

PROBATION E-GRAM



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

October 27, 2016

Remembering Sgt. Steve Owen: A Loss for LA County Probation Officers

The County family has suffered a tremendous loss with the death of LA Sheriff's Department Sergeant Steve Owen. It is very clear that this is a loss that will be felt by the entire community for a long, long time. A few Local 685 members shared their stories of working with Sgt. Owen as they attended his funeral and mourn his loss:



Steve Sturdevant, DPO II Intensive Gang Supervision Unit: I met Sgt. Steve Owen when he was a deputy at the Lancaster Station in 2005. He trained so many officers; he was the "go-to-man" when working out any issues. We worked on numerous operations together in a ten-year span with a team comprised of various units. We worked even closer together when he was promoted to Sergeant and became the lead of the LANCAP Team in 2011 (a City-funded project with the Sheriff's Department).

Sgt. Owen also loved working with the Antelope Valley Fair. He led the volunteers and coordinated the administration of the Fair for several years. During the opening of the Fair, he always rode his big horse, leading the LA County Mounted Horse Posse. One year, the horse bucked and he fell off onto his head. Everyone gasped, but Sgt. Owen shook it off and stood up! He secured his horse and made a few jokes and got right back on. That was his personality; he always had a great sense of humor, no matter what.

For several days, some of the officers in the unit teased him about this event, making a collage of artwork of him falling off the horse; however, as much as they joked with him, he laughed along with them. He also had a knack of giving people nicknames as they became a close part of the teams he worked with. His nickname was "Bullfrog," and his wife Tania was "Mrs. Frog." Those who worked with him were called tadpoles. It became an honor after a while

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Calendar of Events

Stewards' Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016
7:30pm

General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016
7:30pm

Stewards' Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016
7:30pm

General Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016
7:30pm

Stewards' Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016
7:30pm

Meetings are held at the Local 685 office

3701 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 510
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Send Us Your Stories!

We welcome any story ideas -

to be a tadpole!

James Shrout, SEO Officer: I first met Sgt. Steve Owen in 2006 while working in SEO. I was transferred up to LASD Lancaster Station and assigned to the OSS Gang Unit. Sgt. Owen was then a Senior Deputy working in the LANCAP Unit, which works in conjunction with the OSS - Operation Safe Streets Gang Unit.

My transfer up to Lancaster was preceded by a very negative situation involving the prior PO stationed there, and it created a very uncomfortable environment for me. The work station I was given was directly next to Sgt. Owen and he was actually the first deputy to greet me. He introduced me to the others and showed me around the station. Sgt. Owen was absolutely first class and made my introduction and transfer to Lancaster OSS as seamless and accommodating as possible.

Over the next few years I got to know Sgt. Owen very well and worked the streets of Lancaster with him on several occasions. He was the most knowledgeable and well respected LASD Deputy I have ever worked with. My experience and memories of working with Sgt. Owen have inspired me both personally and professionally. The way he lived his life serves as both an inspiration and an example for others.

Robby Robinson, Retired SEO Officer: I was assigned to the Probation Special Enforcement Operations Unit in May 2005. I was stationed at the Lancaster Sheriff's Station with the Gang Enforcement Team. Sgt. Owen was working as the deputy for the high schools in the area. Since I was assigned to the Gang Unit, I needed to make several arrests of juveniles in the area. When I was introduced to Sgt. Owen, he made me feel welcome and told me the gangs in the area of Lancaster were different than the gangs in South Central. Whatever questions I had about gangs in the area, Sgt. Owen was a walking encyclopedia!

One day, I was with Sgt. Owen and Sgt. Marquez patrolling the streets. Both sergeants told me something I will never forget. They said, "Robby, when you get out the car be ready and stay focused. Be aware of everything."

Sgt. Owen was a "Deputy's Deputy." He was loyal, non-prejudicial, respected the badge, had love for the community, and was there when I needed to detain adult and juvenile probationers. He had a signature laugh and would say something to cheer you up if he saw you down in the dumps.

Sgt. Owen will be missed. He was there for me numerous times, and I will never forget him.

"I would say Sgt. Owen was welcoming and understanding figure within the Law Enforcement community," declared SDPO Alva George.

A Day in the Life of Special Assistant Chereise Simmons

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 clommel@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

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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

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

Cherise Simmons began her Probation career as a Detention Services Officer assigned to Central Juvenile Hall. She was then promoted to DPO I, where she was assigned to Challenger Memorial Youth Center. Later, she transferred to Camp Glenn Rockey and then was assigned to the mobile gang unit at the Probation Department office in Crenshaw.



Simmons then accepted a special assignment as staff assistant for RTSB Administration and then was promoted to Special Assistant in 2013.

Working as a Special Assistant in the L.A. County Probation Department can be very productive. No two days are the same. Paying attention to one's surroundings is very important. Having a great relationship with co-workers is a must because in Probation, we work as a team.

Simmons is now assigned to Field Services, covering the area offices of Centinela, Crenshaw, Firestone, South Central, Santa Monica, East San Fernando, and Van Nuys. She also has administrative oversight of the Citation Diversion and Teen Court programs. She oversees administrative processes and procedures for Supervisorial Districts 2 and 3. This includes the handling of employee transfers, promotions, and new hires. She conducts administrative studies and administrative investigations dealing with a wide range of subjects that affect departmental operations.

This already sounds like a lot of work, since this also includes working with Teen Court and Diversion and she can spend a great deal of one day solving a problem. As the assistant to the District 2 and 3 Bureau Chief, Simmons works as a consultant to the directors and supervisors as well as a liaison between management deputies and non-sworn employees. She could be running from one person to the next as a human problem solver!

If you think you now know most of what a Special Assistant does, did you know that in addition to her duties she is also coach and mentor to staff members? She does this to maintain a reasonable expectation in their job performances. This is very important because it flows right into her duty to promote unity between management and line staff, as well as maintain the goal of promoting a healthy and cohesive work environment. In this area, the Special Assistant focuses on bringing out the best in all the employees under her tutelage, encouraging the employee to give their best to the clients we serve. What a day!

[Additional Resources](#)

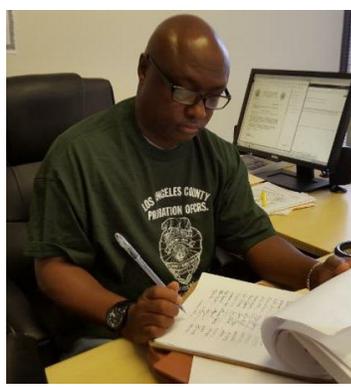
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**Stacy Ford to Meet With
Kaiser Leadership on Behalf
of Local 685 Members**

DPO Stacy Ford is one of our busiest stewards. He's always fighting for the rights of Local 685 members. Currently, he serves as co-chair for the Employee Benefits Association Committee (EBAC), which works hand and hand with the Coalition of County Unions (CCU).



These committees work closely together with the County to negotiate and oversee our Choices Benefits. There have been some complaints concerning the services (or rather the lack of services) associated with the Kaiser Permanente network in the Antelope Valley. Soon, EBAC members and the CCU will be meeting with Kaiser leadership to address our membership's concerns.

If you live in the Antelope Valley and have had a negative experience with Kaiser, or perhaps you have a suggestion for the services already provided, please let us know. Please outline your concerns and send them to Stacy Ford at sford@afscme685.com.

Please send your information as soon as possible; the meeting will take place very soon!

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich Motions to Add K-9s to DISARM Team



In February 2000, due to events that took place in our community, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich was inspired to encourage the formation of the DISARM Team (Developing Increased Safety Through Arms Reduction Management).

This past August -- at our annual banquet -- Supervisor Antonovich noted that Local 685 honored a K-9 who had an outstanding history of detecting and searching for explosives. He was inspired to create the addition of K-9 assistance to the DISARM team. "This banquet was the genesis of this motion," explained Supervisor Antonovich.

The motion by Antonovich calling for a report on expanding the use of detection K-9s to the Probation Department's DISARM program was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors. He recognized the Department's

DISARM program and its efforts and had some of the DISARM team members present how a K-9 can help during search operations in a safer and more efficient manner.

"The use of these specially-trained dogs for detection of weapons and narcotics can improve safety concerns and allow residents to resume their normal daily activities sooner and with less disruption," Antonovich said. "Having personally participated in DISARM search operations, I have witnessed the challenges faced by these Probation Officers and the vital need for K-9 assistance."

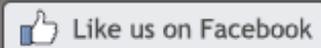
A report with more detailed facts is due in 2 weeks and will include additional information at the request of Supervisors Solis and Kuehl.

[Read more.](#)

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