

SCOPO BOARD MEETING
San Diego
August 14, 2015

From the conveniently located Courtyard Marriott Hotel in San Diego, President Paul Brennan called the meeting to order and thanked hosting San Diego County POA.

Following The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for fallen Peace Officers, various reports were presented including Travis Rowe's financial update. Along with Travis, the Finance Committee includes Tim Soward (Sacramento) and Robert Barna (Ventura).

Legislative Advocate Alberto Torrico stated he has been tracking over 70 bills, with a majority of those bills being probation-related. He gave a brief history on how bills are monitored and how specific-to-SCOPO bills are sponsored. SCOPO generally testifies first to particular legislative committees in Sacramento.

Alberto offered updates Senate Bill 124 (Leno), Solitary Confinement and Assembly Bill 989 (Cooper), Sealing of Juvenile Records. Ernie Susi (San Diego) opened the discussion on a possible initiative for 2016, Voter Empowerment Act. If passed by the electorate, it would give voters the right to approve, or reject, the compensation and retirement benefit promises made to new employees, as well as requiring voter approval before pension benefits are enhanced for any current or future employees. This led to a resounding recommendation for all present to spread the word to their fellow employees, relatives and friends not to sign this petition.

Secretary, Jennifer Ellasces, presented the proposed bylaws, and they were passed as offered.

Legislative Vice President, Rich Berkery, gave the PAC Report and he mentioned the "blackout" period for making donations to the Senate from August 13 to September 11, 2015.

San Diego Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins addressed the Board and talked about various issues in San Diego, including possible legislation for Body Work Cameras. He also gave an update on Senate Bill 124, which he believes is a disingenuous term. Chief Jenkins emphasized that probation does not do Solitary Confinement since it is costly and makes the institutions unsafe.

The meeting's featured speaker, Assemblymember Brian Jones (District 71) addressed the Board and thanked Probation Rank and File for the hard work they do every day. He fielded questions from those present.

Following a delicious lunch, the meeting concluded with Round Table reports from those present.

Let's be careful out there!