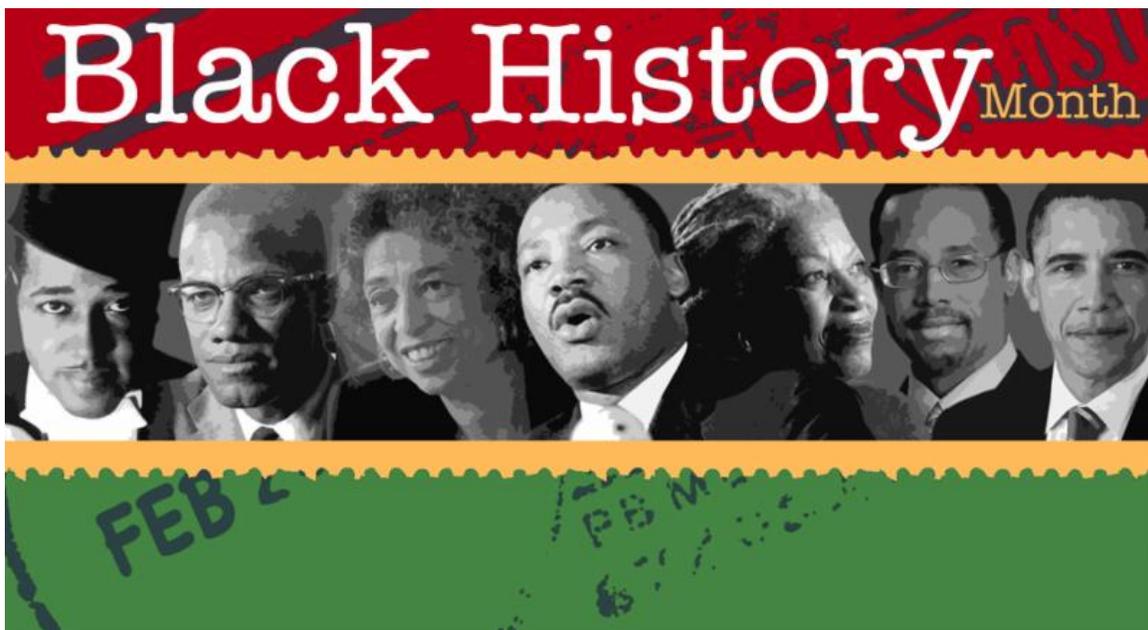


# PROBATION E-GRAM



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

February 15, 2016



In honor of Black History Month, we are highlighting African American probation officers who have made a difference in the Los Angeles community. We begin the series with civil rights icon Larry Aubry.

## Spotlight on Larry Aubry

Larry Aubry was taking a political science class at UCLA when a recruiter from the LA County Probation Department visited and gave a presentation. 34 at the time, he was enticed to join the Department and eventually rose to the rank of DPO III - one of the first to reach that position - working as a Court Officer at Central Juvenile Hall Court.



Aubry, who is now 82, stayed on the Department until his 50's and to this day still regularly attends Probation Officer Retirees gatherings, interacting with long-time probation friends.

Larry, a renowned Civil Rights Activist and distinguished reporter for the Los Angeles Sentinel, worked with the LA County Human Relations Commission for over 32 years, yet his career in Probation had a huge impact on his life.

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## Calendar of Events

**Stewards Meeting:**  
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016  
7:30 PM

**General Membership Meeting:**  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
7:30 PM

**Meetings are held at the  
Local 685 office:**

3701 Wilshire Blvd.

Larry recalls his first assignment at the Long Beach Area Office: "After a year, I was transferred to IDC (Intake Detention Control). Back then, Probation decided which crime was a felony and which would be considered a misdemeanor. Next, I went to Adult Supervision, Narcotics Unit - a very difficult job. I witnessed how many people on my caseload had such difficulty resisting the physical pull of these narcotics.

"One young man I supervised was a master violinist who won a competition at UCLA; however, he was not allowed to receive the award because he was on probation. Then I supervised the controversial stand-up comedian Lenny Bruce, who was frequently arrested on obscenity charges - but I didn't have him for long as the FBI was after him and upgraded his charges to federal offenses."

[Read more](#) about Larry in the Los Angeles Times.

## Update on Promotions

There have been a series of meetings with Interim Chief Cal Remington and we are beginning to make progress on our priority to unclog the promotional backlog and reach resolution on outstanding grievances. As evidence of this progress, the following was sent to Local 685 on Friday, Feb. 12:



"We conducted the third promotional job fair this morning and 28 DPO II Field candidates accepted promotions. There were 30 DPO II Field critical vacancies identified to be filled at this job fair. Three of candidates declined to participate today and another did not RSVP and was a no show. All the candidates that participated accepted positions. With the exception of two candidates who sent proxies, all those who accepted a position were live-scanned today. Since all of the candidates were prescreened by the Background Unit, we anticipate that they should all be cleared fairly quickly.

"As previously reported, there will be two different release dates for these field promotions. We anticipate that 12 DPO II candidates will be released to the Field on March 13th and 18 will be released on April 3rd. It is also my understanding that the remaining two critical vacancies were filled by working the promotional list following the job fair."

This is only the beginning of the process and we will keep you updated as we work our way - together with Interim Chief Remington - through the 100+ Unfair Labor Practices pending against the Department for failure to promote.

## 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 [clommel@afscme685.com](mailto: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.

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- See upcoming live online workshops
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working families

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### Women's Leadership & Training

### Additional Resources

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*After exposing sex trafficking at County's*

*Youth Welcome Center...*

## DCFS to Close YWC

In 2015, the *Los Angeles Times* shed light on the issues that Local 685

members had long complained about - unsafe conditions for minors and staff, sex trafficking, and worse.

[Their expose](#) created a political firestorm, and months later, the *LA Times* reported that a panel convened to study the issues

[called for the closure](#) of the Youth Welcome Center.



*CREDIT: Billy Pena. A baby shortly after being detained at the Children's Welcome Center (2013).*

According to the [Chronicle of Social Changes](#), YWC is now slated for closure:

"Next month, Los Angeles County's child protection department plans to shut down two centers meant to serve as children's first stop on their traumatic journeys into foster care.

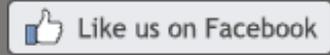
"The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) says that the closure of the so-called Children's Welcome Center and Youth Welcome Center - little more than three years after the first was opened - is an appropriate response to a state lawsuit, and good for children." [Read More](#)

The long standing challenge of placement for hard-to-place youth remains. Local 685 had made a number of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in 2015 when this story broke, and we are hopeful now - with the new Board - the voice of rank and file workers will be heard.

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