

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © *California VI*

bk-cavi.org



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JUNE 2026



To be old and wise you must first be young and stupid.
(Anonymous)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

JULY 11, 2026

Featured in
this edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Bill Moss' name was drawn. Since Bill was not present he did not win the \$15.

By being present at the monthly Blue Knight Chapter meeting you become eligible for the drawing. If you are present, you win the amount in the pot. If you are not present \$5 is added to the pot. Currently the amount is \$20.



THE BLUE KNIGHTS



The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., is an International fraternal organization comprised of law enforcement officers and their families who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

Headquartered in Bangor, Maine, the Blue Knights® operates under an international constitution and bylaws within an organizational structure of an international board of directors and eleven regional conferences, each conference including a number of local chapters. The Blue Knights® promotes safe and responsible motorcycling and sponsors fund raising in support of numerous charities.

The inception of the Blue Knights® came in April 1974 when a Bangor Maine, police officer had the idea of forming a motorcycle club for people in law enforcement. Since then, the club has grown to become the foremost and largest international law enforcement motorcycle club. Today, there are over twenty thousand Blue Knights® worldwide in six hundred in six hundred chapters in the twenty-nine countries and one commonwealth.



OUR CHAPTER IN SAN DIEGO

CALIFORNIA VI



Chapter California VI was formed in 1987 by a group of seventeen San Diego area law enforcement officers, some retired and some on active duty. We have been chartered since January 1988, making us one of the oldest currently existing Blue Knights® chapters in California. Our members are full-time, part-time and retired law enforcement officers from local, county, state and federal levels.

We are presently one of the largest chapters in the Southwest Conference, with over 40 members on our rolls. Chapter California VI members strive to promote a positive image both of law enforcement and motorcycling. We are active in community service projects, and each year we donate to local charities.

Chapter meetings are held at 0900 on the second Saturday of the month at the Broken Yolk Restaurant, 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, CA. (Unless that is a holiday weekend) After the breakfast and one hour meeting, we go for a ride.

Persons interested in becoming a member may contact Vice President Ray Juanengo by email at: BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

Ken Smith

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ray Juanengo

SECRETARY

Mike Wagner

TREASURER

Michael Belluso

DIRECTORS

Richard Bennett

Randy Alldredge

Arturo Romero

CHAPLAIN

Randy Alldredge

MORALE & WELFARE

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

John Lopotosky

WEBMASTER

Ken Smith

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Bennett

RIDE COORDINATOR

Randy Alldredge

SAFETY OFFICER

Mike Manen

QUARTERMASTER

Alex Cross

GREETER

Tina Lopotosky

PLEDGE: As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights®



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ken Smith President

JUNE 2026



Greetings to all my brother and sister Blue Knights far and wide – WE DID IT!!!!

We have just had what is arguably one of the best Southwest Conferences of all time. And after experiencing it, and hearing the feedback from other Blue Knights who have attended many SWCs, as well as compared to Conferences around the country, and even around the globe, CAVI's reputation for hosting a stellar conference is now "legendary status"! For our members who have never been to a Conference, I urge you to attend the next one in Yuma AZ. It is a truly remarkable thing to experience the level of brotherhood at these events. It is like *The Matrix* movie, "No one can be told what The Matrix is, you must experience it for yourself." We also want to make sure we fully support our brothers and sisters at Arizona X who will be hosting next year.

I cannot express my many thanks and gratitude enough to our SWC Committee, who pulled off this herculean feat of camaraderie. BIG THANK YOUs to; Mike Belluso, Treasurer and SWC Committee Chairperson, Sistiana Chestnut, Betsy Wheeler, Director and Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire Richard Bennett, Michelle Juanengo, and to the many helpers and ambassadors who made it happen. Big thanks to Secretary Mike Wagner who is now a NASCAR certified golf cart driver. And a very special thanks to Blue Knight CAVI Member Brian Duncan for taking extra special care of our International President on his last day in San Diego. For all of you who stepped up, and on behalf of our entire CAVI Chapter, and the entire SWC, WE THANK YOU.

We had elections at this year's SWC and I was elected in a close race as your new SWC Vice Chair West. My Blue Knight brother who was also a candidate for the position and I, both share the same goal: to make sure we are taking care of our members. We also congratulated each other and agreed to keep each other in the loop to make sure I do a good job and get it done right! I am deeply honored to have been selected and will continue to always put Blue Knights members FIRST. Congratulations to our new SWC Board, led by our new Chairperson Mark Beluscak. Much respect and many thanks to our outgoing SWC Board members, many of whom helped me a lot!

Speaking of elections, our humble Chapter will be conducting nominations and elections this year. We anticipate a couple of openings and possibly even some positions not running unopposed as usual. I look forward to seeing our members stepping up and putting in work for our Chapter. Be ready with nominations and if you have questions, please contact any current Board member and we will be glad to help. If you are considering a position, know your Chapter ALWAYS needs good people to step up and serve. This is what keeps our Chapter and our organization running: good people continuing to serve.

We also are deep into planning for our annual Chapter picnic. One wrinkle this year is we need an actual location to host it as our usual roost is unavailable. Several ideas have

already been floated, but the best thing to do is put it in writing! Get a cost assessment and description of the venue, explaining how it would work for us, keeping in mind our past picnics and location and all the benefits. Submit those ideas ASAP to the Board so we can get a new location locked in.

We have begun our annual raffle ticket sales. One of our newest members, Jen Wade, has stepped up and is handling the ticket issuance and collections this year. Please see Jen at the next meeting to get your ticket book (or three books!). Remember, EVERY MEMBER of CAVI will be issued at least one book to sell. It's only ten tickets and we have until December to get it done. The revenue from the sales funds our Charities as well as our annual Christmas Party.

We are also looking at ways to save money by possibly moving our Christmas Party from our current location. If you have a suggestion, again, please get the details and submit it in writing to the Board, keeping in mind the date we like to have it annually (second Saturday), buffet vs plated options, parking, hotel accommodations, service personnel, the works. The last few years the Christmas Party Committee has mainly consisted of one person, so any info that is documented and easy to present to the membership is most helpful.

My wife Patti and I are still coming down from the SWC experience (what a rush!), everything from the sheer number of events and activities CAVI provided, the rides, the unique awards we created, Handcuff Alley, endless raffle prizes, brotherhood, and so much more. I was getting depressed after the banquet on the last night, hanging out in Handcuff Alley with so many members, watching as one by one we all had to retire for the night and go our separate ways, knowing I probably won't see many of my brothers and sisters until next year. That feeling quickly went away the following morning during the load out lol.

We truly have a great thing going with Blue Knights, and it's all because of all of YOU. So happy for how the SWC turned out, and as always, PROUD TO HUMBLY SERVE.

Ride With Pride!

Ken



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary

**June 13, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**



Call to Order: President Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 0903 hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Rick Carlson

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I
Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members

Prayer given by Chaplain Alldredge. May we give Thanks for what we have each day. Let us pray for our First Responders, Military and all our club members to be safe in their travels and also watch over the riders on the after-morning ride (AMR).

Introductions/Guests:

Blue Knights Pledge

"As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights."

President Ken Smith - Present

1. Southwest Conference Review. Somewhat disappointed with the participation of the General Membership. More members should have volunteered during the conference. Mentioned the conference was a smashing success. People signing the guest book made positive comments. The SWC committee had two options: One, the club could make money, or Two, make the SWC a memorable experience for all participants. We chose the second option. Additionally, a special thanks to Brian Duncan who was kind enough to entertain International President of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club (LEMC), Russ Harper. Brian took him home and then to lunch before taking him to San Diego International Airport.
2. Raffle Tix. Acquired 500 raffle tickets. Jennifer Wade has volunteered to take charge of the raffle tickets. Each member will be assigned a book of raffle tickets to sell.
3. Elections. This is election year. The Vice President position and all other positions will be open to the general membership. At the Chapter Picnic, a discussion about upcoming election and nominations for the various positions will take place. Richard stated he will remind members in the Newsletter on election dates, etc.
4. Annual Picnic. We need an alternate location for the picnic. Ken mentioned he could host the picnic at his home; but there is no pool. An email will be sent out to the membership.

Vice President Ray Juanengo - Not Present

1. The Vice President's position will be open this coming election.

Secretary Mike Wagner - Present

1. Mentioned during the SWC there were only positive comments made by other club members. SWC Chairman Mark Beluscak said our club did an outstanding job hosting the conference.

Treasurer Mike Belluso - Present Finance report given to the general membership. The club made a profit of \$3,527.34. There were 147 participants at the Southwest Conference.

1. A motion was made by Mike Belluso and Seconded by Richard Bennett for the club to pick-up some of Ken's expenses made during the SWC.

Immediate Past President John Lopotosky - Present

1. Sign-up Sheets for the annual picnic were passed around the membership.
2. Encouraged all members to Sign-Up to the club's Facebook/Website.
3. Informed the membership how to Log-onto the International Website. First, go to Membership Log-on and in the Name Block enter your membership card number and in the Password Block in capital letters type in your Last Name.
4. The International SWC to be held in Calgary, Canada from July 19 - 25, 2026.
5. The 2027 Blue Knights European Conference (EC) will be hosted in Waidring, Austria.

Chapter Directors:

Director and News Editor Richard Bennett - Present

1. Need to certify the 2026 Procedures Manual. Pass around copy of amended procedures manual to be read/voted upon by members. John Lopotosky made a motion for the club to approve the Procedures Manual and Seconded by Bill Crow. Unanimously approved by the general membership.
2. Donation of FRS radios to the chapter.
3. Newsletter recap of SWC. Plans to credit both the Belluso's/Wheeler's. Needs candid stories from members who attended the conference.
4. Call for photos and stories during the SWC. This edition of the Newsletter will contain SWC articles.
5. Need names of some participants; Harmonica player, singer, awards recipients, etc.
6. Mentioned Benny at the Handlery Hotel said our club was one of the best organizations to host an event there. Sistiana wants to acknowledge Handlery Hotel staff, Photo Booth Girls and Kyle Fitchhorn who provided Slow Cone Training. She emphasized that Richard Bennett was a Core Member of the SWC.
7. Pleased to see members who have not been to a meeting in a while.
8. Again, thanked the Core Members of the SWC. (Mike/Sistiana Belluso and Allen and Betsy Wheeler).

Director Randy Alldredge - Present

1. Informed members who are American Motorcycle Association (AMA) members to check when they need to renew their memberships. Board of Directors (BOD) need to do the same.
2. Presented "Guardian Bells" to new members Jennifer Wade and Aaron Roberts.

Director Emeritus Bill Crow - Present

1. He mentioned this was the third time this club has hosted the SWC and this was the best one yet!

Director Arturo Romero - Not Present

Staff:

Quarter Master Alex Cross - Not Present

1. The club sold a lot of merchandise at the SWC.

Chapter VI Web Master Ken Smith - Present

Ride Coordinator Michael Belluso - (Randy temporarily filling this position)

1. Broken Yolk Café, Pacific Beach - to - IB Forum Sports Bar and Grill located at 1079 Seacoast Drive. Imperial Beach CA 91932

Safety Officer Mike Manen - Present

1. He attended the European Conference in Ireland in 2023. He mentioned European Conferences are a lot of fun.
2. Plans on writing an article about Helmets (hitting the ground) for the Newsletter.

Allen Wheeler - Not Present

(Morale Welfare Coordinator) Michelle Juanengo - Not Present

(Greeter/Raffle Sales/Welfare Coordinator) Tina Lopotosky - Not Present

Jorge Ortiz - Not Present

Poker Chip Drawing: Bill Moss's name drawn. Not Present. Drawing increases to \$20.

50-25-25 Winners: First: Wendy Cross \$50 Second: Randy Alldredge \$50

Good of the Order First, Jennifer Wade has Raffle Tickets and sold 35 at the SWC. Second, Rick Carlson stated he enjoyed the SWC. Thanked Richard Bennett for organizing the Slow Cone Demonstration/Training Competition. Informed the membership about San Diego County hosting the Motor Officers Association Training/Competition in September. Named in honor of "Terry Bennett". Motor Officers from five states will compete in full uniform. The club can put up a canopy for \$150. This year the competition will be held at Sea World. The club can provide volunteers to help at the event. Third, Ken Smith informed the membership there is a new SWC (BOD's) and he was selected as Vice Chairman West.

Motion to Adjourn by: First: Brian Duncan

Second: Mike Manen

Meeting Adjourned at 10:02 hours

Next General Meeting: On July 11, 2026, at the Broken Yolk Café located at 1851 Garnet Avenue. The meeting starts at 0900.



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



HELMET HEALTH

I have been thinking about replacing/updating some of my safety equipment, starting with my helmet.

On a few occasions its rolled off the seat, or fell off the handlebars onto the concrete shop floor. There are lots of opinions on the internet about replacement.

One website says if the height was more than three feet, then yes it should be replaced. Other opinions say only if there is something inside the helmet when dropped (head, waterbottle, etc.); anything with weight that can compress the foam.

Any time its dropped it should be inspected by removing the comfort foam and inspecting the interior and the exterior.

More than likely your helmet will only have cosmetic damage. Some companies will inspect your helmet if you send it, but they also stress there could be damage that you cannot see. So the big take away here is that you might want to think about buying a new helmet.



Worst case scenario
(NOT MY HELMET)



Reflections

by Richard Bennett

2026 Blue Knight Southwest Conference San Diego, California



Just before this time last year our chapter members were reminiscing that it had been 20 years since BK CA VI hosted the Southwest Conference. At each Southwest Conference in the past ten years, there has been an anonymous call from the back of the room for San Diego to host; each time we demurred.

This time, Mike Belluso had been instrumental in convincing us we could, and should, do it. As a result, San Diego volunteered at the 2025 SWC to host the 2026 event. Then the work began.

Throughout the following 12 months, a SWC committee held weekly meetings, doing all the preliminary things that were necessary. A budget was created, a venue selected, and logistics were achieved. On June 2, 2026, California VI opened the doors to the Southwest Conference at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley.

A unique "Handcuff Alley" was created, using the parking spaces between two hotel buildings for our exclusive use. Large tents created space for activities, and the remaining area was reserved for motorcycle parking. Everything was in one place, skillfully separated from the rest of the Hotel guests.

Day one: Tuesday, June 2nd. Guests were welcomed at the front of the hotel. Conference registration and hotel registrations were in one location. SWC Ambassadors shuffled arrivals to the hotel lobby, and then to the private parking in Handcuff Alley. The "90's Band" performed for our guests between 7pm and 9pm, with our chapter president Ken Smith showing his skill as drummer for the band.



President Ken Smith on drums

Day two: Wednesday, June 3rd. A busy day. The hotel provided breakfast for our guests each day, and it was common for everyone to gather at 7am in the restaurant before beginning the day. More registrations were done, and two major events happened. A guided ride to Palomar Mountain, home of the world-famous telescope, was done. At the same time a presentation of motorcycle skills was presented by Kyle Fitchhorn. Kyle is a motorcycle officer for National City Police, and owner of the training school, Slo



Officer Kyle Fitchhorn

Cones. Kyle gave a one-hour classroom presentation, and then invited those in attendance to practice their skills on a course he set up in the parking lot. The President's meeting took place in the afternoon, followed by the daily visit to Handcuff Alley, where we were entertained by musician Kris Wott.

Day three: Thursday, June 4th. "Honoring Veterans" guided ride took place. This was so popular, the group was broken down into three smaller groups; each with three Ride Guides. The ride stopped at the Soledad Veterans Memorial, then went to Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. After brief stops at both locations, the ride continued to the USS Midway Museum. Free admission and paid parking were provided by president Ken Smith, Security Director for the USS Midway.



When riders returned to the hotel, a BYRNA demonstration took place in Handcuff Alley. BYRNA is a weapon that is not a firearm, but uses projectiles powered by CO2 cartridges. Participants were encouraged to try the weapons at a make-shift range. A unique photo booth was provided at the end of the evening, producing "flip books" that simulated movement.

Day four: Friday, June 5th. The "big finish". A general Membership meeting was held after breakfast, with one last guided ride to San Diego beaches. After lunch, everyone prepared for the Banquet dinner and related Ceremonies. After a no-host cocktails event, the Banquet began at 6PM. We were pleased to have International Blue Knight President Russ Harper and his wife at our event. Russ has an easy-going personality and we learned has musical talent (he would sing anytime someone suggested it).



President & Mrs. Harper



The event was officially started with the San Diego Police Honor Guard presenting "colors". After the Pledge of Allegiance, Alexandria Jane Ignacio sang the National Anthem. Our Keynote Speaker was Assistant Chief Dan Grubbs of the San Diego Police Department.



Chief Dan Grubbs

After a plated dinner was served, the meeting continued with installation of SWC Board of Director officers. Our own chapter president, Ken Smith was elected as SWC Vice-president West. Annual SWC awards were presented to William "Bill" Gert, Colorado III for Blue Knight of the Year, Arlene Jackson, Colorado III for Lady Knight of the Year and Tracy Raybon, California X for the Amos Elliott Award. After dinner we all said our "good byes" to our Blue Knight friends until we meet next time.

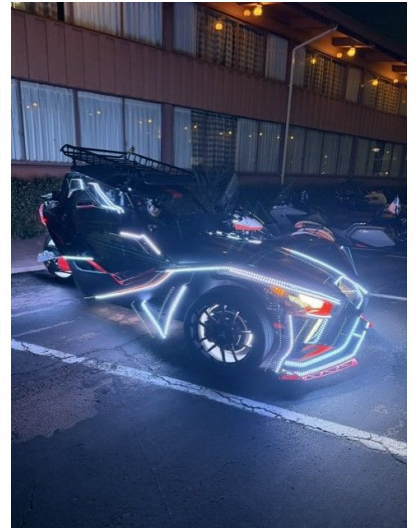
San Diego has done it again! After 20 years, we hosted a very successful Southwest Conference. Comments in our registration book made by our guests indicated overwhelming satisfaction with the 2026 Southwest Conference.

But we didn't do it alone. Special recognition goes to Michael Belluso, Sistiana Chestnut and Betsy Wheeler for doing the "heavy lifting". Logistics, venue, registration and on-site management were done by this trio. Also, the "volunteer army" of California VI members kept everything on schedule. Special acknowledgement is due to our six Ambassadors for being on-call and quickly responding to guest and staff needs.

Random, Candid photos at the SWC

Photos contributed from several sources







BK News You Can Use The Town Crier



Election & Awards

Our Chapter has some important decisions to make in the coming months. Elections happen every two years, and this is an election year.

Also, every year we have the opportunity to recognize our members who have earned the Chapter Blue Knight and Chapter Lady Knight of the year.

Elections

Our Chapter Procedures manual outlines the criteria for elections. Every Board of Director position is open to members. Existing BOD and members interested in a position must declare their intention to run. Potential candidates must be nominated by another member in good standing, and must accept the nomination to run for that office. Nominations will be accepted at the regularly scheduled membership meeting September 12, 2026. No specific voting date is specified in the Chapter Procedures manual, but may be announced by the Chapter President. (Perhaps this may be reviewed in the annual Chapter Procedures for 2027.)

If the number of nominated names does not exceed the number of positions open, the membership may elect to accept all nominated names without a need for a general election. This shall be by a majority vote of those in attendance at the September general membership meeting. If there are more nominations for a position than are open, then established election procedures will be followed.

New Chapter Board of Directors will be formally installed at the December 2026 general meeting.

Awards

Every year Blue Knight Chapters may nominate members for Blue Knight of the Year and Lady Knight of the year. It is not too early to nominate a brother or sister Blue Knight for these awards. Nomination forms will be included with the next edition of the Knightly News, along with qualifications for the awards.

We all know Blue Knights who have consistently worked to provide members with extra support or help maintain programs throughout the year; maybe for several years. This is your opportunity to give them recognition for those efforts.

Don't be shy. Applications need to be sent directly to our Chapter President, Ken Smith. Also don't assume someone else will make the nomination; two nominations are better than none!

Please be active members in our Chapter! There are lots of members with talent and experience who can contribute to the success of CA VI. Be one of them!



CHAPLAINS CORNER

by Randy Alldredge

JUNE 2026



A simple prayer for this month.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray this month, June 2026, for peace. Peace within our souls. Peace in our minds, hearts, and households. We pray for peace within our country. We pray for the economy, for those that are struggling to survive as we watch the cost-of-living rise to an all-time recent high.

We are thankful for all that you provide for us. We thank You for having a personal plan for all of us and we pray You help guide us straight to continue the path You have selected for us.

We pray for understanding of those things happening in our personal lives, and pray that although sometimes the hardships are unexplainable, there is reason You have selected us to navigate the waters of adversity.

Thank You Lord for always being by our sides, watching over each and every one of us. God is Great!

In Jesus' name

Amen!

God, please bless each one of us in June 2026!!!

Note: If anyone needs special prayer, please email me at ran5150@yahoo.com so I can add you to my prayer list. All prayer requests are confidential.



FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS



ALEX CROSS



\$45



\$10



\$45



\$10



\$10



\$10



\$5



\$10



\$10

The above items are immediately available from the Quarter Master. Contact Alex at the monthly meetings or by email.

Submit your Blue Knight articles to the Knightly News

The Knightly News is published monthly by Blue Knights California VI. All members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles deemed appropriate include but are not limited to: articles regarding motorcycle-oriented stories, personal travel, police functions or informational / technical topics.

As a reminder, any submissions of re-printed articles must clearly give credit to the original author. Copyrighted material must have permission of the author to be eligible. This can be remedied by writing up an outline of the article and by referencing the original author.

Articles that are deemed inappropriate for publication include and are not limited to: articles regarding controversial, personal choices, religious positions or advocacy for questionable action. Questions about material that does not fall clearly within the guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Chapter President by the Editor, for a decision of appropriateness. If necessary, the Board may review the article and make a decision to publish or not to publish.

Submit articles to Editor: electrotalk2610@outlook.com

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

FRIDAY WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The members of Blue Knights California VI - San Diego, are honored to support the following charities. Donations are encouraged.



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



<https://nextstepservicedogs.org/>



www.sdpolicemuseum.com



San Diego Police Widows and Orphans Fund

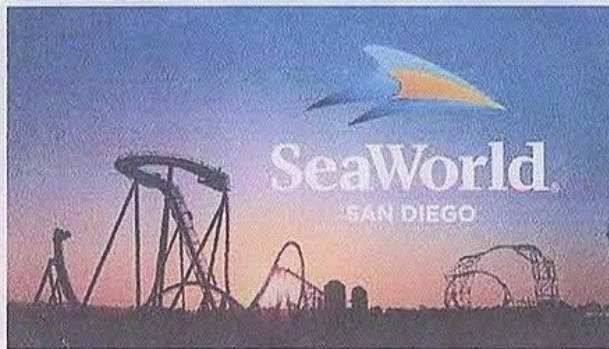
www.sdpoa.org

UPCOMING RIDES



SAN DIEGO COUNTY
MOTOR OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
24TH ANNUAL "TERRY BENNETT MEMORIAL"
POLICE MOTORCYCLE TRAINING AND COMPETITION

September 18-19, 2026



Proceeds to benefit



Come watch highly skilled Police Motorcycle Officers from throughout the southwestern United States as they train and then test their skills in a spirited competitive environment. Officers, families and friends, and the general public are invited and encouraged to attend.

THE LOCATION FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT IS SEA WORLD
LOCATED AT 500 SEA WORLD DRIVE IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.sandiegocountymotors.org
or e-mail sandiegocmoa@gmail.com