

PROBATION E-GRAM



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April 18, 2017

Probation Newsroom

Guns, Drugs, Arrests in Pomona Gang Sweep

A multi-agency policing gang sweep in Pomona netted 12 arrests and included the recovery of two loaded guns and several grams of methamphetamine, police said Sunday.



One of the 12 arrests included a suspect in possession of a stolen vehicle, the Pomona Police Department reported.

The agencies participating in the sweep Saturday included the Montclair Police Department, the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations.

No details about the exact time or place were released.

[-City News Service](#)

In This Issue...

[Pomona Gang Sweep](#)
[Jerry Powers](#)
[Prop 57](#)
[Storms Are Temporary](#)
[LP's Artists](#)
[Legislative Update](#)

Calendar of Events

Stewards' Meeting

Thurs., April 27; 7:30pm

General Membership Mtg

Thurs., May 11; 7:30 PM

Meeting Location

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

Powers Promoted Adult Parole Operations Director

Jerry Powers, 54, of Modesto, has been appointed director of the Division of Adult Parole Operations at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, according to Gov. Jerry Brown's office.

[Read More](#)

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!](#)

Local 685 News

What Will Prop 57 Mean for Probation?

Prop 57 allows virtually any inmate except those on death row or those serving life-without-parole sentences to be eligible to earn the credits and lower their sentences.



It's the latest step in a years-long drive to dramatically lower the state's prison population in response to federal court orders stemming from lawsuits by prison advocates and pressure to turn away from mass incarceration.

How can prisoners earn their release? It can include steps like reducing inmates' sentences up to six months for earning a college degree and buying up to a month each year for participating in self-help programs

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.

such as alcohol and substance abuse support groups and counseling, anger management, life skills, victim awareness, restorative justice, and parenting classes.

It also requires the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to certify that these policies are consistent with protecting and enhancing public safety. Prop 57 requires judges instead of prosecutors to decide whether minors should be prosecuted as adults, emphasizing rehabilitation for minors in the juvenile system.

The changes in parole eligibility took effect April 12, 2017, and final approval will be possible by October after a public comment period. The earlier release credits and earlier parole consideration will be phased in starting May 1 while the public review is underway.

Police, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, and crime victims fought the ballot initiative, arguing that it will release dangerous offenders. Proposition 57 will also put convicts into the County Probation system, which is already stretched from AB109, more quickly.

The voters spoke clearly in Prop 57 that they want true rehabilitation in our prison system, and in order to have true rehabilitation we must ensure a balance of incentives and sanctions. Probation better get ready!

[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

Additional Resources

[Click here for details](#)

Stacy Ford's Message of Encouragement: **Storms Are Temporary**

In May, my wife and I will celebrate 27 years of marriage. We do a lot of interesting things together, one of which is going to the beach to watch waves in the middle of a storm. One of our favorite spots is Will Rodgers State Beach. When watching these waves during a storm, it is then we realize just how dangerous those waters are.



Sisters and brothers, our Department is in a storm. This storm has hit us hard and caught us off guard. We have officers charged with crimes against juveniles, officers falsely accused and placed under investigation, officers following policy and placed under investigation, supervisors not responding to critical incidents in a timely manner, managers afraid to make decisions, and juveniles gone wild. When a juvenile feels that he or she has been empowered to assault officers without repercussions, we are in a storm.

These are some tough times, but our Local Union is known to survive. **"WHEN WE FIGHT-WE WIN."**

Our Union is like the City and County crews that keep everything moving during a big storm. We have been kicked around in the storm, but we always get up, dust off, and move forward.

During our storms, we have kept the 15th and the 30th alive and well. No one on the payroll has missed a check. When you went to the doctor during the storm, your benefits were active. When you got called to Downey to meet with Internal Affairs about one of those false allegations, Local 685 President Ralph Miller made sure your rep had a release letter for his/her workplace to give you the best representation possible. During this storm, you lost nothing but inconvenience. Throughout this storm your Union leadership kept working and providing the benefits and representational

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services you deserve.

We will prevail in this storm. Those of you who are under investigation, hold on and be strong. We are meeting with our Chief and having meaningful discussions about all the activity that's going on. Our Union executive team is all over every issue that we are facing; it too will pass.

Good things are on the way. Old fights will be won and new fights will arise. We are all Local 685 and "WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN" so be encouraged!



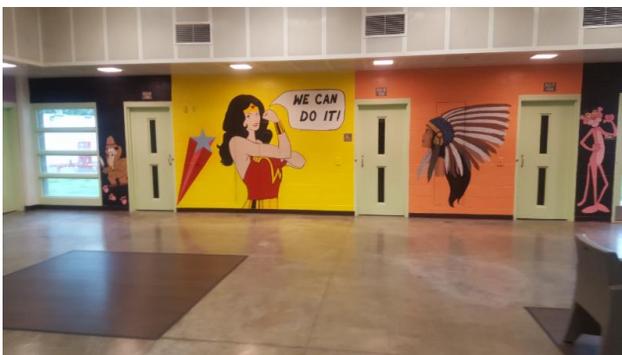
Los Padrinos' Award Winning Artists

by Cookie Lommel

Would you be surprised to discover that we have very talented artists in our Probation family? Last year, as I entered into the heart of the Los Padrinos facility, I looked up and there was DSO Yos looking down at me from the top of a tall ladder, covered in flecks of yellow paint! DSO Yos has been a Probation Officer for more than 11 years, so I asked, "When did you have the time to attend art school, in addition to criminal justice education?" She laughed as she explained that being artistic was a family hobby, that her brothers were always designing drawings, some of which they developed into tattoos. So she started drawing, too.

In 2008, DSO Yos was asked to create her first art piece at Los Padrinos by painting a mural in the boys' gym. Next she was asked to paint a mural in the Al Jones Store.

Los Padrinos' then Superintendent, J. Johnson, sent out a notice to the staff seeking those officers that would consider working on an artistic project. DSO Yos discovered that Superintendent Johnson wanted staff to create an inspiring mural for the PQ building named "Transcend." DSO Yos recruited DSO Davis and DSO Armstead to form a unique artistic team.



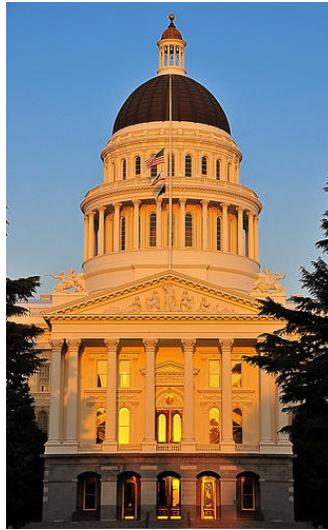
Los Padrinos received so many compliments and words of thanks for the work Local 685 members contributed to the facility. Superintendent James Johnson (now Division Manager) presented DSO Yos, DSO Davis, and DSO Armstead with the Superintendent's Award in recognition of their outstanding artistic efforts in completing both the Transcend Mural and The Hope Center Project. "We are indeed proud to have such dedicated staff as these officers," Superintendent Johnson (now Division Manager) stated.



Pictured from left to right are Superintendent James Johnson, DSO Sina Yos, DSO Damon Davis, and DSO Eric Amsted.

Legislation Probation Officers Will Want to Know About

On Tuesday, the California Assembly Human Services Committee passed a bill to ensure that minors locked up in Juvenile Halls and Camps have reasonable access to computers and the internet so that can receive a quality education and keep in frequent contact with their loved ones. AB 811, introduced by CA Assemblyman Mike Gipson, would also establish that kids in foster care have a right to access computers and the internet.



The non-profit Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), which works to defend "civil liberties in the digital world," sent a letter to Assm. Gipson in support of AB 811.

"When youth are incarcerated, it is the government's duty to ensure that they receive the necessary services for rehabilitation and successful integration back into the free world," the letter reads. "Computer literacy and computer skills are crucial to development in the modern era, particularly when it comes to finding jobs."

Internet access also allows minors detained far from home to "maintain meaningful relationships with their families," the EFF letter explains.

After passing through the Human Services Committee, AB 811's next stop is the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

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