



# FBINAA | CA NEWSLETTER

## Message from our Chapter President



Dear Fellow Associates:

Your chapter board has been hard at work behind the scenes dealing with the cancellation of the LEEDS conference in May and our annual re-trainer in September. Each year, our annual election is held at our re-trainer, this year, with no re-trainer we needed to adapt. Members approved a revision to the Chapter Constitution allowing for electronic voting for Association Officers in the event the Annual Conference is canceled. You will be seeing information on the upcoming elections emailed out soon.

With two of the biggest events to impact law enforcement occurring within a few months of each other, it has certainly put a damper on chapter activity in 2020. The FBI National Academy Associates is an organization founded on relationships and the special connections we all made in those ten (10) weeks at Quantico. Both your National board and the California Chapter have been looking for ways to keep our members connected and we're looking forward to a "bounce back" year in 2021.

I want to once again call attention to one of the hidden gems of the FBINAA and that is the FBINAA Charitable Foundation. Chaired by a great friend of the California Chapter, Doug Muldoon. The Foundation provides relief and support to FBINAA members during challenging times in member's lives. My wife Carrie and I have become a sustaining partner of the FBINAA Charitable Foundation by joining their "Angel Campaign". That campaign asks for a yearly donation of \$250.00 or more. If you are able to, I encourage you to support the Foundation in any way you can.

I want to close by drawing special attention to the California Department of Corrections and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department on the losses of Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller and Correctional Officer Richard Bianchi. 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](mailto:president@fbinaacalifornia.com)  
FBINAA-California Chapter, 246th Session.

*"To recognize always that the power of the police to fulfill their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behavior and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect"*

Sir Robert Peel

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# SUPPORT YOUR CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

## Hawaii Getaway

### Kauai Marriott Resort in Hawaii



**Enter to win a 7-day, 6-night stay for two at the gorgeous Kauai Marriott Resort in Hawaii. Your \$20 donation to the FBINAA Charitable Foundation helps us to provide disaster relief, fund college scholarships, and assist members and their families in times of need.**

Only 1,500 entries will be sold at \$20 each. You will receive one entry for every online donation of \$20. The winner of the raffle was scheduled to be announced during the 2020 Annual Training Conference in New Orleans. However, with the cancellation of the conference due to COVID-19 the date of the drawing will be announced in the FBINAA eNewsletter as soon as the CDC restrictions are eased nationwide.

[ENTER NOW](#)

[Hawaii Getaway Rules and Restrictions](#)



# MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER



## AmazonSmiles Program & 5.11 program

Dear California Chapter member or friend,

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that at **no cost to you**, .5% of all of your Amazon purchases can be donated to the California Chapter of the FBINAA!

It's easy! Instead of logging on to the regular Amazon web site, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2763282> and log in using your regular Amazon log in name and password. Please note that by using AmazonSmile there is **no increase in the amount you pay for your item.** AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Please support our Chapter at no cost to you by starting your shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2763282>





# VERIZON WIRELESS FALLEN OFFICER FUND

Below is the letter sent to the Gutzwiller family by our Chapter President on behalf of our California Chapter. Santa Cruz Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller lost his life while in the course of his duty. Our condolences go out to the Gutzwiller family, friends and Department. May he rest in peace.



## FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. California Chapter

Eric Sonstegard  
President  
246<sup>th</sup> Session

June 11, 2010

Duncan Christensen  
Immediate Past  
President  
242<sup>nd</sup> Session

Fallen Officers of Santa Cruz  
C/O Santa Cruz Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller

Craig Chew  
1st Vice President  
240<sup>th</sup> Session  
San Francisco Division

RE: Verizon Wireless Fallen Officer Fund

Eric Thunberg  
2nd Vice President  
255<sup>th</sup> Session  
San Diego Division

Dear Gutzwiller Family:

Josh Ehlers  
3rd Vice President  
259<sup>th</sup> Session  
Sacramento Division

On behalf of the men and women of the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc., California Chapter, please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your son, father, and husband, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with your family and members of the Sheriff's Department as well as the community Damon served.

Randy Goddard  
4th Vice President  
257<sup>th</sup> Session  
Los Angeles Division

It is with a mournful heart, we are honored to present the enclosed check on behalf of the Verizon Wireless Fallen Officer Fund and the FBI National Academy Associates, Incorporated. We will never forget Damon's legacy and his commitment to our profession and community.

Max Santiago  
Secretary  
214<sup>th</sup> Session

Mike Barletta  
Treasurer  
222<sup>nd</sup> Session

Sincerely,

Gina Haynes  
Historian  
225<sup>th</sup> Session

*Eric S. Sonstegard*

Russell McKinney  
Training and  
Digital Media Manager  
240<sup>th</sup> Session

Eric S. Sonstegard, President  
FBI National Academy Associates, Inc., California Chapter  
246<sup>th</sup> Session  
Email: [President@FBINAACalifornia.com](mailto:President@FBINAACalifornia.com)

Elizabeth Ward  
FBI National Academy  
Coordinator



# SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS

As the Historian I am always looking for things that would be of interest to our members. So, in June, I went to visit some of our Sacramento Division members to see how they were faring during COVID-19. It was a terrifically hot day and I had just driven from San Jose enroute to Sacramento. What I found when stopping by our past President Janis Trulsson and past Treasurer Cris Trulsson's home was the following:

FBINAA members Liz Darga from McComb County Sheriff's Department in Michigan and Lori Emmer, a retiree from Douglas, Wyoming, both ladies from NA #224 were out visiting their classmate Janis.

I asked the ladies for a picture for the newsletter and as I took the picture, one of the floaties sprang a leak and down she went. Captured here for your entertainment. Thankfully it was all in good fun and she allowed the pics to be shown.



Classmates from Session # 224, getting together during COVID-19



Floaty springs a leak



Going down



Recovery





# SAN DIEGO DIVISION NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN DIEGO DIVISION:

2020 was off to a good start for the San Diego Division, but then, like the rest of the State, things came to a grinding halt as restrictions were put into place in attempts to halt the spread of COVID-19.

What did not stop was the enthusiasm by our Board members to participate in the virtual Yellow Brick Road, which was a wonderful opportunity to support a cause that benefits our members.

Here we see our Chapter Treasurer, Mike Barletta, completing his run, complete with mask! Thank you Mike for taking the time and making the effort for a worthy cause. Well done!



Treasurer Mike Barletta



And... **Third Vice President Eric Thunburg** sends his Division members a message hoping they are all well and are remaining safe, sane and healthy, despite the current circumstances.





# LOS ANGELES DIVISION NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM LOS ANGELES DIVISION:

Just as in the Sacramento, San Francisco and San Diego Divisions, not to be outdone, the Los Angeles Division had a Board member who competed in the Virtual Yellow Brick Run. Let us say a BIG

# THANK YOU

to our Chapter President, Eric Sonstegard, who obviously didn't want his picture taken while he was sweating and running with his mask. Our Chapter President chose to show off his Virtual Yellow Brick Road accomplishment while still looking presentable and without his mask. We are sure he didn't run the 6.1 miles around his kitchen! Either way, we appreciate our Board members who contributed and made this a little competitive and something fun.



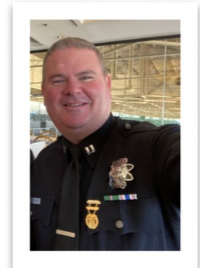
2020 California Chapter President  
Eric Sonstegard

And...**Fourth Vice President, Randy Goddard** wishes to thank the Los Angeles Division for their support and asks that members to reach out to him if there is anything the members would like to see in the Chapter Newsletter or Chapter Chat in the National Newsletter.

*Randy Goddard*

2020-4th Vice President-LA Division FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.

California Chapter Captain, LAPD FBINA Session #267, [losangelesvp@fbinaocalifornia.com](mailto:losangelesvp@fbinaocalifornia.com)



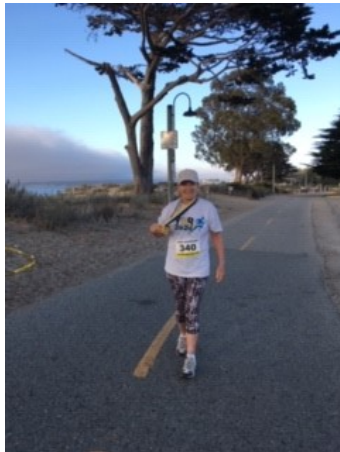
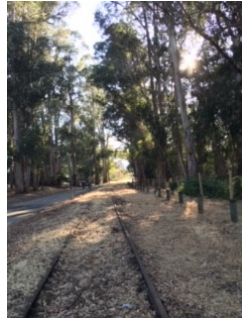


# SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS

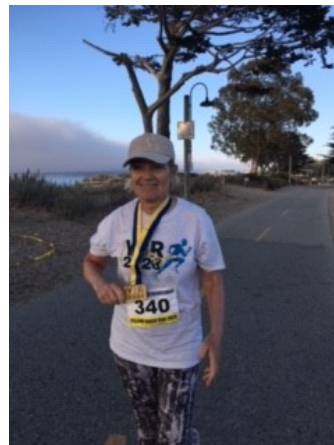
## A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION:

As mentioned in the San Diego and Los Angeles Division pages, the San Francisco Division also had a Board member who participated in the 2020 Virtual Yellow Brick Road. Of course the San Francisco Division refused to be outdone so also participated in support of the Charitable Foundation!

Historian Gina Di Napoli, who was still recovering from her surgery after breaking her leg at last year's FBINAA conference, took the challenge and although couldn't run, walked the 6.1 miles in Monterey... good choice! The scenery was eye catching and the weather superb, with a sea breeze that kept things cool when the walk got hot!



The walk was so enjoyable, it became a 6.5 mile walk instead.





## GLAD NEWS:

- Congratulations on their promotion goes out to:



- Congratulations to **Joe Deras, NA 265**, who retired from Gilroy PD at the end of last year only to start 2020 as the Chief of Police for Glenwood Springs PD in Colorado. Joe was an active member of the CA Chapter and now he has transferred his membership to the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Joe's new community of Glenwood Springs, CO will be hosting the Rocky Mountain Chapter conference later this year if the restrictions are lifted. Way to jump into things with your new chapter Joe.



- Congratulations to **Kelly Gordon, NA 277**, who is now the Chief of Police for the Monterey Park Police Department. Kelly replaced Chief **James “Jim” Smith, NA 214**, who was our Chapter Past Training Manager and Webmaster, and retired in February.



- Congratulations go out to **Paul LeBaron, NA 261**, who was sworn in as Chief of Police for the Hermosa Beach Police Department on April 16th. Chief LeBaron's ceremony was performed via streaming technology due to the social distancing rules brought about because of COVID-19. Paul spent his first 27 years in law enforcement with the Long Beach police department.
- *(L—R: Mayor Mary Campbell, daughter Jaelyn, Chief LeBaron, wife Jennifer and CM Suja Lowenthal).*



- Congratulations go out to the Chief of Santa Monica Police Department, **Cynthia Renaud, NA 214**, for her recent appointment to the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council. Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf selected Renaud, who is not only Santa Monica's Police Chief but also IACP's 1st Vice President, to join this prestigious body along with six other leaders. The Council's responsibilities include providing perspective and strategic advice given their professional experience to address emerging threats.



- Congratulations to **Tyson Pogue, NA 276**, who was sworn in as the 16th Madera County Sheriff, after serving 19 years with Madera S.O. Madera County Officials were all in agreement that Tyson “was the right guy for the job!”



- From our San Francisco Division, we say congratulations to **Chief Gary Berg, NA 265**, who was sworn in as Chief of Campbell PD.

- From our Los Angeles Division, Congratulations to **Lawrence Gonzales, NA 233**. Sworn in as Chief of Riverside PD, and **Eddie Pust, NA 276**, who was sworn in as Chief of Hemet PD.



- Congratulations to **Chuck King, NA 252**, who was recently promoted to the rank of Chief and assigned as the Division Commander of the California Highway Patrol Administrative Services Division.

## MORE GLAD NEWS:

### Retirements:



- Congratulations to **Karen Stubkjaer, NA 269** who retired from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department as a Captain in March of this year. .

- Congratulations to **James Buzo, NA 227**, who retired after 37 years of public service. James started in Fairfield PD, followed by Stockton PD and lastly retiring from the San Joaquin County D.A.'s Office. Thank you for your service James



- Congratulations to **Dan Winter, NA 250**, who retired from the Santa Clara PD in June 2020 to take up a position in the private sector.



- Congratulations to Sheriff **Jay Varney, NA 253**, who retired from Madera Co. S. O., only to become Madera's Chief Administrative Officer.

## SAD NEWS:

### We are sad to report the passing of:



- It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of retired Huntington Beach Police Chief **Grover "Bill" Payne, NA 99** (Session 99 graduated in 1974). Bill was the 15th Chief of HBPD and left a legacy when he authorized the transition from all tan uniforms to all dark blue uniforms. In addition, he redesigned the HBPD badge to a larger, oval style featuring Lady Justice holding scales. Chief Payne chose the Greek God "Themis", because she stood for the relentless pursuit of all who trespass on the rights of others.



Although the "shelter in place" did not really allow for funerals, Chief Payne was still able to be honored.



- Sadly, we also announce the passing of **Thomas K. Shigemasa, NA 135** (graduated in Dec '83), who retired as Assistant Chief of San Jose PD after 31 years of service. Thomas was born in Hawaii in 1945 and passed away in June of 2020.

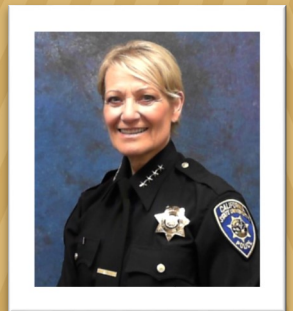
## NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

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

## 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**

(916) 849-4462

[Historian@fbinaacalifornia.com](mailto:Historian@fbinaacalifornia.com)

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