

PROBATION E-GRAM



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

May 27, 2016



Recent Developments in Public Safety

In 1945, AFSCME began organizing public safety employees and now represents more than 100,000 police officers, probation officers, correction officers, and many other ancillary public safety jobs.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 [National Peace Officers Memorial Day](#) and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. This year, we sent our Local 685 V.P. of Camps, Eddie Chism, to take part in events in Chicago and Washington D.C.



Chicago hosted The AFSCME Racial Justice and Law Enforcement Meeting. Alongside other AFSCME public safety representatives from across the country, Chism worked on a new resolution that will be presented at the upcoming [AFSCME Biennial International Convention](#).

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Calendar of Events

General Membership Meeting:

Thursday, June 9, 2016
7:30 PM

Shop Steward's Meeting:

Thursday, June 30, 2016
7:30pm

AFSCME International Convention

July 18-22, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

13th Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet

Friday, August 5, 2016
Universal City, CA

Meetings are held at the

Local 685 office:

3701 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 510



Next stop was Washington D.C., where tens of thousands of law enforcement officers gathered to participate in the AFSCME Law Enforcement Advisory Council Committee. V.P. Chism reported various updates from many department directors at this meeting, also for presentation at the upcoming convention.



The event included the 25th annual law enforcement candlelight vigil, where 252 officer names were added to the memorial, including 123 officers who were killed in the line of duty. The week concluded with the Law enforcement Medal of Valor presentation by President Obama.

V.P. Chism always ensures that Local 685 has a voice in the issues that are on the table, whether they are social justice, economic issues, or legislative developments. Staying informed about changes in public safety is key to supporting our members.

Probation Fire Camps Today

In 1931, LA County Chief Probation Officer Kenyon Scudder partnered with the Juvenile Court Judge to develop the Fire Camp and Forestry Program. The County designed the program as an affordable public project work force and a solution to the many transient young men new to California.

These youngsters were also employed as reserve fire fighters, doing rigorous, back-breaking work. During the notable year of 1957, fire camp workers responded to 848 fire calls where they rendered invaluable assistance to professional firefighters. This is a program with rich history and many evolutions.

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.

[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

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



Fast forward to 1990, where a canyon fire blazes out of control. The crew responded to the brush fire with chainsaws, rakes, and hoes to slash through the yucca and poison oak plants to create fire lines. These clear lines eliminate the fire's fuel and stop the spread.

Minors are not permitted to work more than eight hours, but this emergency exception meant that the team worked into the night. One of the County firefighters remarked, "We give these young teens a lot of responsibility and they kind of rise to the occasion."

By sunrise, a homeowner came out to see the damage and thanked the youth for saving his home. Once these kids saw the gratitude this family bestowed on them, they were the "proudest and the happiest kids alive," wrote one witness.

Soon after, the Los Angeles Times featured an article entitled "[Fire Crews Make Bad Boys Heroes](#)".



These days young men are clearing brush and debris, hiking the forest to cut the lines, maintaining hoses, and acting as aide to the professional fire crew. Our motives in 2016 have changed greatly from the times of founder Scudder. This program has become rehabilitation for our youth, with goals to re-enter their communities with skills, abilities, and a desire to be productive successful citizens.

- Investor education for working families

Classroom Learning

- See AFSCME programs for info

Women's Leadership & Training

Additional Resources

[Click here for details](#)

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California's Probation Facts

[Source: Public Policy Institute of CA](#)



Basic Facts

- Probation is the most widely used form of correctional supervision in California.
- Probation is 1 of 4 forms including prison, jail, and parole.
- Judges decide, with input from the district attorney, public defender, and probation dept.
- California's adult supervised probation population is 2x larger than prison, 4x larger than jail, 6x larger than parole.
- Probation is a county responsibility, parole is administered by the state.

Recent reforms

- In 2009, SB 678 encouraged county probation departments to keep violators under community supervision instead of returning to state prison.
- In 2011, AB 109 made county probation depts. responsible for a large segment of non-serious, non-violent prison releases.
- In 2014, voters approved Prop 47 which reclassified a large amount of felony offenses as misdemeanors. This act also trimmed probation caseload by 3%.

Caseload numbers

- CA's adult caseload is down 19% from it's historical high of 352,449 in 2003.
- In 2014, LA county had the largest caseload (55,265) and Sierra County the smallest (32).
- Felony cases account for 85% of the total load.
- Spending has increased \$400 million from 2010 to 2014, yet it is 1/2 the amount spent on jail expenditures.
- Probation remains the least costly form of supervision, at about \$12 a day.
- A parolee costs \$28, a jail inmate \$106 and a prisoner \$164.
- Probation failures have dropped about 6%, and typically result in an equal split between jail and imprisonment.

