



The Billy & Spanner



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ray Storms

For those of you who get our emails, you have already received an update from me on the topic of "Think First. Post After." However, not all of our members have signed up for our emails, and the issue of protecting yourself on social media is very important these days.

Nationally, there is intense scrutiny of the social media activity of law enforcement officers. The same is true for retired officers. Across the country, news outlets are publishing stories that focus on offensive social media posts by both active officers AND retired law enforcement officers. For active employees, they've faced severe discipline and in many cases termination.

We're advising you to stop and think before you post. This includes posts in those supposedly "private" groups. Those groups are never private and have been repeatedly exposed around the country.

Recently, the focused on retired officers has been even more intense. While a retiree may not get terminated for their social media posts, they may attract significant, in some cases national, news media attention and potential embarrassment.

But the stakes for retired law enforcement officers do not end with personal exposure. The previous cases you worked on may be impacted as well. Earlier this year in Los Angeles, a retired LAPD detective got into a verbal altercation with an African American man. The retired officer used a racial epithet, and it was captured on video. The District Attorney is now reviewing all of that officer's cases resulting in conviction to determine if racial bias was a factor. It could result in convicted criminals getting a new trial or released. This is based on new state law.

What should you look out for? Everything. Be mindful of what you repost/retweet/share from your account. Be careful of what you "like" and monitor the comments made on any posts you make. A racist or otherwise offensive comment made by anyone else on one of your posts can reflect poorly on you.

What issues are being scrutinized? You should use caution when posting on a wide array of issues. Obviously, anything racist will be met with zero tolerance, as will attacks against women, sexual orientation, or religion. Any posts where the author celebrates or encourages violence against a suspect or any group of people will be exposed as well.

We are not telling you what to post or what to do on social media. We are informing you of the risks that exist and are encouraging you to be mindful of them for your own protection.

So, use social media wisely, and please think before you post.

visit our website at www.retiredsjpoff.org

I'M DEAD. NOW WHAT?



The Association continues to give away this book.

A useful and helpful planner to give you peace of mind. It has important information about your belongings, business affairs, and wishes. It helps organize vital details about contacts, health and financial issues, etc.

Contact Walter Bugna at believe42218@earthlink.net if you want a copy. Please include your name, current phone and current mailing address in your e-mail.

THE BOND OF OUR FIRE FAMILY: SAYING GOODBYE TO CHIEF DICK WATTENBARGER

Brothers and Sisters,

As you may recall, Chief Dick Wattenbarger passed away on February 15, 2021, at the age of 81, following a long battle with cancer. A courageous fighter he was!!! When Dick and his wife Sue, moved to their new home in Peoria, AZ, in January 2020, the Peoria firefighters quickly learned of Dick's illness and immediately jumped in to help them organize their move, which included setting up Dick's garage workshop. Dick and Sue became friends with the Peoria firefighters, building a strong bond. As Dick's illness progressed, the crews assigned to Peoria Fire Department's Station 196, would provide professional assistance through Service Calls, and made frequent social visits as well, right up until Dick's passing, and continue to be there for Sue.



San Jose Fire Fighters • Local 230

165 Lewis Road, #11 San Jose, California 95111 • (408) 286-8718 • FAX (408) 286-2577



March 2, 2021

Mayor Cathy Carlát
City of Peoria Arizona
8351 W Cinnabar Ave
Peoria, AZ 85345

Fire Chief Bobby Ruiz
Peoria Fire Department
8401 W Monroe St.
Peoria, AZ 85345

Honorable Mayor Carlát and Chief Bobby Ruiz,

On behalf of the active and retired members of the San Jose Fire Department, I would like to acknowledge the professional and caring acts of kindness that our fellow Firefighter, Chief Richard Wattenbarger, received from the Peoria Fire Department.

Chief Wattenbarger, who passed away on February 15, 2021, had been battling a variety of cancers for the last several years. When he moved to Peoria, he was greeted by an outpouring of kindness from your members. This included many visits from them to check on his wellness, as well as arriving at his home to help set up his garage workshop.

We would like to especially acknowledge the following individuals for their assistance:

Firefighter Paramedic Isaac Reaves
Firefighter Gilbert Chavarria
Haz Tech Ben Robinson
Firefighter Charles Tanner
Captain Roy Noriega
Captain Steve Brandell
Captain Bob Groholski

Often, in the fire service, we speak of community outreach and customer service. The members of your Fire Department are fantastic ambassadors to this philosophy. All of us in San Jose are truly grateful for the assistance and support that Chief Wattenbarger and his wife Sue received.

Sincerely,

Matt Tuttle
President, San Jose Fire Fighters, Local 230

www.sjff.org

(Continued from Pg. 2)



A few of our retired members of Local 230, wanted to recognize the Peoria Fire Department for their kindness, so the story was shared with Local 230. Local 230's President, Matt Tuttle, then forwarded a letter to the Peoria Fire Chief and Mayor, praising the compassion and dedication of their firefighters, for their unselfish assistance to one of our own without any hesitation whatsoever. We have shared President Tuttle's letter as part of this message.

An additional acknowledgement to the firefighters of Peoria Fire Department Station 196, was in the form of a plaque. On Thursday April 8, 2021, the plaque was presented to Station 196 at shift change, by Sue Wattenbarger and Michael McGue, SJFD, (ret), Michael and his wife Charla live in Dick and Sue's neighborhood. A few pictures of the presentation, along with a picture of the plaque are being shared here as well.

Local 230's letter, the plaque, along with the pictures, speaks volumes to who we are as a "Fire Family" and the bond we will always have in this, the greatest profession. The Wattenbarger Family is forever grateful to all those who visited, made phone calls, sent greeting cards and emails. Everyone staying in contact, kept Dick laughing, joking and smiling all the way through!!

Our Association would like to acknowledge, and thank, Local 230 President Matt Tuttle, and the following retired members, (and their families), for the support and care provided to Dick and Sue along their journey, and/or participation, in this effort to recognize the support provided by the Peoria FD. Thank you Ski Bartosiewicz, Walter Bugna, Kevin Conant, Ken Heredia, Michael McGue, Paul Schuller and Gary Weekley.

Rest in peace Deputy Chief Dick Wattenbarger, we thank you for your service.

FIREFIGHTER LIABILITY SUIT REGARDING PFAS MATERIALS

Previously, we informed you on the effort to litigate on the issue of cancer-causing chemicals contained in manufactured products including firefighting foams and firefighter turnouts among others. There are now 39 firefighters/retired firefighters signed on to the liability suit. If you have been diagnosed with cancer and believe you have been exposed to these chemicals in your career, and are interested in potentially joining the suit, you can contact retired SJFD Battalion Chief Richard Seal, Esq., who is Of Counsel to Pritzker Levine, at 408-623-3519, or firm partner, Elizabeth Pritzker, at 415-805-8532. You can view the filing of this suit at our website: <http://www.retiredsjpolicefire.org/2020/09/24/firefighter-liability-suit-regarding-pfas-materials>.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

JAIME ALMARAZ, Police Officer, 25.03 years of service.

TODD A. CLEAVER, Police Sergeant, 28.03 years of service. (With Reciprocity)

JEFFREY P. FASSIO, Police Officer, Police Department, 26.21 years of service. (With Reciprocity)

PHILLIP D. GARCIA, Police Sergeant, 25.07 years of service.

GARY L. GARRISON, Police Officer, 26.73 years of service. (With Reciprocity)

DONALD S. GUERRA, Police Officer, 25.03 years of service.

VICTOR E. LOESCHE, Fire Captain, 25.69 years of service.

LOUIS E. LUCERO, Police Officer, 25.57 years of service.

TROY K. SIRMONS, Police Officer, 25.03 years of service.

JAMES E. YUMEN, Police Sergeant, 25.03 years of service.



The following is a checklist and contact list to assist our survivor members in getting the support they may need in making funeral arrangements when their spouse passes. Special Thanks to Walter Bugna and John Shuman for putting this checklist together.

POLICE RETIREE

Association of Retired San Jose Police Off. & Firefighters (AORSJPOFF) John Shuman | 408-667-1615

San Jose Police Officers Assoc. | 408-298-1133

San Jose Police Dept. | 408-277-8900

Police Benevolent Assoc. – David Wysuph | www.sjpba.com

Keith Kelley Club | 408-421-3785

San Jose Police Chaplaincy – Chaplain Jim Becknall | 408-297-9500

FIREFIGHTER RETIREE

Association of Retired San Jose Police Off. & Firefighters (AORSJPOFF) Walter Bugna | 408-799-3004

San Jose Fire Dept.

Bureau of Field Operations | 408-794-6950

Public Information Officer | 408-794-6959

San Jose Firefighters Local 230 | 408-286-8718

Widows and Orphans – Jerry Ellis | 408-730-9974

Honor Guard – Jeff Una'dia | 408-461-6463 (408-842-6562)

Bagpiper – Joe Roberts | 408-295-3010 (usar5jdr@aol.com) Best to Email Joe

SJ Fire Museum (Memorial Site) Contact:

John McMillan Cell 831-359-2194 or Jim Carter – Cell 408-674 -1624

OTHER CONTACTS

Police & Fire Retirement Services | 800-732-6477

CHECKLIST

- Any City Insurance Policy active
- Life Insurance Policy active
- Any Disability Insurance Policy active
- Funeral Preferences (SJPD or SJFD participation)
- Was Retiree in the Armed Forces / Patriot Guard Riders for Escort: Patriotguard.org
- Burial Preferences: Burial, Cremation or other Mortuary choice
- Church of choice – consideration to number of people attending
- Choosing a Liaison to assist the Family with Fire Dept. or Police Dept. Retiree issues
- What Fire & Police Dept. can offer in assistance
- Brief family on FD & PD funeral procedures (taps, bagpipe, last alarm, Honor Guard, etc.)
- Will Fire Dept. apparatus be used as hearse?
- Newspaper/Obituary – San Jose Mercury | 408-920-5000
- Contacting Social Security | 866-348-5832
- Wills and Living Trusts
- Have you made decisions on how assets will be distributed.
- Any Ceremony after Service
- Centre for Living with Dying as Grief Source | 408-243-0222
- If Veteran, Department of Veteran's Affairs | 408-993-0729



ASSOCIATION
OF RETIRED SAN JOSE
**POLICE OFFICERS
& FIREFIGHTERS**

P.O. Box 28041
San Jose, CA 95159-8041

visit our website:
www.retiredsjpoff.org

Volume 29
No. 4
April 2021



ASSOCIATION
OF RETIRED SAN JOSE
**POLICE OFFICERS
& FIREFIGHTERS**

The Billy & Spanner



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Our monthly membership meetings are now held virtually on Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join us for our upcoming meetings. You can join from your computer, tablet or even your phone. Every attendee is automatically entered into a drawing for a \$10 coffee gift certificate card.

Participating is easier than you think, and meetings have been shorter due to the new format. Our next meeting is May 13, 2021, at 11 AM. The login information will be emailed out to all members closer to the actual date of the meeting. If we don't have your email, make sure we do. Email Board Secretary Dale Foster at secretary@retiredsjpoff.org to get on our list. See you on Zoom!

CONDOLENCES

Truman Boman, Police Officer, retired June 26, 2010, died December 20, 2020.

Tom Perez, Lieutenant, died April 22, 2021.

Fred Kingsley, Sergeant, died April 12, 2021.

Gerald Van Horn, Firefighter, retired in November of 2000.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Ray Storms, President	510 507-1136 president@retiredsjpoff.org
John Shuman, VP of Police	vpjustice@retiredsjpoff.org
Walter Bugna, VP of Fire	vpfire@retiredsjpoff.org
Dale Foster, Secretary	secretary@retiredsjpoff.org
Larry Samarron, Jr. Treasurer	treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Don Bartels, Tim Miller, Mike Moffett, Jim Spence, Gary Johnson
Ken Jacksteit, Jerry Ellis, Director Emeritus

WIDOWS & ORPHANS OFFICERS

President (COA) Jeremy Wise	831-566-7624
VP (SJA) Maxwell Magnus	650-773-3271
VP (COR) Bill McCluskey	408-985-7563
Secretary (SJR) Luis Chacon	408-642-0385
Treasurer (SJR) Jerry Ellis	408-730-9974
Treas. Emeritus (SJR) Mike Moffett	408-867-0405

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President - Ernie Alcantar, Vice President - Steve Windisch,
Sec-Treasurer - Larry Lundberg, Sgt at arms - Bob Moir www.sjba.org