



I hope everyone had a happy and peaceful holiday season, and that your 2012 is off to a great start! As someone once said, "Cheers to a new year and another chance to get it right!"

### **Thank you from our military**

Back in November, the League sent care packages to members on active military duty and deployed overseas. This is an annual event for the League, and while it was Paul Weber's original brainchild, it is Cindy Scott from our Legal Claims Unit who really coordinates this effort every year. I want to give her a special thank you. Cindy has a huge soft spot in her heart for our military personnel and goes through great pains to make sure we have a complete list of officers deployed so we don't miss anyone. She also puts a lot of thought into the contents of the care packages. This year, we included holiday cards signed by our delegates and donations from many members. With everything that was collected and purchased, and thanks to Cindy's coordination, the League was able to send three packages to each officer! Judging from some of the responses we've already received and the thank yous sent to Cindy, our military folks are very grateful for the goodies and well-wishes. A few of those emails thanking the League and Cindy are printed on page 20.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed: PI Christopher Horn, Northeast Div., on behalf of his children Faith and Brady Horn: two bags; PII Ivana Peake, Narcotics Div., and PIII Ryan Peake, Southwest Div.: three bags; DII Efrain Baeza and Risk Management Group: four boxes; DIII Margaret Brownell, DI Lori Jordane and the officers at West Valley Div.: two large boxes and 10 bags; Ms. Karlain Blancq, mother of DI Randall Blancq of Newton Div.: one large box; Ms. Louise Ochoa: one box; Capt. II Phil Trotter: \$30 phone card; Lt. I Craig Lally, West Valley Div: \$20; Reserve Officer Jeff Weiherer, Training Div: \$50; Ms. Beverly Bowser: \$50; Sgt. II Gary Dubois: one large box; DI Stephen Crawford, Newton Div., and Cub Scout Pack 217 of Santa Ana: 10 ready-to-ship priority mail boxes; and the Police Memorial Fund: \$2,000. A special thank you goes to Cindy for her continued support of our LAPD military and her efforts to make their holidays a little cheerier while they are away from their homes and families. Like her voicemail says, "Please keep our military personnel in your thoughts and prayers."

### **Purple Heart**

In September of last year, the Department awarded its first 83 Purple Heart awards to honor officers who had died or sustained traumatic injuries in the line of duty. Since it was the inaugural ceremony of this new award, many of the honorees were selected from retroactive nominations for occurrences in years past. The retroactive nominations were originally going to be limited to the first nomination period and ceremony, but because of the overwhelming response, the Department has decided to again accept retroactive nominations for the Purple Heart award. You can find the most recent Personnel and Training Bureau notice regarding the nominations on page 27 of this issue. Anyone with a nomination should contact the commanding officer of the area *where the incident occurred* to begin the process. If you have questions, call Personnel and Training Bureau at (213) 486-7090.

## 2012 League delegates

The list of 2012 delegates is printed on page 23. Delegates are an important part of the League information loop to the membership, so take a minute to find out who the delegates are in your division. Some of their responsibilities include attending the monthly delegates meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and reporting back to you about the issues discussed and information distributed, as well as updating your League bulletin board with the appropriate handouts and flyers. If your delegates aren't doing this for you, we need to know. You can email me directly or contact the director assigned to your division.

There are also a few divisions with delegate vacancies, so if you are interested, especially if you work Central, Foothill, Harbor, Mission, Pacific, Rampart, Southeast, Southwest, Topanga, Wilshire, West L.A. or Jail Division, give me a call at (213) 709-3594 and I can give you more information.

## Public Safety First

In late 2009, the League began an extensive effort to reach out to residents of Los Angeles through our Public Safety First campaign. We launched the new [PublicSafetyFirst.com](http://PublicSafetyFirst.com) website in order to better educate the community about important public safety issues in Los Angeles, as well as across the state and nation. In addition, we designed the website to offer services like crime alerts specific to neighborhoods and community events.

Public Safety First has evolved into a sophisticated, multi-faceted education campaign. Today, with a few pushes of a button, we can alert supporters about important issues in their neighborhoods or the city. Since its launch, we have sent out various *calls to action* regarding a number of concerns, most recently the City's proposal to rewrite the 30-day impound policy for unlicensed drivers. That email notified community members about the political agendas that threaten public safety. Residents need to know that if this policy is amended, it will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the safety of people on our streets and is frankly nothing less than irresponsible. If having a driver's license isn't an important measure to ensure a person can safely and responsibly operate a motor vehicle, then why would the law require it in the first place? Obviously, it's to keep our streets as safe as possible, which should be the priority of City officials.

In addition to the website and email, we have expanded the campaign to a more grassroots effort with yard signs. Paul Weber wrote about it in detail in December, but let me update you a bit. In December we were at 6,500 requests, but now we're at about 8,000 PSF sign requests in council districts 1 (Ed Reyes), 13 (Eric Garcetti) and 15 (open). These are community members who clearly recognize the importance of public safety, and now the League has another 8,000 residents we can communicate and partner with in our efforts to protect law enforcement funding and Los Angeles police officers.

Because of the yard sign campaign's success so far, don't be surprised if you see them throughout the city this year. And if you see one, take a picture and send it to me — I would love to print more of them! We'll start a Public Safety First version of "Where's Waldo?" LOL!

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at [KristiSandoval@lappl.org](mailto:KristiSandoval@lappl.org). Take care of yourselves and stay safe.