



FBINAA | CA NEWSLETTER



December 2022

FBINAA California Chapter Newsletter

Parting Message From Our 2022 Chapter President



Greetings Fellow Associates,

This year has passed so quickly that I'm surprised it's our final 2022 newsletter. As always, it's been an honor and privilege serving you and I've enjoyed meeting so many new associates this past year. I've come away with renewed confidence and gratitude for the FBINAA and the CA Chapter as I see so many passionate, committed and professional people working together.

2022 has been another great year for our Chapter especially coming out of COVID. We are seeing NA Sessions resuming and a lot of recent NA graduates attending our events, which is very encouraging. In fact, even though we fell about 100 members behind Florida for the largest US chapter, I'm confident that our efforts to provide quality events and incentives for early renewal will close that gap!

This year we successfully hosted, in-person, CA LEEDS and our Re-Trainer. The attendance at both was a little higher than preceding years! We are fortunate to have a strong group of Diamond-level sponsors, like NICE, SpyderTEch, Thermo-Fisher, Truleo and UPS that are crucial to our ability to host these events for our membership. They, along with our many other great sponsors make our continued success possible! So a HUGE thank you to all our sponsors.

Like the rest of you, I paid close attention to happenings across the country on November 8 and, regardless of your own leanings, I was grateful that there were no serious events at polls that would have again threatened our democracy. It's a bit frustrating, but not that unusual that several races remain too close to call and for those of you involved as candidates or working for agencies subordinate to elected leaders, my thoughts and hopes are with you as you anxiously await the results.

This year is ending on a busy note for me personally. I recently retired from Chula Vista PD with almost 30 years of service with an amazing Agency. I had accepted a job with the Village of Lake Delton, Wisconsin as Assistant Director of Public Safety/Assistant Police Chief. Just two days after my retirement, I moved my family the two thousand miles to Wisconsin, crazy I know! Since my new assignment doesn't start until January, I am enjoying a quasi-retirement and using the time to settle in. As I write this, we are enjoying our first real snowfall, something unique for a guy from San Diego County.

With so much recent change, I have been reminded of how incredibly strong the ties are to those we work with. I had been planning retirement for about a year and although I have no regrets with my career or my decision, I had no idea just how much an adjustment it would be to not see my CVPD family every day. Thankfully I have amazing support both at home and at CVPD who have made it a point to help me adjust to the changes. It's a great reminder of how important it is to be around good people, strong leaders and the leaders of tomorrow.

Since graduating from the NA (Session 255) in June of 2014, I have been nothing but grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the FBINAA. I look forward to continuing to develop new relationships, strengthening existing ones and supporting the amazing work of the FBINAA and the FBINAA Charitable Foundation.

I wish you all a very fruitful and blessed Thanksgiving and a peaceful Holiday Season!

Thank you and warm regards,

Eric Thunberg



*"It's only
after you
have
stepped
outside your comfort
zone that you begin
to change, grow and
transform"*

Roy T. Bennett

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Parting Message
- Historian's Message
- San Francisco Div News
- Sacramento Div News
- Los Angeles Div News
- San Diego Div News
- Congratulations
- 2022 Conference Photos & Sponsors
- Glad / Sad News



MESSAGE FROM OUR HISTORIAN



To all our California Chapter members:

In this issue there are updates from all four of the Divisions. Included in those updates are dates for the Christmas luncheons and those dates are coming up pretty quick, so if you haven't booked for a luncheon near you...do so immediately, you won't be sorry.

In addition to the updates, this issue has a lot of photos from the conference (Conference photos can also be seen on the Chapter Website at <https://www.fbinaacalifornia.com>). This year's conference was at the Resort in Lake Tahoe and what a beautiful setting that was. The speakers were first class, with relevant, interesting and informative presentations. Having Paul Butler there was definitely a plus as he is first rate and funny, if you have never had the pleasure of listening to Paul and his quick wit, you have missed out. Our VP's, who you all vote for by the way, work hard at putting together a first class conference. The 2023 conference promises to be just as good and will be in Southern California this time as the conferences are rotated each year between north and south.

As this year comes to a close, we say goodbye to our 2022 President (Eric Thunberg) and welcome the 2023 President (Josh Ehlers). We will also be welcoming some new Area Representatives, which is exciting as we will now be able to reach many more members, so thank you to those Area Reps who have stepped forward and become involved.

We cannot end the year without saying a huge thank you to the Board for all they do to make our Association the best. Also, a big shout out to all those members who have sent me information on promotions, transfers and passings, not forgetting those who have shared their hobbies and interests and let me write about them...(if you have a hobby you want to share, my email is below, I would love to hear from you).
THANK YOU ALL!

****FROM MYSELF AND YOUR CHAPTER BOARD, WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS SEASON****



Gina Haynes Di Napoli
FBINAA California Chapter
225th Session



SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION:

DIVISION NEWS

In October, the San Francisco Division hosted the Third Quarter Lunch at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Over 30 members were in attendance, including the FBI's newly assigned Special Agent in Charge for the San Francisco Division, Robert Tripp. Our presenter, Ms. Kimberly Pratt, past Executive Director of the FBI-related Infragard program and current private sector liaison for the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, addressed the importance of forging relationships with industry and provided ideas as to how this could be better addressed.



L—R: San Jose PD alumni; Ruben Chavez, NA 232, Mike Kihmm NA 262, Scott Savage NA 237, Laurence Ryan NA 240, Bill Powers (guest), Al McCulloch NA 188, and Tony Ciaburro NA 245, all in attendance at the S.F. Division's October's lunch.

The next SF Division event, the annual **Holiday Luncheon**, is scheduled for **Friday, December 9, 2022** at the Three Flames Restaurant in San Jose. We are pleased to welcome Special Agent in Charge Robert Tripp as our featured speaker. SAC Tripp previously served as an ASAC in the Sacramento Division and in Inspections at FBI Headquarters, among other assignments.

While it's a way out, planning is already underway for the 2024 California Chapter re-trainer. We are currently soliciting requests for proposals from venues in the San Francisco Division's area of responsibility and hope to have an update on dates and location shortly.

SCHOLARSHIP

The California Chapter awards four \$1,000 scholarships, one per division, on an annual basis to deserving students who have demonstrated exceptional academic and extracurricular achievements. This year the scholarship from the San Francisco Division was awarded to Aiden Ryan, son of member **Laurence Ryan, NA 240**. Aiden is an Eagle Scout and was recognized as a scholar athlete while in high school. He currently maintains a 3.9 GPA at Boise State and is on the Dean's List.

Scholarship applicants must be a child, stepchild, adopted child or grandchild of an active Association member in good standing or of a deceased member of the Association. Please watch for future solicitations for applications for next year's scholarships.





SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS CONTINUED...



SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION NEWS CONTINUED:

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

For 2023, applications for the Youth Leadership Program (YLP) will be solicited from the San Francisco and Sacramento Divisions, with each Division authorized to select one attendee. The program, June 22-30, 2023, is limited to rising high school sophomores and juniors, ages 14-16. The application process will be announced shortly.

CLASS 285

We would like to congratulate the following Command Officers for being selected to attend Class 285:

1. Tomas Corral, Commander, San Benito County Sheriff's Office
2. Eric Olson, Captain, Hollister Police Department
3. John Reynolds, Captain, Livermore Police Department
4. Michael Whittington, Captain, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
5. Ethan Andrews, Monterey Police Department
6. Jared Morrison, Lieutenant, Fremont Police Department

CLASS 284



Congratulations to Campbell Police Department **Captain, Ian White**, who is one of our newest attendees at the FBI National Academy, Session 284. Captain White gives a shout out to his Police **Chief, Gary Berg**, for the opportunity to attend. As we all know, it takes a lot of support to have a ranking member of the department gone for nearly three months. Captain White also gives a big shout out to his wife, Amy, who is holding down the home front and taking care of their children.

CONFERENCE ATTENDEES FROM SESSION 262



The Chapter Conferences are a great place to network and meet up with friends and classmates. At this year's conference we had FIVE attendees all from Session 262.

L-R: Tony Ray (Current Sheriff for San Diego County), John Watson (Ret. Captain from West Lafayette PD), Bill Hornbrook (Current Captain for Solano County S/O), Mike Kihmm (Ret. Captain from San Jose PD), and Jim Macedo (Ret. Undersheriff from Calaveras County and our NEW 4th VP)

PERSONNEL UPDATES

As always, we are seeking to keep our membership up to date with respect to, retirements, and changes in agencies. If you are aware of any of these changes, please send an email to sanfranciscovp@fbinaacalifornia.com so that the information can be published in future newsletters and in the NA Associates magazine.

Scott Savage

FBINAA California Chapter, 3RD Vice President
NA Session 237, sanfranciscovp@fbinaacalifornia.com





SACRAMENTO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SACRAMENTO DIVISION:

Fellow Alums

As the holiday season approaches, I want to thank you for your continued support and participation in our California Chapter and the Sacramento Division. We had a very successful 2022 Annual Conference at the Resort at Squaw Creek from October 25-27. We had a record number of sponsors and wonderful presenters that made the training event possible and brought interesting, insightful and professional presentations.



As I transition to be your California Chapter President in 2023, it is my goal to increase our membership, help recruit law enforcement professionals to the National Academy, expand the division/area representative program to provide more reach and events, and ensure you receive both personal and professional value from the California Chapter.

Please consider joining your fellow members at the upcoming **holiday luncheon** on Thursday, **December 8th**, at the Randy Peters Catering and Event Center in Roseville, CA. I look forward to seeing you there!

Here are another couple of highlights from Sacramento Division members:

- Congratulations to Sophia Christensen, daughter of **Daman Christensen, NA 242**, who was selected as the Sacramento Division's scholarship recipient for 2022. Sophia is a student at Boise State University and sets a wonderful example of what a hardworking and dedicated young woman can achieve.

- Congratulations to Lodi Police Chief, **Sierra Brucia, NA 283** who graduated from the FBI National Academy, Session 283. Chief Brucia is only the 12th officer in Lodi PD history to have graduated from the FBINA. The 283rd session consisted of two hundred and thirty five law enforcement officers from forty-nine states and the District of Columbia. The class included members from twenty-one countries, five military organizations and five federal and civilian agencies.



- Congratulations to Gustine Police Chief **Ruben Chavez, NA 232**, and the Gustine Police Department, who had the honor of hosting Portuguese President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who came to Gustine for a meet and greet. To honor the connection to the Portuguese community, the Gustine police officers wore the special Festa shoulder patches with the US/Portuguese flags displayed. (**Photo 1: Chief Chavez with Portuguese President Rebelo de Sousa and Gustine officers**)



Josh Ehlers - 1st Vice President
FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.,
California Chapter
Assistant Chief, California Highway Patrol





LOS ANGELES DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM LOS ANGELES DIVISION:

2023 California State Re-trainer Conference: **SAVE THE DATE**

The Los Angeles Division is hosting the 2023 California State Re-trainer Conference in Long Beach. So please mark your calendars and save the date August 29-31, 2023. The Westin Hotel Long Beach will be the venue and is located in downtown Long Beach right across from the Shoreline Village <https://shorelinevillage.com>, the Pike <https://thepikeoutlets.com>, and the harbor. The area has dozens of fun activities for the whole family, and the weather should be great! Here is a link to a video of the hotel:

[Westin Hotel Long Beach California Video Tour - YouTube](#)

Registration will be posted for the conference, and a link to hotel reservations will be provided at the end of January. <http://www.fbinaacc.com>

More information to come.

Donald Alway Named Assistant Director in Charge of the Los Angeles Field Office:

Director Christopher Wray has named Donald Alway, NA 204, as the assistant director in charge of the Los Angeles Field Office. Mr. Alway most recently served as the assistant director of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Alway joined the FBI as a special agent in 1996. He was first assigned to the Los Angeles Field Office, where he investigated drug trafficking organizations. After the 9/11 attacks, he assisted at the crime scenes in New York City and at the Pentagon. Mr. Alway was promoted to supervisory special agent in the Counterterrorism Division at Headquarters in 2003. He served as the deputy on-scene commander in the Iraq Theatre of Operations for the Regimes Crimes Task Force in 2005, then worked as the acting legal attaché in Doha, Qatar. In 2007, Mr. Alway transferred to the New York Field Office to supervise a joint terrorism task force squad, specialized responses, and special event planning. He was promoted in 2011 to assistant special agent in charge of the National Security Branch in the Cincinnati Field Office.

Mr. Alway returned to Headquarters in 2012 as a section chief in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, which investigates, prevents, counters, and responds to weapons of mass destruction threats and events. He left the WMDD in 2014 when he was appointed special agent in charge of the Jackson Field Office in Mississippi.

Mr. Alway was appointed the deputy assistant director of the Training Division in 2016, and as assistant director in 2018. The Training Division, based in Quantico, Virginia, provides training for FBI special agents, intelligence analysts, and other specialized law enforcement training.





LOS ANGELES DIVISION NEWS CONT...

Los Angeles Division Holiday Luncheon after the Holidays:

Stay tuned. With everything going on in people's lives in December, the logistics didn't work out. I would love to have ADIC Alway as a guest speaker, and I'm working with his office for his availability in the middle of January. I'm also working with Sofi Stadium as the venue to get a tour of the Stadium. The Rams are still Superbowl Champions!



Session 285:

Session 285 candidates from the LA Division will begin their journey toward the Yellow Brick Road on January 9, 2023. Congratulations to the Los Angeles Division Candidates for Session 285, which are:

1. Captain Adonis Cuchlow II, Los Angeles Airport Police Division
2. Lieutenant Brian McPhail, Long Beach Police Department
3. Lieutenant Joshua (Josh) Ritchey, Ontario Police Department
4. Captain Anthony Vega, Rialto Police Department
5. Lieutenant Woodrow (Woody) Vega, Santa Maria Police Department
6. Commander Richard (Joe) Weber, Santa Ana Police Department
7. Lieutenant Roy Yoo, Los Angeles Police Department

Promotions:

Congratulations to Ed Varso (Session 267) for being appointed as the Chief of Police for the Menifee Police Department this past July. Ed is my fellow session mate, and I wish him the best in his new endeavor.



Personnel Updates:

As always, we are seeking to keep our membership up to date for promotions, retirements, and changes in agencies. If you are aware of any of these changes, please email losangelesvp@fbinaacalifornia.com so the information can be published in future newsletters and the NA Associates magazine.

Thank you all for what you do everyday. Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas Season.

Randy Goddard, 2021 - 2nd Vice President (LA Division)
FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.,
California Chapter
LAPD Commander
FBINA Session 267





SAN DIEGO DIVISION NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN DIEGO DIVISION :

Hello San Diego Division members,

Holiday Luncheon

We've scheduled our Holiday luncheon for Thursday, December 8, 2022 from 11am to 1pm. Please see the flyer. For those of you that have not attended a Christmas luncheon, I encourage you to come out to spend time with your fellow graduates. Our guest speaker will be San Diego FBI Special Agent in Charge Stacey Moy.



FBINAA LEEDS Conference



The FBINAA LEEDS conference is scheduled for Monday, May 22 to 25, 2023. We plan to put out more information in the near future for those of you planning to attend. Here is the Save The Date flyer for your information.

Session 283

I would like to congratulate our recent graduates of class #283, they are:

1. Matthew Cole, Lieutenant, Oceanside Police Department
2. Benjamin Kelso, Captain, San Diego Police Department
3. Anthony O'Boyle, Lieutenant, San Diego County Sheriff's Department



Session 285

Congratulations to those who will be attending Session 285:

1. Dustin Lopez, Captain, San Diego County Sheriff's Department
2. Kevin Wadhams, Lieutenant, San Diego Police Department
3. Billy Weese, Lieutenant, Oceanside Police Department
4. Sean Acuna, Sergeant, Calexico Police Department

I would also like to congratulate our own FBINAA California Chapter President **Eric Thunberg** on an amazing career with the Chula Vista Police Department and his leadership with our board. Thank you Eric!

I wish everyone a festive holiday season with an abundance of love, peace, happiness, and bright memories. I hope to see you all very soon at one of our many upcoming events.

Alex Hernandez, 2022 - 4th Vice President (San Diego Division)
FBI National Academy Associates, Inc.,
California Chapter
National City Police Captain
FBINA Session 275





Congratulations



Chula Vista Police Department Retirement News Edition

HEADLINE NEWS

Captain Eric Thunberg Retires After 29 Years

Join us to Celebrate!

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 – Starting at 6:00 pm



Eric Thunberg, our 2022 President, has retired from Chula Vista PD after nearly 30 years of service and taken on a position as the Deputy Chief of a department in Wisconsin! As we can see from the headline news, Eric started with hair! As we all know, this job can have you pulling your hair out, so be warned :-)

We will miss you Eric, but know you will always have a home in California and with the FBINAA you will always have friends. Wishing you every success on your new journey, may the fishing be great and the food even greater.



L-R: Past President and current Treasurer Mike Barletta, Eric and Past President and current Secretary Max Santiago



Eric and his wife celebrate his retirement from Chula Vista PD.



Eric enjoying a wonderful meal with the Board.





October 2022 Re-Trainer in Lake Tahoe, California

This year the conference re-trainer was held at the Squaw Creek Resort in Lake Tahoe. Two days before the start of the conference there was a flurry of snow, making the scenic mountain and pines look snowy white. Although chilly, the snow had melted and the sun shone for those at the conference. It was a time for getting together with old friends, learning what is up and coming in policing, hearing about major incidents and how to deal with them and seeing what the numerous vendors had to offer. As usual, the speakers were first rate, especially Paul Butler, who flew across the United States to give his presentation. If you have never heard Paul speak, you are missing a treat, he is pure entertainment.

Thank you to 1st VP Josh Ehlers and his team for putting on a conference to be proud of. Here are some highlights.



Opening ceremonies, thank you to Chaplain Mindi Russell for giving the Invocation, for FBI SAC Sean Ragan, Placer Co. Sheriff Wayne Woo and FBINAA National President Tim Braniff for being our honored guests.



Paul Butler with Historian, Gina Di Napoli (above) and with 1st VP Josh Ehlers and President Eric Thunberg (right).



Josh Ehlers, Eric Thunberg and National President Tim Braniff (above)





October 2022 Re-Trainer in Lake Tahoe, Continued...

Your **2023 California Chapter Board** is sworn in at the end of the Conference. Thank you FBI SAC Sean Ragan for doing the honors to swear the Board in.



The Executive Board for 2023 (L-R) Past President Eric Thunberg, 3rd VP Alex Hernandez, Secretary Max Santiago, President Josh Ehlers, 2nd VP Scott Savage, 1st VP Randy Goddard, new 4th VP Jim Macedo and FBI Special Agent David Wong. Congratulations to our Board members.



GALA PICTURES



Craig proudly receives a Resolution





October 2022 Re-Trainer in Lake Tahoe, Continued...

Chapter President, Eric Thunberg, presented a gift to the Board members for their work throughout the year. As you can see it was a very jovial occasion with much laughter to be had.



1st VP Josh Ehlers (below), in order to present President Thunberg with his gift, felt he needed to be on the same level, so standing on the chair helped even things out.



The Hospitality Suite is always a popular place to hang out and meet up with other members.



October 2022 Re-Trainer Thank you to our sponsors

In order to put on re-trainers for our members and make it successful with the best of speakers and entertainment, we rely on our wonderful sponsors. Therefore, here are a few pictures with our sponsors so you can recognize who they are and look to them when you are seeking uniforms, software, equipment and anything else you may need to improve and update your departments.



SPIDR TECH



THERMO FISHER



UNITED PARCEL SERVICE



IMPROVING POLICE PROFESSIONALISM



GLAD NEWS:

Congratulations on their promotion goes out to:



- Many congratulations go out to our FBINAA 2022 Chapter President, Captain **Eric Thunberg, NA 255**, who recently retired from Chula Vista Police Department where he had served nearly 30 years. Eric has had little time to enjoy retirement as he has taken a position as a Deputy Chief with the Lake Delton Police Department in Wisconsin! Yes, you heard right, Wisconsin. We wish Eric all the best and hope he has invested in some warm uniforms.



- Just in case you missed this promotion in the Los Angeles Division News section, it is being repeated here. Congratulations to **Ed Varso, NA 267**, who was appointed as the new Police Chief for the Menifee Police Department, in Riverside County. Ed was previously the Chief of Escondido PD.



MORE GLAD NEWS:

Congratulations on their retirements:



- Congratulations go out to Assistant Chief of Police, **Marc Coopwood, NA 253**, who has retired from the City of Beverly Hills Police Department. Prior to becoming the Assistant Chief, Marc was a Police Captain with the Sacramento Police Department. Marc is a two-time President of the California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) and is a graduate of the FBINA, P.O.S.T. Command College and the Senior Management Institute for Police.

Not wasting any time, Marc had two days of retirement before stepping right in as the Vice President, Public Sector, for Apex Technology Management, where he is leading teams in developing and implementing cybersecurity programs. We wish Marc well in his new career!



- Congratulations to Captain **Christopher J. Williams, NA 279**, who retired from the El Monte Police Department earlier this year. We wish him all the very best in his retirement.



- Congratulations to Chief **Brian Johnson, NA 218**, who retired from the El Centro Police Department. Chief Johnson started his career in 1989 with the Los Angeles Police Department before moving over to the Upland Police Department to be their Chief from 2015 to 2017. He then moved to El Centro PD as their Chief. We wish you all the best Brian.

SAD NEWS:

We are sad to report the passing of:



• Our condolences go out to the family, friends and loved ones of FBINA graduate, **Edwin "Ed" Flint Jr., NA 201**, who sadly passed away in May of this year. Ed was a retired US Army Colonel (91st Division) and a retired Chief of Police. He started his career as a CHP officer in 1973 and four years later transferred to the Sacramento Sheriff's Department. Ed went on to become the Chief of Police for Santa Rosa PD (2004—2008) and later the Chief of Atherton Police Department.

R.I.P. Chief Flint and thank you for your service.



• Condolences go out to the friends and loved ones of retired Escondido Police Department Chief, **Duane Douglas White, a graduate of NA 167**, which graduated in December of 1991. Chief White passed away peacefully on September 2, 2022. Chief White had been a soldier in the Army from 1964-1969 and served in the Vietnam war. In 1972, he started a career at Escondido PD, rising through the ranks until he became the Chief in 1997. Chief White faithfully served his Department and the Community until his retirement in 2006. Chief White, we thank you for your service.



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