



PROBATION E-GRAM

Official publication, L.A. County Probation Officers Union, Local 685, AFSCME/AFL-CIO.



December 23, 2016

President's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we close out 2016, spend time with our loved ones, and prepare to ring in the New Year, I want to take a few moments to reflect on the momentous year that was and think about the year ahead.

As Charles Dickens wrote in A Tale of Two Cities, 2016 was both the best of times and the worst of times.

Here in LA County, the times have been relatively good. We witnessed the swearing in of two new members of the Board of Supervisors - both of whom are solid friends of Probation, the "resignation" of Chief Powers, and the hiring of former Assistant LA County Sheriff Terri McDonald as our new Chief.

In California, the verdict is mixed. The good news is that we've expanded the solid pro-worker majority in both the Assembly and Senate, but [we have not been isolated from the vicious attacks on public safety officers.](#)

On the national level - irrespective of how you personally voted - it is clear that as unionized, public employees we are in for a turbulent 2017. President-elect Trump's new cabinet has a clear agenda to downsize government, privatize pensions, and wipe out unions. At a minimum, the very future of our unions is in jeopardy, [with the likely appointment of new Supreme Court justice who will end "agency shop" with CTA vs. Friedrichs.](#)

No one knows for sure what the future holds at the national level, so I have personally recommitted myself to serving the Local 685 membership at the local level. For that reason, in 2016 I poured our Union's energies into the two races for County Supervisor, and I have had several long and productive meetings with our new Chief. I am committed to developing a positive working relationship with her and her leadership team in 2017.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and/or Kwanza, I hope you and your loved ones have a happy holiday!

In solidarity,

Ralph Miller
President, AFSCME Local 685



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Calendar of Events

General Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017
7:30pm

Stewards' Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017
7:30pm

Meeting Location
AFSCME Local 685
3701 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 510
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Send Us Your Stories!

We welcome any story ideas - anything from success with a probationer, to the birth of a child or retirement of a co-worker, to the effect of staffing shortages or workload requirements on your ability to do your job.

Please email your story ideas to Cookie Lommel at dommel@afscme685.com.

[Email story ideas!](#)

Member Benefits

AFSCME Advantage

Discounts and benefits for AFSCME members that can help stretch your dollars and make life a little easier.

- * AT&T Wireless Discounts
- * Energy Efficient Rebates
- * Health Club Discounts
- * Vacation Tours
- * AFSCME Credit Card

[Click here for details](#)

Scholarships

Several scholarship programs are available for AFSCME members and their children. Select an individual scholarship for information on requirements and deadlines.

[Click here for details](#)

Education & Trainings

Probation Passings

Two Local 685 members passed this month:

- **DSO Angela Williams-Terry**, who worked at Central Juvenile Hall, passed away in her sleep on December 12, 2016.
- **Sr. DSO Michael Marleaux**, who worked at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, was the victim of a tragic auto accident Saturday morning.

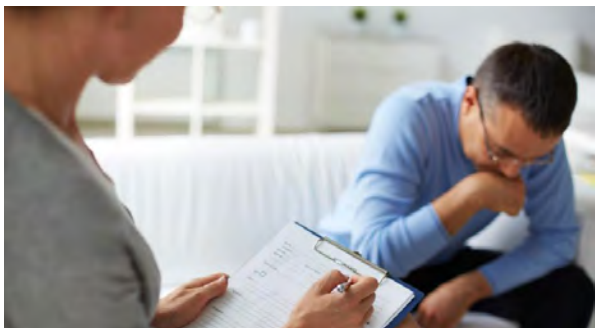
Rest in peace, DSO Williams-Terry and Sr. DSO Marleaux.

Counseling Can Be Confidential

Being a Probation Officer in Los Angeles can be a very stressful career and there are times we may like to speak with a professional in a confidential environment.

Employee Support Services (ESS) offers that opportunity. Initially offered to the Sheriff's Department, ESS is now being extended to the LA County Probation Department.

ESS' mission is to lead the way in providing psychological support and behavioral science services to law enforcement organizations, thereby increasing the health, well-being, and productivity of the organization and its employees. The Employee Support Services Unit is primarily staffed by the law enforcement psychologists.



Top reasons employees come to ESS:

- Intimate Relationships
- Critical Incidents
- Illness/injury
- Grief/Loss
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Depression
- Work and Personal Life Stresses/Anxiety

Who is eligible for Counseling?

All employees, both professional staff and peace officers, are eligible for free, short-term services. Their spouses or significant others are also eligible. The different formats are individual, couples, and family counseling.

Contact Information

Offices located in STAR Center; Palmdale, and Santa Clarita. Call 213-738-3500 for more information or to make an appointment.

Have You Picked Up Your Uniform Allowance?

Most of you have picked up your uniform allowance at your worksites. If it has slipped your mind by any chance, this is a reminder that it does come to you as separate payroll check.



Our union is only as strong as our activist core. That's why AFSCME is dedicated to working with our affiliates to provide high-quality training for AFSCME leaders.

Online Learning

- See upcoming live online workshops
- See available self-paced courses
- Investor education for working families

Classroom Learning

- See AFSCME programs for info

Women's Leadership & Training

Additional Resources

[Click here for details](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

