

# S.C.O.P.O. News



## California Probation News

9719 Lincoln Village Drive, Suite 501 Sacramento, CA 95827

### Ventura County Hosts SCOPO Meeting

*By Rich Berkery* - The ever-accommodating Ventura County Probation Peace Officers Association in exotic Oxnard was the host of the SCOPO Board of Directors meeting on June 18, 2010. President Paul Brennan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for fallen Peace Officers. He thanked the VCP-POA for hosting the meeting.

Following a Round Table discussion by all counties present Legislative Vice President Rich Berkery gave his report. Rich thanked Ventura for hosting the meeting and was very pleased with the good turnout by the Board of Directors.

He mentioned the following SCOPO-endorsed candidates who won the Primary Election and who will be in the General Election November 2, 2010:

Cathleen Galgiani, Assembly, District 17

Allyson Huber, Assembly, District 10

Susan Bonilla, Assembly, District 11

Joan Buchanan, Assembly, District 15

Geoff Dean, Sheriff, Ventura County

Linda Parks, Board of Supervisors, Ventura County

John Leos, Anaheim City Council

The CCLEA (California Coalition Law Enforcement Association) will sponsor a Political Forum on June 30 and July 10, 2010 in Sacramento, which SCOPO Election Committee Members, Diane Hubbard (Ventura), Tim Soward (Sacramento) and Rich Berkery (Contra Costa) will be part of a group of other law enforcement associations in interviewing candidates for State Constitutional positions, including Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General. A follow-up CCLEA meeting will be on July 30, 2010 in Los Angeles to decide who CCLEA will be endorsing. In turn, those recommendations will be shared with the Election Committee for possible SCOPO endorsements.

Legislative Advocate, Jim Frayne, gave his report, which included an overview of the June Primary Election results, including State Constitutional Officers and Open Primary Proposition that won. Jim suggested to the Board that they be very selective on who they endorse for the November General Election.

He also mentioned the state's budget, which was good and bad. He attended public safety meetings in Sacramento, some of which discussed the State's attempting to have the individual counties bear the costs of housing prisoners. Jim distributed the governor's 2010

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### President's Message

July 2010



Since my last update, talk of pension attacks and the early release of the State's prisoners continues. Tied into this, is the state of the State's budget which continues to worsen. While California bleeds what money it still has left, the politicians debate over the budget; which is again late. There are important decisions to be made, and the Capitol finds itself in its usual political wrangling. One potential bright spot, is that there is public support for a simple majority approval of the budget. The Democrats are happy I'm sure, as they would have the majority, *but hold onto your pocket books*. If voters approve of a change in the way the budget is decided upon, you can surely expect your taxes to go up. Over the years, two approaches to solving our fiscal crisis have been discussed, raising taxes or cutting spending. Unfortunately, printing money like the Feds wouldn't even get us out of this; much less create long-term ramifications. How about a combination of the two? Creating new or restructuring current taxes to pay for selected services, such as law enforcement (Probation included) and services that are vital to the protection of the public; creating tax incentives for private businesses; having the courage to make cuts to some public programs; and the development of a long-term (10-year) plan to tackle spending and deficits. It's a start.

Recently, your President and leaders from other recognized statewide labor organizations, met to discuss the Governor's proposed budget; specifically the part of the budget that includes shifting the responsibility of 15,000 prisoners to local county jails. Discussion took place over his proposal and in the end, the group came up with a plan to create budget savings while better protecting the safety of our communities. The plan now resides with those at the State Capitol, and it is hoped that serious consideration is given the proposal. Perhaps, we are nearing a time where discussions will also involve the restructuring of the State Parole system and the possibility of Parole realignment. It certainly appears, that the State is getting out of the business of

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## Round Table Report

### SCOPO Roundtable Reports for June - July 2010

#### **Contra Costa County**

*Richard Berkery, Mike Schorer*

July 12, 2010

I am happy to announce the naming of the new Chief, Philip Kader, who is coming from Fresno County Probation Department where he was their Director of the Juvenile Justice Commitment Facility. Mr. Kader comes with high marks from the sworn staff at Fresno Probation. Mr. Kader, congratulations and good luck!

The inaugural edition of the "The Short of It" PPOACCC Quarterly Newsletter was recently published and distributed to all Members.

Kudos to all who contributed especially Probation Officer and Editor Mindy Jarrett.

All four of the Association's endorsed political candidates either were elected into their positions for the June Primary or will be part of a runoff election for the General Election in November 2010. They include Board of Supervisors Karen Mitchoff and John Gioia, Susan Bonilla for State Assembly and Dan O'Malley for County District Attorney.

The Department reinstated the monthly Safety Committee and by all accounts of various members, it appears that the committee will have an opportunity to make via-

ble suggestions and recommendations, and will be closely reviewed for possible acceptance.

The Executive Board and Shop Stewards will be attending the PORAC (Peace Officers Research Association of California)-sponsored training in Reno in July.

The Contra Costa Times newspaper continues its attack on Peace Officer's pensions and has failed to consistently note that the Probation Department's sworn staff contributes almost 25% of their salary to the pension fund.

Contract negotiations continue between the PPOACCC and the County, entering the third year of talks.

OARYF (Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility) (ranch) recently installed fence cameras, a recording system and infrared lighting.

In June, the East County Office (Pittsburg) relocated to the Antioch office.

The Department is exploring the possibility of creating an accounting unit in order to collect fines and fees.

The Department will be celebrating "Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week (July 18 to 24, 2010), including a Management-prepared breakfast for employees on July 22, 2010.

The Department's employees

showed their support *en masse* for the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary by participating in the first annual bowling tournament. A great time was had by all who participated and the Auxiliary benefited from the proceeds collected.

Congratulations to long-time Probation Officer Barbara Lutz, who recently retired. Wishing Barbara good luck in her "Second Life"!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Berkery

#### **Fresno County**

*Lorraine Sepeda, Carlos Gonzalez*

A labor contract was recently signed which will take us through February 2011. It included no major takeaways with a 0% raise. Health negotiations started & the County is proposing a reduction of \$100 per pay period towards health benefits. Considering that FCDPOA will be entering the 2nd year of 40 hours of furlough, things appear to be bad, but thus far, the plan for the new fiscal year does not include any DPO lay-offs.

#### **Inyo County**

*Heather Oney, Jacob Morgan*

July 9, 2010

Doing well here on the eastern side of the Sierras. Although we negotiated a great contract in 2007, the fiscal realities experienced by others are looming large

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## John Moorlach and His Longshots

I chuckled with everyone else at last month's Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting when Supervisor John Moorlach led the invocation and asked the Lord to favor the Netherlands (Moorlach is proud of his Dutch heritage) in its David-and-Goliath quarterfinal matchup against Brazil in the World Cup.

We all know what happened.

"Who's laughing now," said Moorlach after I reminded him of the prayer.

Moorlach said he has a similar feeling regarding the county's lawsuit against the Orange County deputies union. The suit argues that the retroactive pension hike that sheriff's deputies received in 2001 was unconstitutional.

County supervisors lost badly in a Los Angeles court on the issue, and many observers, including Attorney General Jerry Brown, don't think it's a winnable case.

That may be true. But there was another time when people said Moorlach was way off.

### 1994.

Moorlach made his political name that year after waging a long-shot campaign against Orange County Treasurer/Tax Collector Bob Citron criticizing his risky investments. Many publications, supervisors and rating agencies sided with Citron and called Moorlach a nut.

But after the county went bankrupt in 1994, Moorlach went from nutty to very electable. The former CPA was appointed as treasurer/tax collector the following year and stayed in office more than a decade before running for supervisor in 2006 on a platform of criticizing public employee pensions.

"I've got a pretty good winning streak on a few key issues," Moorlach said.



**County supervisors lost badly in a Los Angeles court on the issue, and many observers, including Attorney General Jerry Brown, don't think it's a winnable case.**

Supervisors have spent more than \$1 million on the lawsuit and last year voted to appeal the case -- heavily influenced by Moorlach and his former chief of staff, Mario Mainero (now a Chapman University law professor).

Both sides now are awaiting action by the state's appellate court, and Moorlach insists that he likes his chances at the appellate level.

"I'm looking forward to this one on the retroactive. ... Game on!"

Speaking of games, the Dutch are facing the Spaniards in Sunday's World Cup final. As a Cuban-American with family roots in the Basque region and the Canary Islands of Spain, you can guess where my rooting interests lie.

Lucky for me, there's no board meeting before the game, so the Dutch won't have the benefit of another Moorlach invocation.

Update: Spain beat the Netherlands 1-0 to take the World Cup. Sorry John.- NORBERTO SANTANA, JR

*Norberto Santana Jr. is the Editor in Chief of the Voice of OC, an independent internet news agency for Orange County and the State of California. Read more of the Voice of OC here.*

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for 2011. Talks of layoffs and furloughs have subsided for now, however, benefits and the like appear to be on the table. We were able to hire three new DPO's and a few Group Counselor's for our Hall with some restructuring. Looks like all mandated training hours will be accomplished in house with trainings geared towards evidenced based practices...the wave of the future we hear. Juvenile has already signed on for Assessments.com and adult is soon to follow. Everyone's wondering what the future will bring, maybe if we hold each other's hands and sing it will all be good.

### **Madera County**

*Katherine Rojas, Albert Sanchez*

**What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end ,of little consequence .The only consequence is what we do- John Ruskin**

Madera County Probation is seeing some light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully more will follow. The Juvenile Hall is in the process of hiring five full time officers to help address the current staffing situation. Administration has reported that they are applying for several grants to help with the Proud Parent program and STOP program. These programs are an essential part of our probation system and any loss of monies would be detrimental to the youth that utilize these assets. Hats off to those working to keep these programs going! However Probation reports that due to staff-

ing they are up to approximately 200 caseloads per officer. Furloughs continue until June 30th, 2010 and will most likely continue into the next Fiscal year. Though times remain tough we are continuing on this journey as a team and remain confident that eventually we will see ourselves through these times.Katy Rojas - Madera County

### **Orange County**

*Alex Galvez, Steve Mata*

July 2, 2010

The Probation Services Unit and the County recently concluded their salary reopener with no net changes in the contract. Both sides are satisfied that, in this economic climate, the best thing to do is maintain the status quo.

PSU welcomes the newest member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Shawn Nelson, who represents the 4th District of Orange County. Shawn was previously a member of the Fullerton City Council. PSU wishes him good luck in his new job.

Investigations are at an all time high in the probation department with both sworn and non-sworn employees being investigated for a variety of issues, many petty in nature. Some of the investigations have been little more than witch hunts by executive management looking for any minor infraction of the rules. Most popular at this time is violations relating to internet access and inappropriate use of department email during working hours. Fortunately, PSU members are able to take advan-

tage of membership in the PORAC Legal Defense Fund.

### **Sacramento County**

*Greg Stuber, Tim Sowards*

July 15, 2010

Where to start; we just recently went through another devastating fiscal crisis. Our Department was forced to layoff over 95 sworn officers. We have now lost a total of almost 300 sworn positions in three years. Sacramento is only a probation department by name not by function. We have had to greatly reduce adult court, eliminated all but 11 officers in adult field, closed our last juvenile confinement option which was the boys ranch, and reduced both juvenile court and juvenile field units. We are ground zero for the impacts of the fiscal crisis in California. In June our Board of Supervisor just randomly returned money to the law enforcement departments in the county. Three million dollars was returned to the Department but that till left us with a 21.4 million dollar shortfall and the drastic cuts mention above.

Tim Sowards

### **San Joaquin County**

*Paul Brennan, Travis Rowe*

July 6, 2010

As you read this article, we will have lost four probation officers to layoffs, along with a half dozen others who face demotions. The good news is that by crafting an agreement with the County over concessions and another with re-

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ave the opportunity to work the 4/10 work schedule, while enjoying the benefits that come along with it!

### **San Diego County**

*Ernie Susi, Scott Laudner*

July 15, 2010

We finally made it through this years' budget crisis. We started off with nine potential sworn layoffs and ended up with four, but that's still four too many. The other part of that is that we also lost valuable support staff.

Numerous positions were cut and staff was moved to unfilled positions throughout the department.

Yes we are doing a lot more with a lot less and less means less officers. We have not filled approximately 150 sworn positions in the last year and a half. We are working with Administration on managing caseloads and bringing down the mandatory overtime.

This is the second year of our two year contract. We just received a 2% raise this last week and will receive a 5% kick for healthcare in November. We will start to prepare for negotiations around January 2011.

Right now we are in the middle of our Agency Shop (fair share) process. We secured enough valid signatures to begin the process with the State. Once an audit is completed we will have a vote that will include every CDPO I, CDPOII, DPO and SRPO. Our attorneys feel that the vote will take place in mid September. This

is a very important vote since it impacts every officer in our association.

We hope to have Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher, author of Chelsea's Law at our SCOPO meeting on Friday August 20, 2010 in Old Town. Hope to see you then

Ernie Susi President SDCPOA

### **San Francisco County**

*Armando Garcia*

We finished negotiations with the City and are pending ratification by members a two year contract. It includes a 4.62% reduction in pay, (37.5 hour work week rescinded completely), 12 additional floating holidays, and Expanded Alternative Work Program. There remains the possibility of layoffs, which is a definite concern to all. Juvenile Probation is still under the possibility of losing eight officers. Our Association has been a part of the Public Employees Committee (PEC), meets with representatives from the City to reach an agreement on various provisions. At Adult Probation we are working with the new chief, Wendy S. Still, update various programs and policies.

### **San Luis Obispo County**

*Julie Elisalda, Jeremiah Maltzhan*

July 12, 2010

SLOCPPOA, made a good faith gesture to the County Board of Supervisors by offering to defer our Cost of Living increase for fiscal year 2010/11. But as a result SLOCPPOA will receive a current contract extension for one

additional year. The Board of Supervisors agreed and our current contract is good through 2011/12. This benefits our current members as well as any of our new employees. With the County proposing a two tier retirement system this provides any new hires our current safety retirement of 3% @ 55.

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisor's has approved the purposed budget. The Department made cuts through out the job classifications. The elimination of the Assistance Chief position, four Juvenile Hall Supervisors and four current DPO vacancies it has mitigated the gap for this current fiscal year. With the restructuring of the four Division Managers to Deputy Chief Titles it allowed for the new job classification of two DPOIII. The new DPO III's will be our Field Training Officer and our Training Coordinator.

With the internal promotion of two DPO II's to the new DPO III's position the Department has already begun the application process for two DPO's. This will be internal promotion only for the Juvenile Hall staff. With the future promotion of Juvenile Hall staff the interview process has begun for Juvenile Services Officers. Although the Department is currently hiring our Chief has projected a negative fiscal picture for 2011/12 fiscal year.

Jeremiah Malzhan

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## **Ventura County**

*Diane Hubbard, Jennifer Krewski*

VCPPOA remains in negotiation with the County after our previous one-year contract expired last February. As previously reported, the County wants to shift the responsibility of paying 3% of the County's retirement match onto the employee. Additionally, the County wants to discontinue the 2.5% 401(k) match and reduce hourly compensation by 1.5%. VCPPOA hopes to compromise with the take-aways proposed and enter into a three year contract to avoid further take-aways next year and the year after, however the County favors a one year contract.

As previously reported, the Agency was looking at a proposed \$1.5 to \$3 million budget shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year, however with retirements, attrition, and through budget saving measures, the upcoming year appears to have a balanced budget. There have been no layoffs and no demotions other than those previously reported. One Senior DPO who had been demoted for budgetary reasons was recently restored to her former status. -John McKinley

## **Yolo County**

*Jennifer Elascas*

July 21, 2010

Yolo County Probation has been fortunate to have been able to avoid layoffs in the current fiscal year. In the economic crisis many departments have been plunged into, we are thankful to preserve the staff we have. Thanks goes to Chief Probation Officer Marjorie Rist for her ongoing efforts to save jobs within the Department.

We recently had an internal recruitment for Deputy Probation Officer positions. On July 21, 2010, the following staff were promoted to Deputy Probation Officer positions: Suzanne Huty, Detention Officer II, JDF; David Holtz, Detention Officer II, JDF; Silvia Diaz, Probation

bright spot, is that there is public support for a simple majority approval of the budget. The Democrats are happy I'm sure, as they would have the majority, *but hold onto your pocket books*. If voters approve of a change in the way the budget is decided upon, you can surely expect your taxes to go up. Over the years, two approaches to solving our fiscal crisis have been discussed, raising taxes or cutting spending. Unfortunately, printing money like the Feds wouldn't even get us out of this; much less create long-term ramifications. How about a combination of the two? Creating new or restructuring current taxes to pay for selected services, such as law enforcement (Probation included) and services that are vital to the protection of the public; creating tax incentives for private businesses; having the courage to make cuts to some public programs; and the development of a long-term (10-year) plan to tackle spending and deficits. It's a start.

Recently, your President and leaders from other recognized statewide labor organizations, met to discuss the Governor's proposed budget; specifically the part of the budget that includes shifting the responsibility of 15,000 prisoners to local county jails. Discussion took place over his proposal and in the end, the group came up with a plan to create budget savings while better protecting the safety of our communities. The plan now resides with those at the State Capitol, and it is hoped that serious consideration is given the proposal. Perhaps, we are nearing a time where discussions will also involve the restructuring of the State Parole system and the possibility of Parole realignment. It certainly appears, that the State is getting out of the business of supervising juveniles, could the supervision of adults be far behind?

Back to the pension attacks for a minute. BE ON THE LOOKOUT for the following tax-related initiative, backed by Paul McCauley: The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1470 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 10-0017. If this initiative qualifies for the November ballot, it will impose a new annual surcharge and new annual tax on all pension income over \$40,000! That affects all of us folks! The details read as follows: Passage of the initiative would impose a new annual surcharge (between \$5,000 and \$50,750) and a new annual tax (between

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# SCOPO BOARD MEETING - JUNE 2010

[Meeting from page 1](#) proposed cost shifts to counties. He added that the Federal Court early release of 40,000 state prisoners, which is being contested by the state and this issue may also go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

During lunch the group was honored to hear Ventura County Director/Chief Probation Officer, Mark Varela and Juvenile Court Judge Donald Coleman as the guest speakers. Chief Varela and Judge Coleman concurred in their praise of the integral part probation plays in the legal process.

Treasurer Jim Traffanstedt distributed his final SCOPO financial report. With much regret, Jim will be stepping down from his position as SCOPO's Treasurer. All wished him good luck in his future endeavors. Paul announced Travis Rowe as his replacement.

In his President's report, Paul announced that the Association is now 100% web based at [www.scopo.org](http://www.scopo.org) and he gave a summary of the Executive Board meeting from June 17, 2010. With the assistance of their attorney Chris Miller, Sacramento County Probation Association Vice President, Tim Soward, gave a Power Point presentation regarding a budget plan to help educate public officials and community leaders. Due to budget cutbacks, approximately 27,000 criminals sentenced to probation in Sacramento County, will be on the streets, largely unsupervised. This is a danger to all. Please visit [www.keepsacsafe.com](http://www.keepsacsafe.com). This video will also be made available on [www.scopo.org](http://www.scopo.org).

Sacramento County Probation Association is suing that county's Board of Supervisors, seeking a Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Writ of Mandate compelling the Board to provide sufficient funding for Constitutional, Statutory and Court-Ordered responsibilities.

Trivia Answer from the last edition of the SCOPO News: This singer recorded "I'm Not A Juvenile Delinquent" and "Why Do Fools Fall in Love". Name the recording artist, who was also por-



trayed in the 1998 movie "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" by actor Lorenz Tate?

Trivia Answer: Frankie Lymon

This edition's Trivia Question: In honor of "Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 18 to 24, 2010, generally who is considered to be the "Father of Probation"? (check here next month for answer).

*Let's Be Careful Out There,*

*Rich*



# Vallejo's experience with bankruptcy, arbitration reform may spur action in San Jose

Forty years ago, after a police and firefighter strike, Vallejo became the first California city to let arbitrators — private judges for hire — settle pay and benefit disputes with its unionized work force.

In June, voters made the city of 120,000 the state's first to repeal that provision as it struggles to emerge from bankruptcy driven by runaway employee costs.

That vote — and the experience in Vallejo, once known for its bustling naval shipyard — has been closely watched in San Jose and other cities where costs for police, firefighters and other unionized employees are outpacing revenues and devouring funds for roads, libraries and other public services.

Vallejo's successful repeal has emboldened San Jose city, business and neighborhood leaders to consider a similar ballot measure. And if they succeed, San Jose's labor leaders will be bracing for a similar fight.

"Something has got to change," said Jerry Mungai, president of San Jose's Almaden Valley Community Association, whose board this month will consider asking the City Council for a November ballot measure repealing the arbitration rights city police and firefighters won in 1980. "It was sold on the idea that we'd have labor peace, and what it's done is given us something more than maybe we bargained for."

Public safety unions that kept a wary eye on Vallejo's measure are girding for more battles.

"It affects police officers around the state," said George Beattie, president of the San Jose Police Officers' Association. "Repealing this would be bad for the citizens, bad for the police officers and bad for the city."

## Spending by unions

The San Jose officers association contributed \$5,000 toward the campaign against Vallejo's arbitration repeal initiative, Measure A, which narrowly passed with about 51 percent of the vote June 8 despite

heavy opposition from police and firefighter groups around the state. The Coalition for a Safer California, sponsored by public safety organizations, spent more than \$40,000 fighting the measure.

The measure's backers — mostly city officials and citizen activists — said they were outspent by a ratio of about 10 to 1.

After Vallejo voters approved arbitration in 1970, city officials made two failed attempts in that decade to get it repealed, said San Francisco labor lawyer Alan C. Davis, who represents city workers.

But measure backers said Vallejo's 2008 bankruptcy filing, which made it the largest California city to declare insolvency, and public scrutiny of city employee pay and benefits made repeal an easier sell.

City records showed that a dozen police and fire employees were paid more than \$200,000 last year, ranking from chief down to captain and engineer. Nearly half the city's employees are paid six-figure salaries.

"This just needed to be done," said Carlyle P. Johnson, 73, a photographer who voted for the repeal measure. "The unions are too powerful."

The dispute resolution process officially called "binding interest arbitration" has seldom aroused such interest beyond bureaucrats, lawyers and labor leaders. Unlike "rights" arbitration that settles contract interpretation fights, interest arbitration decides disagreements over compensation.

The way it typically works with government unions is when contract talks reach an impasse, the union and employer choose the arbitrator, often a retired judge, from a dispute-resolution firm. The arbitrator considers the opponents' positions on the disputed points and picks the winner for each.

There's no attempt at middle-ground compromises: If the union wanted a 4 percent raise and the city

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## LAPD complains about parole officials classifying suspect in police shooting as 'low level, nonviolent'

From the LA Times - The Los Angeles Police Department has asked the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to investigate how a parolee who fired nearly a dozen gunshots at two LAPD officers over the weekend in the San Fernando Valley was able to gain early release and why he was classified as a low-level offender.

In the letter to Corrections Secretary Matthew Cate, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck expressed concern that Javier Joseph Rueda, 28, of Panorama City was placed on "non-revocable parole" in May after serving just two years of a 10-year prison sentence.

"If you determine that there were issues regarding Mr. Rueda's status, we would appreciate your feedback on how we can work with you to ensure that incidents of a similar nature do not occur," Beck wrote. Paul M. Weber, head of the union that represents nearly 10,000 LAPD officers, was far more critical, calling parole policies -- including the state's early-release program and computerized parole classification system -- a threat to officers.

"We have repeatedly warned for months that it's only a matter of time before the Department of Corrections' 'non-revocable' parole policy — which pushes prisoners back onto the streets and prevents their

[Vallejo from page 8](#)

offered 2 percent, the decision is either one or the other. Once made, it's final.

Does arbitration work?

Though arbitration is often sought as a less costly alternative to the courts, it isn't cheap. San Jose Employee Relations Director Alex Gurza said that with stenographers and expert witnesses, the city bill can reach \$500,000.

Advocates say the process offers a fair and efficient way to resolve compensation disputes through a neutral observer having no stake in the outcome. It can prevent strikes from disrupting public services. Or in the case of police and firefighters — who thanks to law changes since the 1970s are effective-

return to prison — enables a parolee to kill a police officer or an innocent member of our community," Weber said. "It was only by the sheer grace of God that these officers were not killed by this parolee, who still should have been in prison."

Rueda was shot and killed Saturday after he allegedly got out of his car and opened fire on two officers who had been pursuing him on suspicion of driving under the influence. One officer was shot in the lower arm, and his partner injured his wrist after a fall. State records show that Rueda, who police described as a Vineland Boys gang member, was classified as a "low-level, non-violent" parolee" and therefore was not being monitored by parole agents with the corrections department. Known by the gang monikers "Jayboy" and "Ghost," Rueda was paroled Jan. 25 after serving time for a 2007 conviction on charges that included evading an officer, car theft, possession of a silencer and possession of a controlled substance while armed with a firearm.

In recent months, police officials have said more attention needs to be placed on how parolees are monitored. The law has long required different levels of monitoring for those released from state prison, with violent offenders subject to more rigorous checks, including more frequent visits with their

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ly barred from striking — restore balance to the negotiating table. Beattie said that otherwise, "We're really resorting to collective begging."

"We'd just have to take what they offered us," Beattie said. "We believe we should have some recourse to negotiate a fair contract or have somebody come in and take a look at it."

Critics argue that the process takes budget decisions out of the hands of elected officials.

Vallejo City Councilwoman Marti Brown, who helped lead the measure campaign, said that with three-quarters of the city's budget spent on employee pay and benefits, arbitration effectively left her deciding just the remaining fraction.

[LAPD continued from page 9](#) parole agents. A new law that went into effect this year aimed to cut the state inmate population by about 6,500. The reductions, targeting low-level offenders, are achieved in part through good-behavior credits but also by revising parole rules to stop police agencies from returning nonviolent offenders to prison for minor parole violations.

State parole officials contend that the changes in the law allow their agents to concentrate on the most dangerous offenders. They say the average caseload for each parole agent statewide before the law passed was 70 parolees and that when the law is fully implemented, the number will drop to 48. State corrections spokesman Oscar Hidalgo said it was possible there was confusion about Rueda's gang status. But he added that that even if Rueda had been on supervised parole, Saturday's events might still have occurred. "Supervised parole is not incarceration," Hidalgo said.

In addition to the supervision of parolees, law enforcement officials -- including Beck and Weber -- have raised questions about the new computer risk-assessment tool called Parole Violation Decision-Making Instrument.

The program is designed to identify parolees who

carry a high risk of violence and who need more attention, as well as lower-risk offenders, whom parole agents would spend less time monitoring and who might be eligible for targeted programs rather than being put back behind bars.

The technology has not been without its issues. Some 600 felons were classified as being at "low risk" of reoffending. Of those, 240 that were granted parole were reclassified and were supervised. Corrections officials said 1,700 agents are currently monitoring more than 108,000 parolees across the state.

Weber, who wrote the governor last year to slam the computer program, said the entire law mandating early release and parole reclassification should be scrapped.

"We are putting the CDCR on notice now -- don't you dare come to an officer's funeral and tell us how sorry you are that one of your parolees, who should have been in prison, killed a police officer," Weber said. "Your chance to make amends is now, when you can correct the problem before someone else is hurt or killed and scrap a policy that puts officers and the public in danger."- Andrew Blankstein

## MEMBER COUNTIES OF SCOPO

**Contra Costa County**  
*Richard Berkery, Mike Schorer*

**Fresno County**  
*Lorraine Sepeda, Carlos Gonzalez*

**Imperial County**  
*Oracio Carranza, Ruben Sandoval*

**Inyo County**  
*Heather Oney, Jacob Morgan*

**Kern County**  
*Shell Beach, James Traffanstedt*

**Madera County**  
*Katherine Rojas, Albert Sanchez*

**Marin County**  
*Ulises Ramirez, Yuliana Valenzuela*

**Merced County**  
*John Carllisle, Kalisa Tresos*

**Mono County**  
*Diane Anthony*

**Orange County**  
*Alex Galvez, Steve Mata*

**Placer County**  
*Trista Sherfey*

**Sacramento County**  
*Greg Stuber, Tim Sowards*

**San Bernardino**

**San Diego County**  
*Ernie Susi, Scott Laudner*

**San Francisco County**  
*Armando Garcia*

**San Joaquin County**  
*Paul Brennan, Travis Rowe*

**San Luis Obispo County**  
*Julie Elisalda, Jeremiah Maltzhan*

**Santa Barbara County**  
*Ed Torres, Derek Reynolds*

**Solano County**  
*Kevin Russell, Joe Harris*

**Tehama County**  
*Al Bianchi*

**Ventura County**  
*Diane Hubbard, Jennifer Krewski*

**Yolo County**  
*Jennifer Elascas*

20% and 60%) on all pension income, including employer-paid health insurance premiums, in excess of \$40,000. Approval may result in the imposition of a one-time additional tax on California residents whose pension benefits earned in California in a taxable year exceed \$40,000. What can you do, you may ask? First of all, don't sign the circulating petitions! Secondly, tell your friends, family and colleagues about this so that they will be aware of the petition.

On a related note, the current Governor is still battling hard to get restructuring and deals done on contracts that involve public employee pensions. In June, the California Highway Patrol Officers' union and three other state labor groups agreed to contract terms with the Governor, that roll back pension benefits for new state hires while increasing all employees' retirement contributions. Not a very positive trend for the rest of us. November can't come soon enough! Let's hope that the next Governor has a different approach to dealing with labor, *and* has the wisdom to see that *we* (public employees) aren't the enemy!

You may ask, what can be done about this? Continue to fight the efforts of those who would paint us as villains. Talk to people you know, tell them the truth about what each and every one of you are

facing in your jobs. Tell them that you've seen many of your brothers and sisters in labor laid-off during a time where the argument can be made to increase staffing levels to deal with the amount of problems that we are confronted with. Write (email), call and visit your local politician, from the Board of Supervisors to your State Assembly member and State Senator, and tell them what matters most to you. Most importantly, spread the word that SCOPO is there to fight on our profession's behalf.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Jim Traffanstedt for his work as Treasurer for this Organization. At our last SCOPO meeting in Ventura County, Jim announced that he would be stepping down as SCOPO's Treasurer for personal reasons. In his place, Travis Rowe from San Joaquin County was appointed and subsequently confirmed by the Board of Directors at the same meeting. Again, a tremendous thank you to Jim for his effort at spearheading the financial changes that we've made during the first half of this year, and a round of congratulations to Travis for assuming the role of Treasurer!

Stay alert, stay safe, and stand committed.

*Paul Brennan*

President, SCOPO

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Aide - Adult Placement; Paul Spiegel, Detention Officer II, Transportation/Alternative Sentencing; Stephen Svetich, Detention Officer II, JDF; Ivan Lowry, Detention Officer II., JDF. They begin their new positions August 1, 2010. We would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you the best in your new positions!

Our Adult Supervision and Pretrial Units have just completed a very intensive (6 month) session of Motivational Interviewing skills development. All staff have submitted their first audio tapes and just received one-on-one skills critiquing. All staff have greatly improved their MI skills and have started integrating them into their day-to-day practices with clients.

## SCOPO NEWS



9719 Lincoln Village Dr., Suite 501, Sacramento, CA 95827  
Telephone (916) 368-0158 FAX (916) 368-5820

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010**

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Opinions expressed in all byline columns are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Organization or its membership.