended Session #267 in January of 2017. I'm a Captain with Los Angeles Police Department and I'm very excited and honored to serve as a member of the CA Chapter Executive Board. I'm focused on continuing the dedicated efforts of our now Chapter President Eric Sonstegard and the rest of the board in providing top-notch training and networking opportunities to the members of the Strongest Law Enforcement Organization in the World. Engaging the membership, both current and retired, remains a priority and I'll be reaching out to solicit input on speakers, topics and activities you would like to see in our Division.

A big thank you to all who supported the Division during this past year by attending our quarterly lunches, and our annual statewide training opportunities. I hope everyone who attended the Annual Training Conference here in Newport Beach and the Holiday Luncheon at Santa Anita Racetrack enjoyed the venues and speakers.

The first quarter of this year is turning out to be a unique one. My agency, as well as many of yours have temporarily suspended all training and public meetings due to State and County protocols for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I know we will get back to normal and I'm hoping it's sooner rather than later.

When we do get back to normal, I'm planning on finding various locations for each of the quarterly luncheons to facilitate convenient travel as much as possible. I'm happy to entertain ideas for potential speakers or alternate locations, and if you'd like to host a luncheon please reach out to me.

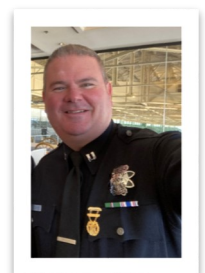
This year, the San Francisco Division will be hosting the Annual Retrainer/Conference, to be held at the Monterey Hyatt, September 7-11, 2020. If you've never attended a Chapter Conference or the National Conference, it is a great opportunity to get up to date training and rekindle friendships from your NA experience. You should have all received an e-mail reminder to renew your membership. If you had any problems renewing, please feel free to reach out to me. Finally, please email me any special updates like retirements, promotions, or any other information that you would like included in the quarterly newsletters.

Thank you for your support, and if there's anything you would like to see in our organization, feel free to contact me at any time.

Randy Goddard

2020-4th Vice President-LA Division FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.
California Chapter Captain, LAPD FBINA Session #267

losangelesvp@fbinaacalifornia.com





SAN DIEGO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM 3RD VP ERIC THUNBERG:

2020 was off to a good start for the San Diego Division.

We were able to host our 1st quarter 2020 luncheon on March 11th, at the San Diego County Sheriff's HQ, despite the fact that the State was shutting a majority of things down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our guest speaker was San Diego State Head Baseball Coach Mark Martinez, who gave an outstanding presentation about leadership and motivation.

Additionally, the same morning, we held a morning brunch orientation for the candidates for the 280th Session

- Carl Armstrong, Commander/Imperial County DA's Office
- Laura McLean, Captain/San Diego PD
- Greg Runge, Lieutenant/La Mesa PD
- Greg Rylaarsdam, Captain, San Diego Sheriff's Dept.

Although this is an unprecedented year, we wish our candidates all the very best and look forward to having them join the National Academy Associates upon graduation.

I Hope all is well and that you are remaining safe, sane and healthy despite the current circumstances.

Eric T.



SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM 1st VICE PRESIDENT - CRAIG CHEW:



To my fellow National Academy Associates,

This is certainly a strange time for us all, each and every one of us is doing our part in trying to stem the number of COVID-19 patients. Policing is no longer focusing on pro-active enforcement, but more on property protection. As we start to experience cabin fever and nerves get frayed, reach out to one another, stay in contact and remember that we are all going through the same thing. If there is something you are doing to help get through this and it is working, please share it. If you have an innovative way of policing during this pandemic, please share that too. Let's help each other to navigate this unprecedented circumstance successfully and let us remain positive.

Talking of remaining positive, let us look to the future and hope for a safe, healthy and speedy return to normal.

Upcoming Events (maybe) :

Spring Lunch

We were trying to secure a lunch and training on the Google Campus. We were working diligently with Google staff but unfortunately, due to the current circumstances and shelter in place mandates, Google has completely closed their campuses. Once the shelter in place is lifted and things go back to normal, we will reschedule.

Shoot/BBQ

The 37th Annual Gene Jones Memorial Shoot and BBQ, hosted by Alameda County Sheriff, Greg Ahern and Captain Jimmy McGrail, NA #278, was scheduled for the beginning of June. Due to the current shelter in place mandate, we are holding off from announcing the event until we know if the mandate will be lifted. Look for announcements at the end of April.

Re-Trainer/Conference—Save the Date and let's hope it doesn't get postponed.

The San Francisco Division is honored to sponsor the 2020 California FBI National Academy Associates Re-Trainer and Conference. This event will be scheduled to be held at the **Hyatt Regency in Monterey on September 8-10, 2020.**

Information regarding the conference will be coming out as we get it, so please stay tuned.



SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS - CONTINUED

A MESSAGE FROM 1st V.P. CRAIG CHEW CONTINUED:



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF SESSION #279:

- Captain Steve Albanese, Pittsburg Police Department
- Deputy Chief Jeff Jennings, BART Police Department
- Captain Angelica Mendoza, Oakland Police Department
- Lieutenant Brian Miller, Petaluma Police Department
- Lieutenant Joe Okies, Jr., Berkeley Police Department
- Captain Lelani Woods, United States Park Police

Congratulations to you all and we look forward to seeing you at our training luncheons, re-trainers and events when the world gets back to normal.

If you have any questions, suggestions or are willing to host a training luncheon when things get back to normal, please contact me at sanfranciscovp@fbinaacalifornia.org or (925) 383-1663. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Sincerely,

Craig Chew, Vice President

FBI National Academy Associates, Session #248

San Francisco Division

GLAD NEWS:

- Congratulations on their promotion goes out to:



- Congratulations to **Craig Friesen, NA #276**, who was promoted to Captain with Anaheim PD in October 2019.



- Congratulations to **Damon Wasson, NA #265**, who was sworn in as the Chief of Police for Soledad PD in March 2020, after serving as their Interim Chief.
- *Shown here being sworn in by City Manager McHatten.*



- *Damon with his wife Andrea looking very proud*



- Congratulations to **Ruben Chavez, NA #232**, who retired as Chief of Livingston PD and on March 16th, 2020, took over as the Chief of Police for Gustine PD.



- Congratulations are also in order for **Sekou Millington, NA #256**, who left Oakland PD as a Captain and was sworn at the beginning of February as the new Chief of Police for Tracy PD.



- Huge congratulations go out to **Gina Anderson, NA #219**, who left Citrus Heights PD to join Newark PD as their new Chief of Police. Wishing her every success in her new position.

- Congratulations also go out to **Joe Deras, NA #265**, who retired from Gilroy PD and moved to Colorado as the Chief of Police for Glenwood Springs PD.

MORE GLAD NEWS:

Retirements:

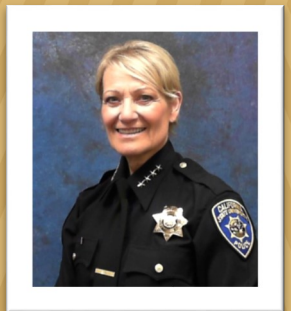
- Congratulations to **Jim Smith, NA #214**, who retired from Monterey Park PD and started in a new position as Director for Law Enforcement Relations with ecoATM. Wishing you every success in your new journey.
- Congratulations to Chief **David Westrick, NA #271**, who retired from Hollister PD at the end of December.
- Congratulations to Lieutenant **Greg Deuerlein, NA #240**, who retired January 4th '20, from the Department of Defense Police.
- Congratulations also to Deputy Commissioner **Scott Silsbee, NA #243**, who retired from the Sacramento Division of the California Highway Patrol.
- Also retiring from the Sacramento Division of the California Highway Patrol is Chief **Chris Main, NA #238**. Congratulations Chris!
- Congratulations are also in store for **James Buzo, NA #227**, who retired after 37 yrs of public service in Fairfield PD, Stockton PD and lastly at the San Joaquin County DA's Office. Thank you for your service James.



Contact Us

Please call our Historian, Gina Di Napoli, 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 Haynes Di Napoli

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Historian@fbinaacalifornia.com

Visit us on the web at www.fbinaacalifornia.com

SAD NEWS:

We are sad to report the passing of:



- We recently learned of the passing of La Habra PD retired Chief **Ronald D. Meehan, NA #144**, who passed away on May 18th, 2019. After retiring Ronald went to Law School, where he obtained his Juris Doctorate. He then went to work at the Courts in Orange County and retired again sixteen years later from the Santa Ana Superior Court.



- Condolences also go out to the family and friends of retired California Highway Patrol Assistant Chief, **Lionel "Lonnie" C. Richards, NA #115**, who passed away on February 20th, 2020. During his career, Lonnie was assigned to the Dignitary Protection Services and was the personal bodyguard to Governors Ronald Regan and Jerry Brown. He also oversaw the CHP operations during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Quite a career, thank you for your service!

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

BIG REMINDER FOR THOSE BEING PROMOTED, TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER AGENCY OR RETIRING...PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL INFORMATION, SO THE CHAPTER CAN STAY IN TOUCH AND KEEP YOU UPDATED. THANK YOU!