



NLPOA

SONOMA COUNTY CHAPTER

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“El Informante” E-Newsletter

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Honoring Family, Education, and Community through Service
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mjimenez@sonoma-county.org

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efernand@sonoma-county.org

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eespino1@sonoma-county.org

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President's Message

I'm still participating in the “Top the Cops” on Wednesday nights at the Inferion Raceway and enjoying the challenge. As always the young adults who participate in the program keep the rules in mind while driving on the street.

On June 6, 2009, I attended funeral services for (retired) Sonoma County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) Sergeant Prent Monson, in Gardnerville, Nevada. Prent had been retired for approximately eight (8) years and moved to Gardnerville when he retired. Prent worked for the Sheriff's Department for over thirty (30) years and worked in various assignments, Narcotics, SWAT, Property Crimes and Patrol. Prent was an icon within the Sheriff's Department.

Approximately twenty-five (25) SCSO people attended the services along with the SCSO Honor Guard, and the US Army Honor Guard. Prent leaves his wife Kas Monson. Prent will be forever in our hearts.

I wish to commend our Vice-President, **Eduardo Fernandez** for his work to enrich our community and to promote our Association. For the past two (2) years, Ed and his wife have successfully organized our fundraising “Comedy Night”. Ed is currently organizing this year's event and we hope it will be just as successful. Ed has also been very successful in recruiting several new members. Congratulations to Ed.

Adelante Mario Jimenez.....

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

Next month's meeting has been scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2009, at 6:00 PM, at the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. Please mark the date on your calendar.

ONE MILLION STRONG



As many as one million gang members are believed responsible for as much as 80 percent of crime in communities across America, based on data from the Department of

Justice. In addition, the gangs are spreading across the country at breakneck speed, according to the Department's gang threat assessment. Approximately "one million gang members belonging to more than 20,000 gangs were criminally active within all fifty (50) states as of September 2008" the report says.

"Criminal gangs commit as much as 80 percent of the crimes in many communities according to law enforcement officials throughout the nation," the report notes as part of the its key findings.

"Typical gang-related crimes include alien smuggling, armed robbery, assault, auto theft, drug trafficking, extortion, fraud, home invasions, identity theft, weaponstrafficking and murder."

Yet in departments across the nation specialized gang suppression units in police departments are being cut back or eliminated due to budget restraints. Does this make sense?

2009 R-HOOPS



Redwood P.A.L. & S.C.S.D are promoting "**R-Hoops**" **Summer Basketball Program** starting **June 5, 2009, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**

The first two Friday nights of the program will be registration and sign ups. Location: 1777 West Ave at RAMS Gym (Second Driveway at Sheppard School) The program is still looking for a few good volunteers that can spend a couple of hours on Friday nights teaching "At Risk" kids the basic fundamentals of basketball and giving them a positive experience with Law Enforcement employees who are giving back to the community. R-Hoops is a Roseland based summer basketball program focused on offering Southwest Santa Rosa youths an opportunity to play basketball in a positive and safe environment. R-Hoops are offered on Friday nights at Sheppard School from June through August. The program provides approximately sixty kids between the ages of 10 to 16 years an alternative Friday night activity.

The program gives our youth a chance to stay out of gangs, away from drugs, off the streets and helps reduce teen violence in the community.

The program is completely free to participants, as the majority of the children come from low-income families.

Many children in the area are exposed to reactive law enforcement. R-Hoops hope to provide an opportunity for law enforcement employees to use a proactive approach and to be seen in a positive light.

This Summer Program ends August 14, 2009. If you can volunteer please do. You can sign up for any Friday, that won't affect your vacation plans.

Deputy F. Cooper, SCSD

EDUCATION BASED DISCIPLINE



Law enforcement agencies work hard to ensure that the best candidates are selected and that they are well trained. But even the best of us can make a mistake. When the subject of discipline comes up, everyone pays closed attention because it is one of the most important and controversial topics that affects us all.

Most law enforcement officers from the rank and file up to chiefs and sheriffs want personnel to comply with the “book” or the “manual” or what ever it is called in their agency.

Both association leaders and management report that only a handful of officers cause the majority of disciplinary problems, which means the vast majority of law enforcement officers, are rarely subject to the disciplinary system. But what happens when a good officer makes a mistake and is hit with severe punishment, typically a suspension without pay?

The underlying, philosophy behind law enforcement discipline has long been the traditional “to burn them, so they learn” concept. That means punish the officer severely so he or she won’t repeat the same mistake. But the reality is a suspension harms the officer’s family as much as it does the officer. It can also turn a productive employee who has a positive attitude into a bitter one who becomes angry, unproductive and patiently waits to get revenge for what he or she feels is mistreatment by the department and management. We need to ask the obvious question. Does discipline mean punishment? And is there real value in the current punishment methodology? There are some significant differences between discipline and punishment although the two terms are often used synonymously.

“Discipline means you learn from your mistakes. Punishment means you suffer for your mistakes.” The crux of the problem is that punishment does not work if you expect to improve performance. Punishment is more focused on past misbehavior than on changing future behavior, which should be the goal of the program. There should be a rational link between what the agency plans to do (proposed discipline) and what was done (the misconduct). When you think about it, there is no rational link between officer misconduct and taking away that officer’s pay. That is why some departments are starting to rethink their punishment policies.

Some agencies are going to a new system called “Education Based Discipline” or “EBD” for short, the program seeks to prevent the negative outcome

that exits with the present system, including the stigma of being ineligible for promotion and the inability to transfer. EBD is centered on the theory that people cannot be punished into excelling in life. Excellence can only be attained through learning and practice.

EBD gives an officer the option of participating behavior focused education and training, or sticking with the traditional system of suspension without pay. It is hoped the officers who choose the EBD approach will develop more competence, discipline, integrity, and better communication skills.

Perhaps, your agency should check out EBD! One of the agencies that are currently using Education Based Discipline is the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

LATINO SERVICE PROVIDERS

The next “*Latino Service Providers*” meeting, will be held on **June 25, 2009**, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, at the Windsor Regional Branch, 9291 Old Redwood Hwy Bldg 100, Windsor. The meeting will be hosted by the Sonoma County Library, 707-838-1020.

SAFE KIDS SONOMA COUNTY

It’s summer, so please be water wise. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the second leading cause of death for children. Never leave young children unattended near water—bathtubs, toilets, and buckets of water, too—as kids can drown in just a few seconds, even if they know how to swim.



HOW TO CONTACT THE POLICE?



George Phillips, an elderly man, from Meridian, Mississippi, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things. He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy. You should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available." George said, "Okay." He hung up the phone and counted to thirty (30). Then he phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot them." And he hung up.

Within five minutes, six police cars, a SWAT Team, a helicopter, two Fire trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

True Story!

ENTERTAINMENT

Sat
6/20

Cotati Jazz, Blues & Arts Festival
Father's Day Weekend - Free to the public!
Enjoy great music in an environment reminiscent of days gone by. This year's theme will be "Chasing the Blues." There will be 2 dance floors in La Plaza Park. Bands will be playing all over Cotati.
For more info: 794-8100 or 796-5508

Sun

Show & Shine Car Show

6/21

Held on Father's Day @ Juilliard Park, Santa Rosa. 9am-4pm - Free Spectator Admission, Drinks/Food, Music Entertainment, Raffle & Contests.
Talk "shop" w/ car owners or take the opportunity to "show & shine" your vehicle. All proceeds go to the MSA & ECA Scholarship programs. 546-5500

Sat
6/20
to
Sun
6/21

Northern California Pirate Festival
Waterfront, Vallejo, CA. Lovers of high-seas lore come together for shanty singing, sword fighting, kids' knot-tying classes, and an altogether swashbuckling good time. (866) 921-9277

Sat
6/27
to
Sat
8/01

Robert Mondavi Winery Summer Concert Series
Sat., June 27th - The B-52's
Sat., July 4th - Preservation Hall Jazz Band
Sat., July 11th - Ozomatli
Sat., July 18th - Natalie Cole/The Napa Valley Symphony
Sat., July 25th - KC & The Sunshine Band
Sat., Aug. 1st - Smokey Robinson

For ticket prices/time/etc: 1-888-769-5299
Robert Mondavi Winery
Highway 29, Oakville

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President & CEO, Belinda Guadarrama, has worked hard to make sure GC Micro Corporation provides excellence in IT procurement solutions, since 1986 for hardware & software. It is an authorized dealer of every major product line, including Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Compaq, Apple,

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www.gcmicro.com

Silver Sponsor: First Community Bank is located at 438 First Street, Santa Rosa. First Community Bank is a full service bank with great rates and service. (707) 636-9713

Fax (707) 636-9113 www.fcbconnect.com

Silver Sponsor: Romelli Bail Bonds located at 1150 Coddington Center #2, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. (707) 525-9705. *"Get a release on life!"*

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E-mail: bailyou@pacbell.net

Silver Sponsor: Gerald Villareal, Attorney at Law is located at 3436 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA. 95403 (707) 527-4044.

Bronze Sponsor: Carlos' Country Kitchen located at 90 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 569-9734. Carlos' is providing a *"Saver Card"* to members for a 10% savings on any regular priced menu item for every visit. Contact Ron Perez for your card (707) 975-6971.

Police Officers, Parole Agents, and Federal Officers, all of whom are employed at the local, state, and federal levels.

All opinions expressed in articles or by advertisement in *"EL INFORMANTE"* are those of the contributing writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *"EL INFORMANTE"* or the Sonoma County Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officers' Association. The editor takes great effort to ensure the accuracy of information contained in the newsletter. However, we will not be responsible for errors or omissions or any damage, howsoever caused, that result from its use.

First-time annual membership fee is \$40. All other membership fees are \$60 and payable January of each year. To make comments or to submit articles, please e-mail: BlueRon@aol.com or mail items to: **NLPOA - Sonoma County Chapter, Post Office Box # 31, Windsor, CA. 95492-0031.**

EDITOR



NLPOA Sonoma County is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and operates under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Association goals are to: Promote Equality and

Professionalism in Law Enforcement, Recruit Latinos into the Law Enforcement field, and Bridge the Gap between Latinos and Law Enforcement, while Honoring Family, Education and Community through Service and Mentorship.

NLPOA is the largest Latino Law Enforcement Organization in the United States, with local chapters in many cities throughout the country. Its membership includes Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs,