

# NEWSLETTER

## San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council

For Information Call (805) 781- 4540

April 1, 2010

### Sheriff Patrick Hedges Update



two managers, a sergeant, 10 deputy sheriffs, two correctional officers and 4 professional staff. This year, we are looking at a staffing reduction of potentially 20 positions, but we are working to keep that loss at no more than 9 positions.

Certainly, the loss of personnel hampers the effort of providing law enforcement services in the county. As the Board of Supervisors reduces public safety funding, we need to look at opportunities to offset our personnel losses. This requires us to look at utilizing evolving technology and double our effort at keeping the public involved as an active partner in preventing crime and reporting suspicious activities.

As I close out these comments, I would like to thank each of you for your support of the Advisory Council. The training you fund helps law enforcement professionals become smarter at what they do. The public displays, such as Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch, help show the public what we do and what tools we have to do our work with.

In these lean times, the financial and personal support that you provide Sheriff's staff with is not only needed, but appreciated.

Be safe.



### ***\$5,000 Donation Received***

The Sheriff's Advisory Council received an unsolicited \$5,000 donation from the Albert J. Speth, Jr. and Claire R. Speth Foundation.

We consider ourselves most fortunate to be a recipient of their kindness and generosity.

### **New Members**

Welcome Aboard to new members who joined the Advisory Council :

- Joe Cortez
- Sylvia Dodd
- Michael Kelly
- Wendy Kelly
- Donna Mills
- Daniel Neil
- David Parker
- George Sullivan
- Mark Stickley

### **Events Calendar**

- **Sheriff Candidates Forum**  
**April 28, 2010**  
**Embassy Suites**  
**6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**
- **May 16, 2010 - Annual Fundraiser at McIntocks Shell Beach**
- **July 13, 2010 - Officers Installation Dinner at Steamer's Pismo Beach**
- **September 18, 2010 - Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch / Madonna Inn Field**

#### **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

Joe Schimandle  
Founding Treasurer

Bud Stackler

Tom Sullivan

Tom Patton

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

Let me open this issue's comments with a word of thanks and appreciation to Mr. Tom Sullivan as he announced his retirement from the Board after many, many years of dedication to the Sheriff's Advisory Council. Tom served as an outstanding SAC Board member and it has been an honor to have an individual of his caliber supporting the needs of law enforcement here in the county. For those of you not aware, Tom turned 87 on March 26 and he felt it was time to allow for some new energy to step up. Thanks, Tom, for all you have contributed. We'll be in touch.

Tough financial times remain the sign of the times. The economy, unemployment, sales declines and reduced real property values have a very real impact on individuals. These same factors also have a direct impact on the funding mechanisms for all levels of government, from Washington, D.C. down to San Luis Obispo County. These reduced funding levels derived through property, income and sales taxes equate to reduced level of services at some county departments, including the Sheriff's Department.

In the past two years we have seen a reduction of 19 in department staffing. These positions include



## Chairman's Message

very excited about the projects and activities on the horizon. Before getting into the specifics of these things, I'd like to welcome the newest members of the Council: Joe Cortez, Sylvia Dodd, Michael Kelley, Wendy Kelley, Donna Mills, George Sullivan, Daniel Neill, David Parker, Mark Stickley.

**In case you haven't heard, there's going to be a new Sheriff in town soon and the Sheriff's Advisory Council in conjunction with the League of Women Voters are planning a Candidate's Forum for Wednesday evening April 28, 2010, from 6:30-8:30 P.M. at**

**the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo. Admission is free, but space is limited. Please come out and see what the candidates have to say.**

Our annual fundraiser is slated for Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at McLintocks in Shell beginning at 1:30 P.M. Last year a good time was had by all. We've got some fantastic items to be auctioned off as well as some terrific door prizes. I hope we'll see you there. Additional tickets can be purchased through any of the Advisory Board members or by calling Dan Cashier at (805) 305-0841

Family Day at the Ranch will be on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Madonna Inn. This will be the 14th annual and it just keeps getting better and better.

On a sad note, Tom Sullivan will be stepping down as a member of our Executive Board. Anyone who has had the privilege of interacting with Tom knows he brings a wealth of experience to all he does. His easy going manner and his keen wit make him a valuable contributor to our Council and the community in which he lives. Tom, we thank you for your countless hours of service and wish you well always.

Here we are again! Welcome to the second edition of the "Sheriff's Advisory Council Newsletter." As the current Chair, I am pleased at the progress we've made in attaining our Council goals. I am also

### Sponsors Needed

The Advisory Council is seeking corporate/business sponsors to financially support its activities and 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, including 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.

We need your help to find sponsors. If you know of any business willing to be a sponsor please contact: **Jim Hunt (805) 481-7437**

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

The monthly Sheriff's Advisory Council's board meetings are held at the Sheriff's Department Honor Farm on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., except for the months of July & December. For information, please call Kathleen Martinelli at (805) 781-4540

### New Board and Committee Members Needed

More board members and committee members are needed 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) 781-4540.

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

### **Board Member Resignation**

For personal reasons, Neil Olsen has resigned from the board of directors. We thank him for serving on the board and for his many years of support.

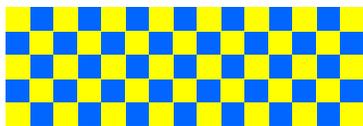
### **Membership Dues Billing Change**

New members who join after April 1<sup>st</sup> will be good for the remainder of the fiscal year as well as through the new fiscal year.

### Sheriff's Department Website

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Dept. launched a website to better serve the public. The 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/>**





## Donations Needed for Our Annual Fundraiser

We are currently seeking items for our annual fundraiser's raffle and auctions. We need your help. Please contact Jim Hunt at (805) 441-5481 regarding any donation item you are either able to acquire or donate yourself. We would like to have a variety of items, such as art, local wines, hotel/ dinner packages, women's jewelry and apparel, hosted dinners, "guy" items and other premium items that would appeal to both men and women.



## May Fundraiser Announcement

**Mark your calendar, the Sheriff's Advisory Council's Annual Fundraiser will be on May 16, 2010, at McLintocks in Shell Beach. We will have a raffle, a silent auction and a live auction, including good fellowship and a delicious BBQ dinner. Please invite your family members, friends and business associates. Your attendance and generosity will make this event successful.**

## Horse Emergency Evacuation Team (HEET)

Stuart McElhinney, President of the Horse Emergency Evacuation Team (HEET), made a request for funds to the Advisory Council for \$2,087.19 which is 75% of the total cost to purchase 7 VHF Mobile Radios and ancillary equipment to establish a reliable communications network for use by HEET during evacuations of livestock during emergencies such as wildfires.

HEET provides direct benefits to law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff's Department and CalFire, through the Incident Command System, are primarily responsible for evacuations. It is important that HEET has a reliable communications system for its teams, which is directly connected to HEET's liaison with Incident Command through HEET's dispatcher. This helps to better assist residents during evacuations without utilizing official emergency equipment or frequencies.

HEET is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established to assist in the evacuation of horses and other animals during emergencies, such as fires. HEET has been in existence since the Hwy 58 fire. The members of the organization volunteer themselves and their equipment

to help evacuate and shelter livestock in emergencies, and on a day to day basis to assist the CHP, Sheriff's Department, CALFire, and other local public agencies when incidents involve livestock.

HEET has been working with CALFire for training purposes. They provide ongoing training to their members in subjects such as Incident Command, Fire Behavior, and Fire Safety. They hold annual vehicle safety inspections with the assistance of the CHP. They work to develop relationships with public safety and emergency organizations through direct relations and through participation in Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). They have also written procedure manuals to ensure effective and safe operation. **Please see their web site: <http://www.sloheet.org> for more information about HEET.**

One of the goals of their organization has been to develop communications capacity beyond cell phones. They have been working with some local ham and emergency communications experts to establish criteria and select radio equipment. Through their participation in the county siren test

program, and through their own budget process, HEET has raised approximately \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of mobile radio units to be used in the vehicles during emergencies.

Their plan is for trailer teams and shelter teams to be able to communicate with their dispatcher using mobile radio units. These communications would rely on repeaters throughout the county. The \$1,000.00 they raised will be used to purchase three mobile units, including antennae. They already have equipment for a base station. They would like to have at least four more units for their basic communications. This would give them eight radios, five for evacuation vehicles, a base station for dispatch, and one radio for each of two sheltering operations.

In order to enhance their capabilities as an organization, HEET holds monthly training programs. Radio operations would become a regular training subject and would involve protocols, operations, drills and regular check-in procedures.

The Sheriff's Advisory Council's donation of \$2,087.19 will be utilized to purchase the needed additional radios, installation costs and ancillary supplies and equipment.



## Advisory Council's Funding Report -Year 2010

During the Year of 2010, the Advisory Council made donations for requests for funds received from the Sheriff's Department, other law enforcement agencies and law enforcement support organizations to:

**SLO Sheriff's Department:**

Search & Rescue Annual Awards Dinner.....\$1,500.00

Law Enforcement Training Program, April 15, 2010,  
Dr. Larry Blum, Guest Speaker .....\$2,100.00

**Other Law Enforcement Agency:**

Arroyo Grande Police Department  
Canine Fundraiser.....\$5,000.00

**Law Enforcement Support Organizations:**

Horse Emergency Evacuation Team (HEET)...\$2,087.19

### ***Arroyo Grande Police Department Canine Program & Fundraiser***

The Advisory Council received a request for funds from Steven N. Annibaldi , Arroyo Grande Chief of Police, to support its fundraising campaign to raise \$50,000 to purchase two Canines, including training. In his letter dated January 22, 2010, he stated that "since 1985, the Arroyo Grande Police Department Canine Program has been credited with tracking down criminals, rooting out drug stashes and protecting officers throughout San Luis Obispo County with their police abilities. This canine program is one of the most respected programs in the state and over the years the handlers and dog teams have won numerous awards for their skills. Our police canines have continued to impress citizens, service groups and school children with their talent and their easy going demeanor.

Available to public safety and school district personnel throughout San Luis Obispo County, Arroyo Grande's four legged partners primarily serve the South County communities of Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, Oceano, Nipomo and unincorporated San Luis Obispo County.

Decades of school children remember the names of "Hero", "Tzar", "Fawni" and "Zak" along with the officers who worked with them while attending countless school programs and civic events.

Following the retirement of "Zak" in August of 2009, the Arroyo Grande Police Department conducted a needs assessment for the future of the canine program in the region. It was soon realized that the need existed for two, full-service cross trained dogs in order to make this program available on a daily basis.

These meticulously bred and highly trained dogs do not come cheap. The outlay for a dog itself is \$8,500. Although the City provides for their ongoing care, fundraising is necessary to purchase the dogs, equipment, kennels and the cost of the extensive certification and training. Our fundraising goal is set at \$50,000 in order to carry out the program over the next four plus years.

We are very pleased to have baseball legend and former Los Angeles Dodger Robin Ventura as our Honorary Chairperson for our fundraising efforts. Our committee is very active and we look forward to a number of high profile events in the first quarter of this year.

As you know, the selection and purchase of these dogs takes considerable time and a commitment to the training must be made far in advance to ensure availability. The underwriting of the effort will make it possible for the Police Department to place the order for the two dogs and pledge our attendance at the handler training as our fund raising efforts continue. The San Luis Obispo Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation has agreed to coordinate the fund collection".

According to Sheriff Pat Hedges, the Arroyo Grande Police has been very responsive when deputies request assistance from their Canines. The Advisory Council approved a contribute of \$5,000 to this Canine Fundraiser. If you wish to further support this Canine Fundraising Campaign please make your check payable to SLOLEAF/AGPD K-9 FUND and mail it to: San Luis Obispo Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation, 200 North Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande CA 93420. For more information call: Arroyo Grande Police Department (805) 473-5120 or visit **the SLOLEAF website: [www.SLOLEAF.org](http://www.SLOLEAF.org)**



## HISTORICAL ARTICLES

### CATTLEMEN VS SHEEPMEN IN OLD SAN LUIS OBISPO

A widow by the name of Mary Argyrus and her two brothers were homesteading in Harris Valley near the Pleyto ranch. They were shearers and raising sheep in the valley until one day they were confronted by the Hodges family and ordered to leave the country.

Mrs. Argyrus appealed to the law for help and the Hodges' and several of their ranch-hands were arrested. They were released on a promise to keep the peace but soon after they were free, they burned the Argyrus House and filled up their newly dug well. After that, they burned the barn barn of Judge Lynch in Pleyto where the Argyrus' had stored their wool for market. Two deputies were summoned from nearby Monterey county to arrest the Hodges.

The two deputies, Guthrie and Bushton were advised of the allegations and learned that the Hodges family and their foreman, George Starr were well armed as were their cowboys who worked on their ranch. Guthrie and Bushton left the Lynch ranch to go to Cambria for assistance. Since all of this action took place on the San Luis Obispo/Monterey county line there

was little attention paid as to who would handle the case. That was the last seen of the two Monterey Deputies and months later, their bodies were found near the Pleyto ranch and Jim Lowe's stage station.

While Mary Argyrus waited for the deputies to return, she and her shearers took steps to protect their flock. They were always armed and on the lookout for the Hodge cattlemen. On one occasion when they were seen on Argyrus land, they were fired on and driven from the scene. With the recovery of the Monterey Deputies remains, the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office opened a murder investigation. The prime suspects were the Hodges' and their cowhands, however, no record exists of a prosecution in this case.

This was the only cattleman vs. sheepman reported in San Luis Obispo County, although there has been wide use of the range land over the years with no other incidents reported.□

### 1856 The Fearless Murder!

It seems as if a week fails to go by but one hears of a crime committed by a felon who then flees the country back to his native land. The suspect will be caught, arrested and then will post bail.

At times, he will even appear at court for a preliminary hearing and then while continuing on bail, flees the country. Such behavior is not solely a modern phenomenon but has occurred throughout our county's history. It is so with the savage murder of George Peerless in 1856.

In early 1856, a man of means, George Fearless came to San Luis Obispo County from San Francisco. He carried over \$2000 in cash with him and it was known that he was in search of business opportunities. Soon, it was learned that he had gone into partnership with a New Mexican by the name of Jesus Luna establishing a ranchito near the Nacimiento on the road to Watson's about fifty miles north of San Luis Obispo town.

Everything appeared to be proceeding well when it was noticed that George Fearless had not been seen for a month or so. Luna told acquaintances of Fearless that George had gone east for business. A while later, Luna circulated the story that Fearless had found other ventures and requested Luna to sell all their holdings.

These included all the cattle, horses and other animals including George's pet Newfoundland Dog. Also, Luna happened to have George Fearless' gold watch, which he sold, as well as other personal property and equipment. Soon thereafter, Jesus Luna departed for New Mexico and was not seen again.

The town's people ask the sheriff to look into the matter but no proof could be obtained and no evidence found to link Luna to any crime. In 1856 people came and went as they pleased and sometimes disposed of all their worldly possessions before they departed so this event was not beyond the realm of possibility.

Three months passed and then a forager found a body near the deserted Fearless-Luna ranchito. The remains, somewhat preserved, and the clothing left no doubt that the body was that of George Fearless. To borrow a line from the movie "In the Heat of the Night", they had "The body which is dead and the motive which is money." But, alas, nothing could ever be done about it. It seems that Jesus Luna had also disappeared in New Mexico!

"Each thing is of like form from everlasting and comes round again in its cycle." - Marcus Aurelius.□



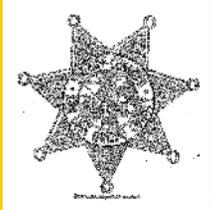


## ***SHERIFF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE***

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

Kathleen Martinelli (805) 781-4540