

PEACE OFFICERS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



MEMBER SERVICES

porac.org



***Largest Statewide Public Safety
Organization in the Nation***

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MISSION STATEMENT

NETWORKING | **ADVOCACY** | **IMAGE** | **TRAINING** | **BENEFITS**

The Mission of PORAC is to:

- Maintain a leadership role in organizing, empowering, and representing the interests of rank-and-file peace officers;
- Identify the needs of the law enforcement community and to provide programs to meet those needs;
- Represent and protect the rights and benefits of peace officers;
- Create an environment in which peace officers interact and work toward achieving common goals and objectives;
- Conduct research, to provide education and training, to define and enhance standards for professionalism;
- Promote public awareness that encourages and maintains the image of a “Professional Peace Officer.”



porac.org/about/mission-statement/

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state and federal law enforcement associations. PORAC was formed **by** peace officers **for** peace officers. PORAC's objective has always been the welfare of law enforcement- economic, professional and social.

With more than 930 member organizations representing over 70,000 public safety members, PORAC is the largest law enforcement association in California and the largest statewide law enforcement organization in the United States.

PORAC's goals and policies are established at our Annual Conference of Members. Between conferences, PORAC is governed by a Board of Directors elected from different geographical chapters, together with "at-large" directors, who are appointed by membership associations having more than 500 members.

PORAC's Executive Committee is responsible for PORAC's affairs when the Board of Directors is not in session. This 11 -member committee is made up of the president, vice president, treasurer and eight regionally elected representatives.

As representatives of PORAC, under the Corporations Code, the corporate officers, directors and chapter presidents have the sole responsibility and authority to represent PORAC.

PORAC is the largest law enforcement association in California and the largest statewide law enforcement organization in the United States.



WHO WE SERVE

Peace officers collectively join PORAC through their local peace officers' association.

PORAC members are represented within California and Nevada and are divided into four geographic regions and subdivided into 14 chapters.

PORAC membership is made up of:

Police Officers

Sheriff's Deputies

Firefighters

District Attorney Investigators

Deputy District Attorneys

Border Patrol Agents

Probation Officers

Harbor Police Officers

Welfare Fraud Investigators

School Police Officers

Airport Police Officers

Port Authority Police Officers

Correctional Officers

Park Rangers

Transit Police Officers

County Marshals

State University Police Officers

State College Police Officers

Community College Police Officers

Public Safety Dispatchers





PORAC'S 14 CHAPTERS



MEMBERSHIP

OUR MEMBERS MATTER

Every member has a voice in PORAC. Our organization is transparent and accountable. No association is too small, no question is less important, and no call for assistance is ignored.

PORAC retains its member associations because we continually strive to provide the types of services and benefits that are vital to our profession. Our directors stay in touch with the membership on a local level so that there is always a face to go along with the PORAC name.

Association leaders actively participate in individual association and chapter meetings, and provide input to PORAC's directors so our organization can keep current with the needs of the members. All members are encouraged to attend our training courses, Board meetings and, especially, our Annual Conference to see PORAC at work.

Associations wanting information on PORAC membership are encouraged to call our headquarters. The executive officers of PORAC are always available to answer any questions, and our directors will gladly meet with any prospective membership organization to discuss the benefits PORAC has to offer.



RESERVE PEACE OFFICERS

Being a reserve peace officer is no less dangerous than being a regular officer. We are proud to have reserve officers as members of PORAC and encourage them to participate in our organization.

Although reserve members do not receive all of the same benefits of regular membership associations, reserve officers are eligible to be covered under PORAC's Legal Defense Fund, as well as receive access to the Insurance and Benefits Trust affiliates.

PORAC is committed to keeping our reserve member associations informed on issues pertaining to law enforcement. We have the most up-to-date information on law enforcement issues in our publication, *PORAC Law Enforcement News*, and our website, **porac.org**.



Benefits

- ***PORAC Law Enforcement News***
- **Access to LDF and IBT**
- **POREF Relief Fund**
- **Access to Training, Conference, Symposium**

MEMBERSHIP

RETIRED PEACE OFFICERS



PORAC believes that there is a need for our retired members to stay connected with our membership and insurance products, and that PORAC should assist retirees in influencing legislation, tax matters and social policy that affect them.

Retired Associate Members (RAM) can take advantage of low-cost health, dental, vision, long-term care and other types of insurance coverage through PORAC's Insurance and Benefits Trust. Retired members have a position on the Insurance and Benefits Trust to represent their issues and concerns.

Retired members also have the ability to join PORAC LDF for H.R. 218 coverage as well as denial of CCW privilege.

Benefits

- ***PORAC Law Enforcement News***
- **Access to LDF and IBT**
- **Vote @ the Annual Conference of Members**
- **Access to Training, Conference, Symposium**



porac.org/retired-associate-membership

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Each year hundreds of bills are introduced in the State Capitol and monitored by PORAC's lobbyists, Aaron Read & Associates, at the direction of the membership.



PORAC has been instrumental in drafting and working on some of the most significant pieces of legislation that have ever impacted peace officers, including Assembly Bill 301, which enacted the Peace Officers Procedural Bill of Rights, and Assembly Bill 1435, which provided for the constitutional protection of peace officers' personnel records.

PORAC has sponsored many other major pieces of legislation that have provided for the constitutional protection of law enforcement officers and have increased the benefits for workers' compensation and retirement.

Of significant importance was PORAC's effort at increasing survivors' benefits by abolishing long-standing penalties that were imposed on surviving spouses and families of officers who have died in the line of duty.

PORAC was the dominant influence and force in the creation of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), and actively worked to pass legislation that added two additional rank-and-file representatives to the Commission.

No other organization can claim the legislative victories that PORAC has achieved. PORAC has the political effectiveness to advocate for or against the legislative issues that are beneficially detrimental to public safety. Through its active involvement and logical presentation of the facts, PORAC is revered as one of the most effective advocacy organizations in California.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Political Action is the backbone of PORAC's legislative strategy. This involves keeping legislators in office who support us and removing legislators who fail to support us.

Our Political Action Committee (PAC) endorses our friends and supports them with monetary contributions from our healthy PAC funds. PORAC's coveted endorsement is one that any candidate seeking public office can receive from the law enforcement community, should they meet our membership's high standards.

PORAC is also actively involved in aiding local associations in getting council members or supervisors elected, thereby maximizing the benefit from their political endorsements locally.

PORAC works with member associations on every aspect of getting their candidates elected, including conducting candidate interviews, creating campaign material, direct mail pieces and developing media and press relations.





NATIONAL ADVOCACY

PORAC understands just how important it is to keep a strong presence in the nation's capital and has worked diligently to strengthen its national position. PORAC has retained the services of a premier Washington, D.C. lobbying firm, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, to represent PORAC, track bills and assist us in Congress. We also publish a monthly report on these activities in the *PORAC Law Enforcement News* to keep our members updated on our federal advocacy.

Each year, PORAC's Board members take an active role in lobbying our federal representatives. Directors travel to D.C. to meet with senators and congressional representatives to keep them personally informed of our positions on federal legislation. Our lobbying firm routinely sets appointments with the White House, select committee staff and key congressional leaders. In essence, PORAC's influence is felt and shows nationally.

PORAC has been instrumental in drafting and working on some of the most significant pieces of legislation that have ever impacted peace officers.



LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



PORAC's Legal Defense Fund provides representation to public safety employees in civil, criminal and administrative disciplinary actions. It litigates cutting-edge issues for public safety employees in the appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. The Fund is run by five working peace officers whose philosophy is to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

With over 118,000 members, the Fund has participants in California and throughout the United States. The Fund counts among its membership police officers, deputy sheriffs, correctional officers, probation officers and a variety of specialized police officers. The membership spans the local, state and federal sectors. It also includes civilian employees of law enforcement agencies.

The Legal Defense Fund pays all related costs for cases it handles, including investigation, expert witnesses, arbitrators, polygraphs, court reporters and other court costs. In cases where there is a conflict of interest between officers, the plan provides separate counsel.

Over 40 years in existence, the Legal Defense Fund is a stable, well-run plan with more than \$20 million in reserves. The financial strength and experience of the Fund give PORAC the ability to customize plans and provide different levels of representation, depending on each association's needs.



poracldf.org



INSURANCE AND BENEFITS TRUST

PORAC is able to provide special benefits and insurance offerings through our Insurance and Benefits Trust-committed to offering members the best benefits possible at the most affordable rates.

Individual and group plans are available, including: Disability Benefits, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Term Life, Dental, Vision and Preferred Provider Health Insurance through Anthem Blue Cross via PEMCHA. Auto and Home-Owners Insurance plans are also offered through California Casualty. In addition, the Trust offers supplemental plans through AFLAC that include Cancer Care, Accident Advantage, Critical Care Protection and Hospital Advantage.

Members who participate in any of PORAC's insurance programs receive the added advantage of having the trustees act on their behalf in any dispute with a contracted insurance company. The Trust is a true advocate for our members.

Trustees are elected from each of PORAC's four regions to represent the members. The PORAC Board of Directors also appoints one PORAC director and one retired officer to serve as trustees.



ibtoforac.org

RETIREE MEDICAL TRUST



PORAC sponsors a retiree medical reimbursement benefit plan for its member associations. It is funded through a tax-exempt employee benefit trust called the PORAC Retiree Medical Trust.

The cost of medical care continues to rise faster than overall inflation. Public sector retirees and employees are bearing a significant amount of the increasing costs associated with their health care.

PORAC's Retiree Medical Trust is a health care pre-funding vehicle that is funded by defined contributions set forth in a labor agreement or MOU, and provides a stream of monthly payments for life for those who meet the eligibility rules. The employer and/or employee contributions to the RMT are made during the active employment of participating employees.

Contributions are pooled and held in trust, which is a separate legal entity from the employee and the employer. This Trust is also governed by a Board of Trustees, who are active peace officers or participants.

The payments must be used to reimburse the retiree for medical premiums or medical expenses, as specified in IRS Code 213(d).



poracrmt.org

POREF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 1980, PORAC formed a separate nonprofit public benefit corporation for educational and training purposes. This foundation is the Peace Officers Relief and Education Foundation (POREF). One of the main functions of the Foundation is the sponsorship of a Scholarship Program.

The Scholarship Program is part of PORAC's ongoing effort to improve the quality of the law enforcement profession in California and Nevada. The Scholarship Program was developed from PORAC's strong sense of commitment to individual communities and our members who serve those communities.

The funding for the POREF Scholarship Program comes from PORAC members, member associations, the general public and corporate sponsors. Scholarships are not restricted upon the applicant's field of endeavor. However, it is our hope that this scholarship will encourage young people to give serious consideration to the field of law enforcement as a career.



porac.org/membership-information/committees/poref/

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

POST-CERTIFIED TRAINING

Providing ongoing educational training opportunities for members is a major part of PORAC's philosophy. Each year, PORAC schedules training throughout California and Nevada on Internal Affairs, Basic and Advanced Collective Bargaining, Association Leadership/Ethics and Political Action. Nearly all of our training courses are certified for credit through the California Commission on POST.

All courses are designed to enable our membership to be more effective within their organizations. Courses are offered to PORAC members for a nominal registration fee.

Many presentations involve group discussions and unique problem-solving exercises that help members effectively deal with the issues facing the profession.

In addition to the regular training schedule, PORAC offers specialized educational opportunities at our Annual Issues Symposium. This symposium focuses on key law enforcement issues.



porac.org/training/

LABOR RELATIONS PROGRAM

PORAC is proud to provide help to our smaller membership associations through our Labor Relations Program, which awards grant funding to cover costs to attend relevant training courses. Our training staff educates members on association leadership and collective bargaining issues.

Our representatives can help members establish new associations or help existing associations develop new services and resources.

All courses are designed to enable our membership to be more effective within their organizations.



Our expert instructors provide insight into political action and can help associations learn the vital tools necessary to navigate the internal affairs process.

porac.org/training/labor-relations-program/

COMMUNICATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Although members have had access to information concerning PORAC's services through the Internet, the redesign of our website provides an interactive communications resource for the entire law enforcement community.

The latest news releases and legislative updates are available for viewing. Visitors to our site can access general information about our organization, link to related law enforcement sites and enroll in our training classes, Symposium and Annual Conference.

The objective of the site is to provide our members with the most current information concerning law enforcement issues. Communication is vital to the effectiveness of PORAC, and our social media presence greatly complements the overall information network for our members.





PORAC LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS

PORAC's main source of communication is its magazine, *PORAC Law Enforcement News*. Published monthly and distributed nationally, *PORAC Law Enforcement News* is one of the most widely read monthly law enforcement publications in the West.

PORAC Law Enforcement News offers members up-to-date information on legislation and detailed descriptions of precedent-setting court cases, along with late-breaking news stories.

The magazine also offers its readers the largest law enforcement employment opportunities section of any publication of its kind in the country.

Whether the topic concerns the latest in operations and tactics, legal matters or political developments, *PORAC Law Enforcement News* is always straightforward, informative and factual.



porac.org/porac-law-enforcement-news/

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



PORAC was instrumental in the creation of the California Peace Officers' Monument and Memorial Ceremony that takes place annually at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

Established in 1977, the Ceremony honors the officers who have fallen in the line of duty the preceding year and recognizes the sacrifices of those loved ones left behind.

PORAC sits on the Board of Directors for the California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation. PORAC also maintains a separate Memorial Committee, funded through POREF, to financially assist families of fallen officers in their time of need.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)

Founded in 1984, C.O.P.S. has remained unwavering in its mission to “rebuilding shattered lives of survivors and co-workers affected by line-of-duty deaths, through partnerships with law enforcement and the community.”



Every year, C.O.P.S. provides “Traumas of Law Enforcement” trainings. This course is designed to better equip agencies and association leaders when a line-of-duty death tragedy occurs.

PORAC works closely with the regional chapter representatives throughout California to best serve the family, friends, colleagues and community of fallen officers.

camemorial.org
nationalcops.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Headquarters

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Sacramento, CA 95834-3725
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Fax: (916) 928-3760
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Insurance and Benefits Trust

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Sacramento, CA 95834-3725
Toll-Free: (800) 655-6397
ibtoforac.org

Legal Defense Fund

PO Box 693130
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Retiree Medical Trust

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Membership

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Address Change

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