



FBINAA | CA NEWSLETTER

Message from our 2021 Chapter President



Dear Fellow National Academy Associates:

Welcome to 2021! I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and in good health. As I start the new year I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and sincere appreciation to Eric Sonstegard, our outgoing President (NA #246), Daman Christensen, the Immediate Past President (NA #242), and the Executive

Board for their contributions to the Chapter during the unprecedented year of 2020. We could not have kept things running without them.

2020 brought our profession so many significant challenges from responding to the State’s worst wildfires, civil protests, movements to defund police budgets and all while dealing with a global pandemic. Because of COVID-19 and the ensuing health restrictions, the Chapter had to cancel FBI CA LEEDS in May, the California Chapter Re-Trainer in September and the majority of the Division Training events. In addition, the FBINA Spring, Summer and Fall Sessions for 2020 and the Winter Session into 2021 were all canceled. As an association and as individual professionals, we rely on these events for updates, collaboration and training on current events and on new challenges, so these cancelations were, and are, hard on the Association and its members.

Our Chapter remains hopeful for 2021, with vaccinations in full swing and the excitement of returning to some normality, we have the following training opportunities for this year:

- CA Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS) - May 17-20,
- FBINAA Annual Training Conference - July 7-10, 2021 in Orlando, Florida- Register at <https://fbinaa2021.com>
- FBINAA California Annual Retainer - October 5-7, in Carlsbad, CA – http://www.fbinaacc.com/2021_State/exhibitor_packages.html
- Training lunches in the respective Field Divisions, dates and events TBD

These events will give us opportunities to come together, see old friends, make new friends, share critical ideas and keep our profession successful, so please, if you haven’t, **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!** I look forward to attending events in each of the divisions in order to meet as many of you as I can. I can be reached at: (925) 383-1663 or president@fbinaacalifornia.com. In the meantime, stay safe and well. Your 2021 Chapter President.

Craig H. Chew, NA #248

“Leadership is unlocking people’s potential to become better”

-Bill Bradley

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Information on the 4th Vice President's position

In September 2020, members of the California Chapter elected **Michael Kihmm** to be the 4th Vice President representing the San Francisco Division. However, Michael could not fulfill his obligations as 4th Vice President because he was subsequently appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Police for the Vallejo Police Department. Because Vallejo falls within the Sacramento Division's jurisdiction, the California Chapter governance rules do not allow Michael to serve in the capacity of Vice President for the San Francisco Division. We congratulate Michael on his new career opportunity and are sorry that he will not be our new 4th VP.

This change in circumstance left the 4th Vice President position vacant, so the Board reached out to **Scott Savage** who retired from the San Jose Police Department at the rank of Captain. Scott was a graduate of the 237th Session in 2009. Scott has expressed interest in the 4th Vice President position several times, he ran for the position in 2016 and was going to run again in 2020. Scott has long been an active member of the California Chapter and wholeheartedly supports the organization. Therefore, on December 22nd, 2020, the California Chapter Executive Board approved his appointment. The new Chapter President, the Board and I am sure, the membership, welcome Scott as the 4th Vice President for 2021, representing the San Francisco Division.

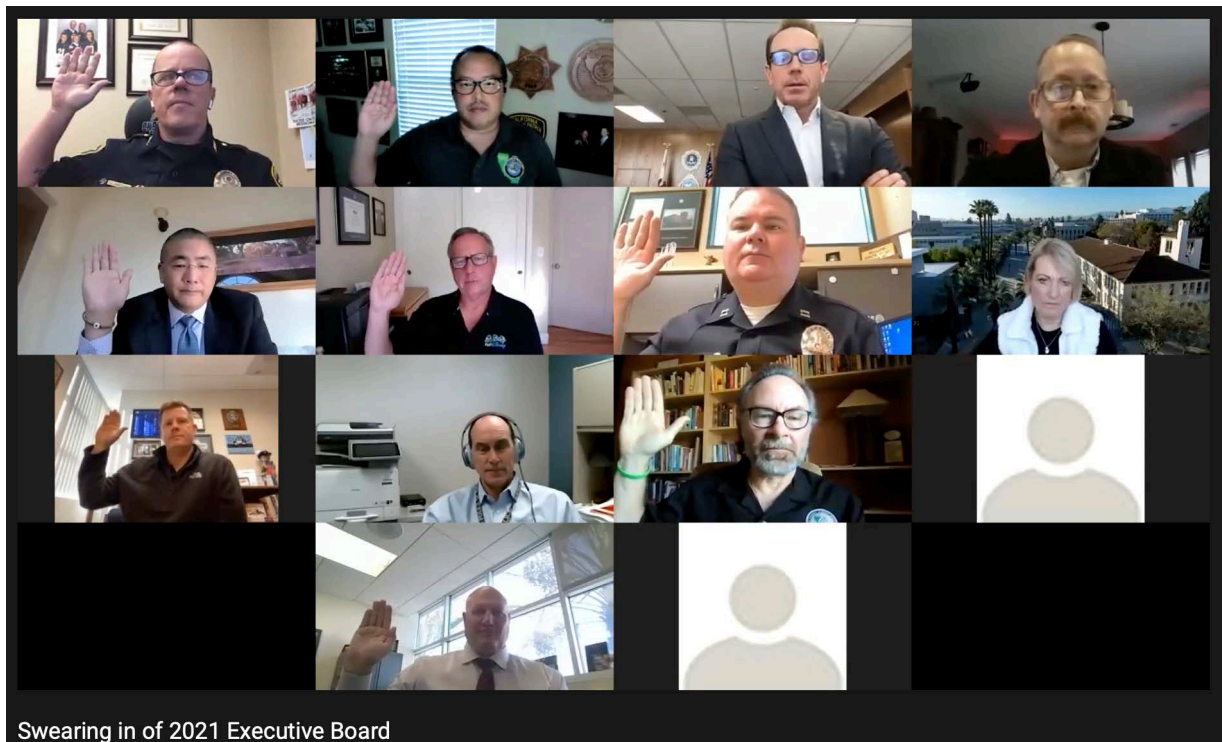
******Elections for the Vice President positions for both the San Francisco and San Diego Divisions will be held at the California Chapter Annual Retainer in October 2021.***



Swearing-in of your Executive Board—December 2020

On December 22nd, FBI Special Agent in Charge, Craig Fair of the FBI San Francisco Field Office, swore in the new 2021 Executive Board. You can view the swearing in ceremony at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/NlxSLj-db4U>. But for those who like a snapshot, here you go.



Swearing in of 2021 Executive Board

Left to right, starting at the top: Eric Sonstegard (Immediate Past President), Max Santiago (Secretary), Craig Fair (FBI SAC), Russell McKinney (Training Manager), Craig Chew (Chapter President), Scott Savage (4th VP), Randy Goddard (3rd VP), Gina Di Napoli (Historian and taker of this pic), Josh Ehlers (2nd VP), Damon Christianson (2020 Past President), Mike Barletta (Treasurer) and Eric Thunberg (1st VP).



SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SACRAMENTO DIVISION:

Happy new year to all of my fellow alums in the Sacramento Division! Thank you for your continued support and trust in the California NAA. As we enter this new year I hope that you and your families are graced with health, happiness, and professional success.

Last year was incredibly challenging for all of us! It is my hope that we will be able to come together for multiple events this year after some additional headway is made against the pandemic. Hopefully we will have an event in the late spring or early summer.

Don't forget to mark your calendar's for our upcoming FBI LEEDS Conference, which will be held in South Lake Tahoe from May 17-20, 2021. The National Conference will be held in Orlando this July and planning continues to move along well (registration is not open yet). Finally, our annual CA Chapter Conference is being planned for October 5—7, in Carlsbad and should be great!

Despite these difficult and challenging times, I want to reinforce that what we do matters and your leadership is greatly needed! Stay safe and healthy, and I wish you all the best in the year to come!

Sacramento Division Scholarship Awards:

Because of reduced expenses and a reduction in applicants state wide, we were fortunate enough to provide scholarship funds to all three candidates who applied in the Sacramento Division this past year. Each recipient received a \$1000 check on behalf of the FBI NAA California Chapter. Congratulations to the following recipients for their hard work, dedication, and success to date. We wish them all the best!

- Patrick Giraudo - attends the Oregon Institute of Technology (grandson of Rich Couser, #148)
- Samuel Johnson - attends California Baptist University (son of Steve Johnson, #278)
- Collin McKinney - attends California State University, Maritime Academy (son of Russell McKinney, #240)

Youth Leadership Program Update:

As we all can attest, nothing this past year has not been affected by the pandemic. The Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is certainly no different. The YLP continues to be an excellent program for our youth, not only those interested in a career in law-enforcement, but those looking to develop themselves holistically and prepare for higher education and advancement in life.

Because of the unique challenges that we faced this year and the 2020 YLP being canceled, The board voted unanimously in October to send the two candidates selected from Southern California to the 2021 YLP (if it occurs). Because of this, and to keep the rotation between northern and Southern California on the same rotation, there will not be an application process until November of 2021. Only students from Southern CA will be eligible to apply for the 2022 YLP. Students in Northern CA, will be eligible to apply for the 2023 session in November of 2022.

Thank You,

Josh Ehlers - 2nd Vice President
FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.,
California Chapter
Assistant Chief, California Highway Patrol
FBINA Session 259
FBI CA LEEDS Session IV & XI



SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS CONTINUED

Those members who read the November newsletter, would have remembered seeing Charlie. The Historian had written an article on Charlie and his Porsche Carrera 911 convertible dream car. Charlie was a regular at ALL the FBINAA events, whether it was the National Conference, the State Re-trainer, the training lunches or the yearly shoot, he was there! Charlie always bought raffle tickets and supported the Chapter every which way. He was so proud of being a graduate of the National Academy and had many friends within the Association. Everyone in the Sacramento Division knew Charlie with his tall stature and gentle demeanor, even if you didn't know anyone else, you would know Charlie and could count on him being there.

Sadly, Charlie is now driving a Porsche on the big racetrack in the sky and his family, friends and acquaintances are all going to miss him. The following is what was put out by his Department...

“The Lodi Police Department would like to extend our condolences to the family of retired Lodi Police Captain Charlie Mauch who passed away on 1/4/2021. Captain Mauch was a member of the Lodi Police Department from 1967 until his retirement in 2002. During his 35 year career, Captain Mauch worked a variety of different assignments, ultimately promoting to the rank of Captain. Captain Mauch, thank you for your service to the Lodi Police Department and the community.”



R.I.P. Charlie. Gone but never forgotten.



SAN DIEGO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN DIEGO DIVISION 1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello San Diego Division members,

Happy New Year! I can only hope 2021 is an improvement over 2020. It's been so long since we've been able to see each other, reconnect with each other and just enjoy being able to meet and share a laugh and catch up.

2020 was trying on many fronts, and we have more work to do moving forward, and having a heart for service is more important than ever before.

Since we last met in person in March of 2020, we've had to adapt to unprecedented changes. Chapter meetings were curtailed, the National Conference was cancelled, CA LEEDS was cancelled, YLP was cancelled and the 2020 CA re trainer was cancelled, not to mention the personal and professional impacts as well.

The CA Executive Board continued to work together, communicating with the National Chapter, and acting as needed to keep our chapter on solid footing.

We voted to allow the two young ladies selected to attend YLP in June to attend the 2021 YLP program instead. Hopefully that is still going to occur.

- The 2021 CA Conference is scheduled for October 5-7, 2021 at Cape Rey Resort in Carlsbad http://www.fbinaacc.com/2021_State/exhibitor_packages.html
- We have started booking vendors and sponsors and registration will soon be open. I sincerely hope we can gather as before and that the 2021 Conference will be a huge success.

As soon as we get the all clear, we will start holding some Chapter lunches again as well and I can't wait to get started!

Please stay safe and healthy,

Eric Thunberg

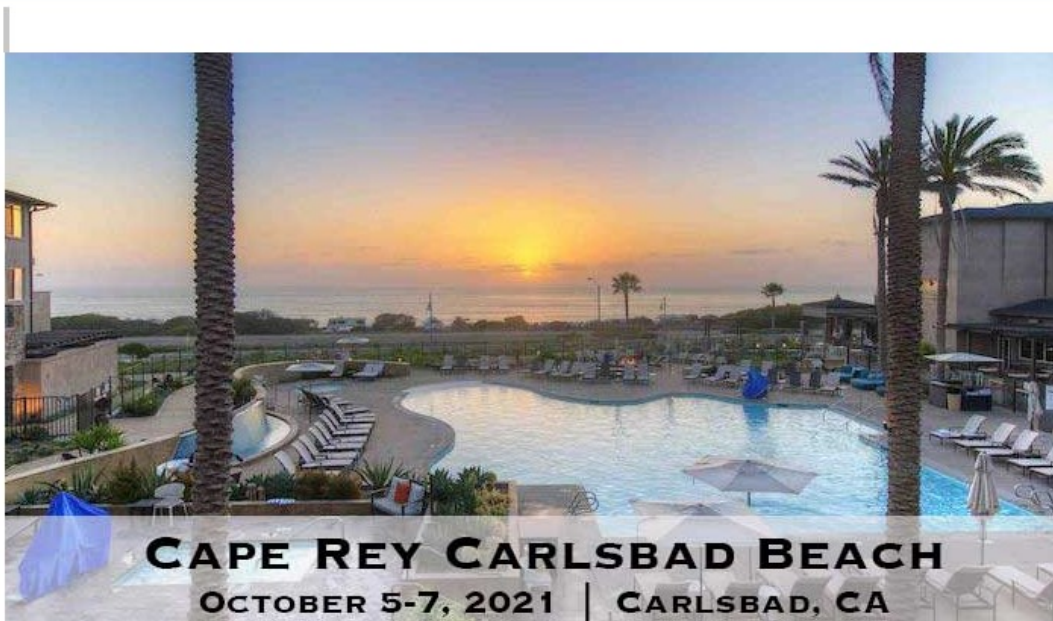
Eric Thunberg
FBINAA Inc. California Chapter
1st Vice-President
619-813-8477 - mobile
619-691-5230 - desk



2021 FBINAA California State Conference Re-trainer

2021 FBINAA CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE

[Home](#) [2021 LEEDS Conference](#) ▾ [2021 California State Conference](#) ▾ [Resources](#) ▾



Conference Links

[Registration Opening Soon](#)
[Conference Home](#)
[Agenda](#)
[Registration & Pricing](#)
[Hotel](#)

[Sponsor Packages](#)
[Exhibitor Packages](#)
[Vendor Info Page](#)

SPONSORS

[Visual Labs, Inc.](#)
Wednesday Lunch

[Thermo Fisher Scientific](#)
Thursday Lunch

EXHIBITORS

Look what is coming... the 2021 conference... in person! Yes, all the safety measures will be put in place and cleaning, sanitizing, mask wearing and social distancing will all be taken into consideration. It isn't just your education and training that we care about, it is also YOU!

Looking forward to seeing you there!



LOS ANGELES DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM LOS ANGELES DIVISION:

The Los Angeles Division will be hosting the 2021 FBI CA LEEDS Conference in May 2021 in Lake Tahoe, please contact me for more information.

Third 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

2021-3rd Vice President-LA Division FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.

California Chapter Captain, LAPD FBINA Session #267, losangelesvp@fbinaacalifornia.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY COORDINATOR (NAC), SAN DIEGO DIVISION — STEPHEN LASKOWSKI:

“I will keep it simple: It is unfortunate that the FBINA has been put on hold due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. Despite the setback, everyone involved with the NA from the staff, the field representatives, the alumni, and the future attendees all continue to uphold the standards for their agencies and the NA. The job does not end. The FBINA will reopen, we just don't know when. I look forward to resuming the necessary work to send the next session to the NA and to continued work with the alumni.”



SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION:

An introduction to your NEW 4th Vice President, Scott Savage.



Scott Savage is a graduate of FBI National Academy class # 237 and has over 32 years of law enforcement experience, having served in every facet of police work; covert, tactical, investigative, and administrative. He served the City of San Jose Police Department for nearly 26 years, retiring at the rank of Captain. Assignments during his tenure with the SJPD included Vice, Narcotics / Covert Investigations, the San Jose Airport, Police Personnel, and the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC). In addition to attending the FBINA while with the Police Department, he served as an Executive Fellow at FBI Headquarters in Washington DC when assigned to the National Joint Terrorism Task Force, post 9/11.

Scott left the San Jose Police Department when hired as the Assistant Chief Investigator with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. While acting in this capacity he continued his involvement with the FBINAA, hosted training, and was successful in reintroducing that agency to the National Academy. This agency continues to realize the value of the FBINA and continues to send personnel. He retired from this agency after another 6 years of service, bringing total sworn law enforcement experience to over 32 years in sum.

In addition to graduating from the NA, he has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from San Jose State University, a Master's Degree in Leadership from St. Mary's College, and is a graduate of the California POST Command College. He looks forward to the opportunity to bring added value to FBI National Academy Associates' members at all levels of their careers.



Message From Our Section 1 Representative

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION 1 REPRESENTATIVE:



JIM GALLAGHER

Happy New Year to our Section 1 leadership. I hope you are all well and easing into the new year. As you are all aware, 2021 continues to be a challenging time for all of law enforcement and for the FBINAA as well. I wanted to provide some updates and solicit some feedback on the below topics:

1. The FBINAA Training Committee, chaired by Section 4 Representative Bill Carbone, is looking for a Section 1 representative to the committee to replace Commander Jody Makuch (245th) who tragically lost his life in a motorcycle accident on September 7th, 2020. If you have someone who is interested or who you would recommend please send me their names, session # and a positive recommendation in a short email by **January 22, 2021**. The identified person should be an active member of your Chapter, have a strong training background and able to commit to regular Committee meetings.
 2. National Academy sessions continue to be rescheduled due to COVID concerns. A virtual session is being discussed and may be offered as a viable option; there is not timeline on the return to a more traditional, on campus session.
 3. Membership renewals for 2021 are now open and should have been emailed to all of our membership. Additionally, membership renewal can be done via the FBINAA App. Membership is the center of our great Association and our Section has done a great job of membership retention. Keep up the great work!
 4. YLP2021 will no longer be offered on NA property due to COVID concerns. Executive Director Howard Cook and National Office staff are exploring other options and will provide updates as soon as they have any.
 5. The ED and FBINAA Executive Board are exploring options for a potential Chapter Leadership Summit in 2021. Options under consideration include Las Vegas, Orlando and potentially Connecticut; no firm dates have been identified. As I learn more I will share it as soon as possible.
- Please continue to send me content for our Section 1 Instagram page **fbinaa_section1**. Good content includes Chapter events, promotions or other significant events important to your Chapter or our Section.

Thanks for all you do for the FBINAA and our Section. Be safe, Be well and Stay Involved.

Jim

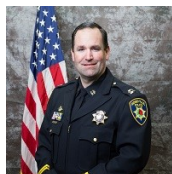
Jim Gallagher, Commander
Phoenix Police Department
Drug Enforcement Bureau
Desk - (602) 426-1089
james.gallagher@phoenix.gov

GLAD NEWS:

• Congratulations on their promotion goes out to:



• Congratulations to what was nearly our 4th VP. Instead **Michael Kihmm, NA 262**, was sworn in as the Deputy Chief of the Vallejo Police Department. Dep. Chief Kihmm began his career in 1991 with the Milpitas Police Department and later lateraled to the San Jose Police Department, where he promoted through the ranks to Captain. Dep. Chief Kihmm has a broad range of experience and has both worked and led numerous units and special projects. He holds a BS in Criminal Justice from San Diego State University and besides being a graduate of the NA, he is a graduate from the Police Executive Research Forum (Session 69) at Boston University and the Los Angeles Police Department's Leadership Academy (formerly West Point).



• Congratulations to **Troy Bergstrom, NA 252**, who was sworn in as the Acting Chief of Police for Roseville PD.



• Congratulations to **Alma Zamora, NA 273**, who was appointed to Assistant Sheriff of the San Mateo County S.O. Alma started her career with the East Palo Alto Police Department as a patrol officer and left in 2006 to work for San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, where she served in a number of different assignments before being promoted.

MORE GLAD NEWS:

Retirements:



• Congratulations Chief **Eve Berg, NA 240**, who has retired from Torrence PD . Eve will no doubt be staying busy as she is also a POST Commissioner, (and our Board member, Russell McKinney's classmate!) In 2011, Eve was appointed Chief of Police for the Manhattan Beach Police Department and served in that capacity for six-and-a-half years. In January 2018, she was appointed Chief of Police for the Torrance Police Department. She currently serves as a member on the California Police Chiefs' Association Law & Legislation Committee and the Training Committee and is the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association's representative on the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Memorial Foundation. Chief Berg is also a board member on the Governor's Medal of Valor Committee.



• Congratulations to Chief **Armando Corpus, NA 257**, who recently retired from the Milpitas Police Department after 30 years of service.



• congratulations to Chief **Cindy Renaud, NA 242**, who retired from the Santa Monica Police Department in October 2020.



• Congratulations to Chief **Diana Bishop, NA 219**, who retired from San Rafael Police Department in December 2020. Diana was San Rafael's chief for 9 years and worked for Santa Clara PD for 26 years before taking the chief's position.

SAD NEWS:

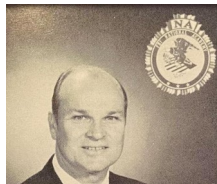
We are sad to report the passing of:



- Retired Orange County Sheriff **Sandra Hutchens (nee Anderson), NA 171**, passed away at the beginning of January 2021.



- Retired Chief **Robert "Bob" P. Blankenship, NA 146**, started working for the city of Redding in 1972 and was promoted to chief of police in 1988. He retired in 2002. The city's new police station on Cypress Avenue in 2015 was dedicated the Robert P. Blankenship Police Facility in his honor. It was part of a \$7.7 million project. Blankenship served on the State of California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and was President of the California Police Chiefs Association.



- We also say goodbye to Commander **Thomas "Tom" M. Vetter, NA 139**, who retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He was also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the US Marine Corps. Tom succumbed to COVID on January 16th, he was 85 yrs old. Thank you for your service to both your country and your community.

- Condolences to the family and friends of retired Marin County Sheriff, **George "Al" Howenstein Jr., NA 100**, who passed away in November 2020.
- Our sympathies go out upon hearing of another recent passing from our Los Angeles Division. **Robin Cunning, NA 117**, who was retired from the San Marino Police Department passed on 1/10/2021.
- **Charlie Mauch, NA 152 (See Sacramento Division Page)**

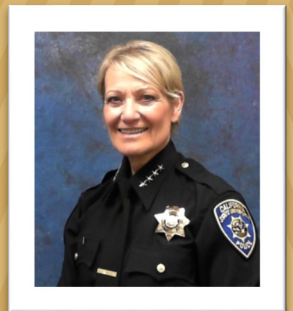
NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

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

Visit us on the web at www.fbinaacalifornia.com



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!

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