



# NEWSLETTER

## San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council

For Information Call (805) 773-5822

December 1, 2009

### Sheriff Patrick Hedges Update

#### Officers

2009/2010

Patrick Hedges  
Sheriff-Coroner

Francisco Curiel  
Chairman of the Board

James Brabeck  
Chairman - Elect  
Council Past Chairman

Howard Weinberg  
Vice Chairman

Kathleen Martinelli  
Secretary

John Mihal  
Treasurer

Michael Morris  
Legal Council

Daniel Cashier  
Executive Director  
Council Past Chairman

#### Board of Directors

Toney Breault

Jay Conner  
Council Past Chairman

Bryan DuVall  
Founding Chairman

James Hunt  
Council Past Chairman

Jack Jones  
Council Past Chairman

Neil Olsen  
Council Past Chairman

Joe Schimandle  
Founding Treasurer

Bud Stackler

Tom Sullivan

Tom Patton

George R. Ward, M.D.  
Council Past Chairman

As I prepare a few remarks for this next Advisory Council newsletter, I want to first stop and recognize the many, many years that Dawn Foster dedicated to publishing the monthly newsletter on behalf of the Council. As the sole editor and publisher of the newsletter, we were all very appreciative of her effort and I thank her for her time.

The Sheriff's Department is in the midst of some very exciting and very challenging times. Law enforcement agencies throughout the county, state and country are facing economic challenges. The state budget issues, in particular, have put financial strains on county and cities budgets as the state picks the locals' pockets in order to try and balance the budget in Sacramento. San Luis Obispo County alone had to give California over \$11,000,000 this year as our "contribution" to balance the books in Sacramento. This is money that becomes unavailable to pay for local needs.

Just during this budget year, the Sheriff's Department was required to "give up" 15 positions, including deputy sheriffs, correctional officers and administrative and management positions.

While the department is dealing with the budgetary and staffing challenges, we are also seeing progress in our investigative capabilities and an increase in the types of tools deputies and correctional officers have in their "toolboxes."

Technology has taken a big step forward with the local collection and processing of DNA. With the assistance of Congressman Kevin McCarthy, the department received

funding to purchase some relatively expensive scientific equipment needed to process DNA evidence. At the same time, the department partnered with the California Department of Justice Crime Lab in Goleta to host and operate this equipment, thereby saving the county significant salary costs by not having to hire scientists and technicians. In addition, deputy sheriffs and our crime lab personnel have received training in the collection of evidence containing DNA. By bringing all of this together, we are now realizing some real crime solving technology that is usually available only in the larger metropolitan areas. Our processing time, now that it can be done locally, will be a significant benefit in identifying suspects.

Within the past few months, the department has trained deputies and correctional officers on the use of TASERS, a hand-held device used to momentarily immobilize an individual until they can be safely subdued. Each deputy sheriff has been issued a TASER and several TASERS have been placed in the jail facilities. At a cost of nearly \$200,000, these devices were funded through the generous donations made by drug dealers who lost their ill-gotten gains as a result of state and federal asset forfeiture programs.

While I have touched upon a couple of significant programs, based upon cost, there have been many less-expensive programs that have been progress-



ing, some with the aid of the Advisory Council. While I will focus on some of those programs in the next edition of the newsletter, I want you to know, as Advisory Council members, that the Council has played a major role in enhancing training within the department and for others from other agencies.

Thanks go to the Advisory Council Board members for reinstating this newsletter, and to Dan Cashier for his willingness to be the initial editor. It is my hope that these regular publications will provide better insight into what your Council has been accomplishing.



#### Events Calendar

(Dates to be determined)

- Sheriff Candidates Forum
- Annual Fundraiser
- Installation of Officers Dinner
- Family Day at the Ranch



## Chairman's Message

Greetings and thanks to all of you for supporting the Sheriff's Advisory Council. It is an exciting time to be associated with this group. We are preparing to launch a new website, air a series of radio ads titled, "How to Spoil a Criminal's Day" and, as witnessed by your reading

of this article, resume the practice of publishing a quarterly newsletter.

A few weeks ago the Executive Board had a half day planning retreat that yielded some wonderful ideas, a refining of some of our protocols, and a lot of food and laughs. I'm sure that the fruits of this meeting will

continue to pay large dividends and assist us in advancing our purpose as an organization.

In an effort to help make us a stronger organization, I welcome any input you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 805.546-3100 Ext.2458 or e-mail me at [fcuriel@cuesta.edu](mailto:fcuriel@cuesta.edu)

### New Members

Welcome Aboard to new members who joined the Advisory Council in Year 2009:

- Donna Mills
- Gene Moss
- Daniel Neill
- George Sullivan

Thank you for your support.

### Sheriff's Department New Website

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Dept. launched a new website to better serve the public. The new web page allows people to check on who is in custody, what crimes have occurred in their unincorporated neighborhood and be notified by email if a specific criminal has been released. "We have incorporated a lot of data in a new format thereby expanding our on line footprint." said Sheriff Pat Hedges. The new site provides answers to questions that are commonly asked by the public, along with helpful links and data. The revised web page joins the current Face book application as part of the Sheriff's department's public information program. For information on the services provided by the SLO Sheriff's Department, visit the Sheriff's website: <http://www.slosheriff.org/>

**Know the true value of time; snatch, seize and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness...never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.**

— Lord Chesterfield, English

### *Members are Welcome to Attend Board Meetings*

The monthly Sheriff's Advisory Council's board meetings are held at the Honor Farm, Sheriff's Department on the second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. of each month, except for the months of July & December. For information, please call Kathleen Martinelli at (805) 781-4546

### *Local Advanced Law Enforcement Training Programs*

A long term goal of the Advisory Council is to provide local Advanced Law Enforcement Training programs for law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County. The Advisory Council has financed several training programs presented by professional law enforcement instructors.

By providing quality training in the local area, local law enforcement can minimize personnel time, tuition, and travel costs while receiving the benefits of enhanced, quality training, resulting in keeping the residents and visitors in our community in a safer environment.

### *Dawn Foster Receives Recognition and Appreciation Service Award*

The Board of Directors of the Sheriff's Advisory Council presented Dawn Foster, who is our Founding Secretary, an award to show their appreciation for her dedicated service as Secretary for the past 20 plus years.

She has also been honored by being elected as a Emeritus Board Member. Her services for all of these years has strengthen the organization and helped to fulfill its mission and goals. Many thanks to Dawn.

### *Board of Directors*

In memory of:  
Carl Cummings  
Victor Walker

### New Board and Committee Members Needed

We still need more board members and committee members to carryout the Advisory Council's Goals.

If you are interested in becoming a board member or committee member please contact Kathleen Martinelli at (805) 781-4546.

**Your continued help and support are greatly appreciated.**



## Highlights from the Forensic Fire Death Investigation Course (FFDIC)

Steve Crawford and John Madden gave the Board of Directors a slide presentation and summary of the Sheriff's Advisory Council's (SAC) supported FFDIC. Crawford and Madden presented the SAC with a certificate of appreciation for its support.

This was a very successful course and would not have been possible without SAC's support. The Importance of course was to identify fire trauma and cause of death. 35 total attendees, donations allowed 12 from SLO County to attend for free, 9 cadaver bodies used. Comments from the students included "can't find this level of hands-on training anywhere else," Surpasses Cal Poly's courses of learn by doing. As a result, the program achieved its Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) certificate.

**If thou thinkest twice  
before thou speakest once,  
thou wilt speak twice the  
better for it.**  
— **William Penn, Quaker  
and founder of  
Pennsylvania (1644-1718)**

## Scholarships

The Sheriff's Advisory Council provides scholarships for college students going into the Law Enforcement field who are children of the Sheriff's Department personnel and for families of officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. This year \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Nicholas Jackson and Taylor Russell both children of Eric Jackson, Deputy Sheriff. We wish them a successful law enforcement career.

## Project Lifesaver Sheriff's Search & Rescue

Jon Wordsworth, a Search & Rescue Volunteer, gave the Board of Directors a presentation on Project Lifesaver. Jon explained the program has had great success in locating missing persons through the use of state of the art receivers, two of which were donated last year by the Sheriff's Advisory Council. Currently, 19 agen-

cies use the system and Jon is hoping to take it statewide. This year Project Lifesaver will be submitting a request for funding for the purchase of new smaller receivers.



## The D.A.R.E. Program (Written by: Richard Powell, Deputy Sheriff (Retired))

The D.A.R.E. Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) was a 17 lesson program, taught by a Uniformed Deputy Sheriff/Police Officer for 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> graders to educate them about the dangers of drugs and to teach them skills to resist using them. It focused on the "gateway" drugs, alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. The lessons lasted 45 to 60 minutes once a week and a major component of D.A.R.E. was to have the Officer at the school before and after classes and during breaks. When not in the classroom the D.A.R.E. Officer would be out on the playground interacting with the students and staff.

The culmination of the 17 weeks was a graduation attended by family, friends and staff. D.A.R.E. also had a K-5 grade component with lessons addressing, safety and choices depending on the age of the students.

In 1989 Sheriff Ed. Williams brought the D.A.R.E. Program, which was developed by Los Angeles Police Dept., to San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Dept. and Elementary Schools in the unincorporated county. I was the first Deputy assigned

and trained in presenting D.A.R.E. in our schools. As it became popular another Deputy was added and D.A.R.E. was being taught in every school in the unincorporated county and several cities.

After a couple of years Sheriff Williams decided we needed to keep a positive connection with students as they entered Middle/High School, a time when they needed the help and support the most. Another Deputy was assigned to the D.A.R.E. Unit and I was assigned to middle/high schools.

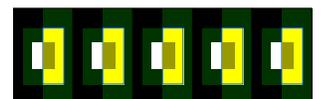
Sheriff Hedges expanded the D.A.R.E. Unit from 3 to 8 Deputies making into a School Resource Officers Unit. Within the unit 2 deputies continued to teach D.A.R.E. and 6 were assigned to middle/high schools, approximate total of 40 schools in the county.

The D.A.R.E. Program has since reduced the lessons from 17 to 10 the focus still on alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. It is not however a silver bullet, if parents don't support the program with good role modeling it is not affective. Parents need to reinforce lessons from the classroom at home. One of the most positive things that have

come out of the D.A.R.E. Program is that the Deputy and students form a bond giving that student a safe person to ask about issues that impact them in Middle/High School and years to come. Someone who listens to them and when asked a question the student knows the answer will be what's legal and illegal, right and wrong and the consequences of their choice.

I worked as a D.A.R.E. Officer and a School Resource Officer from 1989 till my retirement Oct. 2005. I continued as a Reserve Deputy/SRO until June 2009. I've seen and experienced this as have all the Deputies that have worked as either a D.A.R.E. Officer or SRO over the past 20 years. I consider them the "Best of the Best" of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Dept.

I thank Sheriff Ed Williams and Sheriff Pat Hedges for realizing how important the youth of our County are by committing the resources for Education, Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement.





## *Advisory Council's Funding Report -Year 2009*

During the Year of 2009, the Advisory Council made payments for requests for funds received from the Sheriff's Department, other law enforcement agencies and law enforcement support organizations to:

**SLO Sheriff's Department:**

Sheriff Crime Prevention Unit- Rural Crime.....	\$450
Mandated Operational Readiness Drill.....	\$500
Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST).....	\$187
Countrywide Supervisor Training.....	\$712
Sheriff's Dept. Service Pins.....	\$1,604
California State Sheriff's Association Forum.....	\$1,500
Bus Transportation – SAR Volunteer Funeral.....	\$1,827
Sheriff's Department Website.....	\$3,500
“How to Spoil a Criminal's Day” Radio Ad.....	\$1,200

**Other Law Enforcement Agency:**

SLO Police Dept -Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).....	\$3,361
--	---------

**Law Enforcement Support Organizations:**

Cambria CSD Fire Dept. - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).....	\$4,426
SLO Fire Investigation Strike Team, SLOFIST, Inc.....	\$10,000

**Scholarships:**

Nicholas Jackson.....	\$1,000
Taylor Russell.....	\$1,000

## **San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department 26<sup>th</sup> Citizen Academy Graduates**

On Wednesday, October 21, 2009, the Sheriff's Department celebrated the graduation of the Department's 26<sup>th</sup> Sheriff's Citizen Academy. As part of the ceremony, Sheriff Pat Hedges conducted a question and answer time with the students, prior to distributing certificates. In addition there were Sheriff's Auxiliary Unit displays, including the Sheriff's Posse, Search and Rescue, and the underwater Search and Recovery Dive Team set up for the graduates and their guests to enjoy. The Citizen's Academy is a program which provides



an opportunity for citizens who live or work in San Luis Obispo County to have an inside look at the many facets of the Sheriff's Department. The Academy spans over a ten week period, meeting once per week on Wednesday evenings. The class has the opportunity to tour the County Jail, Crime Lab, and to observe the 911/Dispatch Center. The Sheriff's Citizen Academy is held annually.

***CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! Frances Banaga, Jeryl Berry, Debra Calora, James Gray, Sam Helton, John Hughes, Susan Hughes, Connie Jacobson, Patricia Janes, Lezlie Labhard, Janet Lee, Shawn Lee, Stanley Liechty, Mary Anne Marshall, Frank Mecham, Michael Mooney, Gina Perino, Debbie Ramirez, Ellen Ramirez, Jon Sands, Leslie Sands, and Trina Tully***

**For more information call: 805-781-4483**

## **Bicycle Helmet Fundraiser Success**

It's that time of year again when the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Honor Farm staff begins preparing bicycles for donation at Christmas time, but this year they were short of a special part, helmets.

“Helmets are required for bicycle riders under the age of 18 in California.” Sgt. Schwiebert said, “We want the recipient to be able to enjoy the gift the same day and not put any financial strain on the families involved, that's why we are asking for the public's assistance in purchasing helmets for our program.” Arrangements were made for a special purchase of approved head gear, but cash donations were needed to finish the job.

We are pleased to report that the Advisory Council received \$4,171 in tax deductible contributions for the Sheriff's Department's Helmet Fundraising Program to pay for the Helmets. We thank the donors for their generous and thoughtful contributions and for making this fundraiser a success..



# Sheriff's Family Day At the Ranch



On September 19, 2009, the Advisory Council sponsored an Annual Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch on the grounds of the Madonna Inn field area next to Highway 101. We had an excellent turn out and good feedback with thousands of people in attendance. CAL Fire allowed children to use their fire hose which was a lot of fun for them and very challenging. Chief Annibali is already looking forward to next year.



This event gives the residents in our community an opportunity to meet law enforcement and public safety personnel as they display their equipment and perform demonstrations. Educational material is provided to help the public to obtain a better understanding of the law enforcement and public safety services available to them and ways to protect themselves against crime and injury.



The Advisory Council provides free entry for the entire family with free hot dogs and soft drinks for children less than 12 years of age. Also, DARE Wrist Bands and Sheriff's Stick-On "Badges" were given to the children.



Our thanks go to Bryan DuVall, Jack Jones and Kathleen Martielli of the Sheriff's Advisory Council for planning, organizing and conducting this event. They did an excellent job. Also, we thank all of the law enforcement and public safety personnel and other participants who set up their displays, distributed materials, and conducted demonstrations. It was a very fun, informative and successful event.



## Wishing You and Your Family a Happy Holiday Season





## ***SHERIFF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE***

The Sheriff's Advisory Council is a non-profit, Section 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation formed to provide funding and additional support to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department and of other law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County

# **WANTED**

## **Alive**



**NEW MEMBERS WHO ARE  
PRO LAW ENFORCEMENT  
ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN**

# **REWARD SAFER COUNTY**

## ***MEMBERSHIP GROWTH***

### ***THE SHERIFF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR HELP***

The Council's most immediate goal is to expand our membership to provide the needed funds to support law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County. The Sheriff's Advisory Council urges you to ask your friends, family members and business associates to join the Council by making an investment in the future law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County. The annual membership fee is \$100.00 and \$25.00 for junior membership to age 21. Applications and contributions should be sent to:

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council  
P.O. Box 3752

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

For applications and information, please call

Dan Cashier (805) 773-5822 or Kathleen Martinelli (805) 781-4546