



California Correctional
Peace Officers Association

Front Street



Fronting the Facts, Watching Your Back

January 2004

Message From Louie

Vice President CYA

Rank and File



A NEW BEGINNING FOR CCPOA AND CYA

Looking back at 2003, CCPOA and its members have much to be thankful for, especially the potential for an exciting 2004.

In hindsight, what a crazy year 2003 was! California faced a budget and leadership deficit, resulting in the historic gubernatorial recall and the inauguration of Arnold Schwarzenegger as the state's new Governor.

CCPOA, meanwhile, continued fighting for its members to make sure our profession was treated with honor and dignity. *Front Street* consistently detailed the challenges officers face working in California Department of Corrections (CDC) and California Youth Authority (CYA) facilities. Pulling no punches, CCPOA demanded change.

I'm proud to report that change has come.

Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed someone from the ranks of Correctional Peace Officers, Rod Hickman, as Secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency (YACA). Jerry Harper has been replaced as CYA Director. Most importantly, the Governor has opened a constructive dialogue with CCPOA based on common goals and mutual respect. While we still face significant obstacles, there is reason for hope.

The priority during the holidays is the men and women who proudly wear the badge and serve the public as CCPOA members. CCPOA President Mike Jimenez and I were able to thank many of you personally as we traveled the state visiting with members who gave up time with their families to work the holidays. This attitude reflects upon the character and integrity of our union. In addition to our individual families, CCPOA members are dedicated to one another as family and to serving the people of California courageously.

So as you reflect upon your lives this year, be proud of the fact that you provide one of our state's most important services — you protect the people. CCPOA recognizes and appreciates your commitment and professionalism and will continue to deliver the very best representation in 2004. You are part of the family — the CCPOA family!

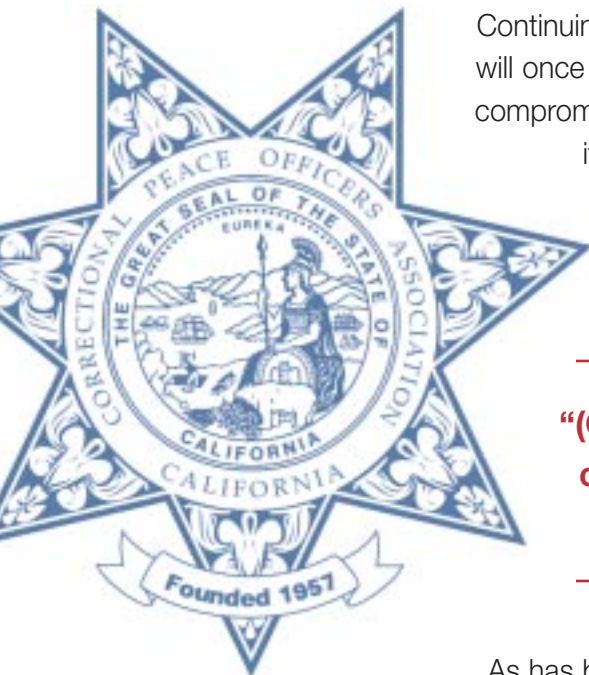
STATE BUDGET UPDATE: CORRECTIONS TO TAKE \$400 MILLION CUT; CCPOA ASKED TO RENEGOTIATE

By: Mike Jimenez, CCPOA President

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released his 2004-2005 state budget proposals, which as expected, rely heavily upon spending cuts to bridge what is projected as a multi-billion dollar deficit. Local governments and health and welfare programs would bear the largest cutbacks, and the Department of Corrections (DOC) would take a \$400 million reduction; the Department of Finance (DOF) asserted that this would be accomplished in part through a reorganization of the DOC as well as a renegotiation of the CCPOA contract.

We made our position clear to the Governor before he took office: CCPOA is willing to work with the state to reform DOC and the Youth Authority (CYA) as evidenced by our 2003 proposal that would have saved taxpayers \$700 million. We agreed to work with the Governor and demonstrate leadership, but we did not agree to be singled out as the only organization to do so.

So given our position, where do we stand today? First, CCPOA remains committed to working with the Governor to fix the problems at DOC and CYA. Continuing the status quo undermines our profession and cannot stand. We will once again work with management to realize budget savings without compromising Unit 6 members' ability to perform their duties. At the same time, if there is to be any adjustment to our contract, this must be part of a statewide effort. We will only negotiate as part of a statewide effort where all of our union brothers and sisters stand up to help the state fix its financial foundation.



“(Governor Schwarzenegger) has given us his word that our partnership will be one that champions the efforts of our members working the front lines.”

As has been stated consistently, we believe Governor Schwarzenegger values our efforts and will work with us cooperatively to find solutions to the state's challenges. He has given us his word that our partnership will be one that champions the efforts of our members working the front lines. The road to this end is not always smooth and there will be bumps along the way; newspapers articles, rumors and false assumptions can lead to uncertainty and apprehension.

Our vision for this organization and our priorities will not change. Correctional Officers protect California and CCPOA will protect Correctional Officers. That is something which is not ever negotiable.

CCPOA STRAIGHT TALK WITH GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER

MESSAGE FROM MIKE JIMENEZ - CCPOA PRESIDENT

Arnold Schwarzenegger has been California's governor for more than 60 days, but in that short time, he has taken actions that bode well for a strong relationship with CCPOA. It's become obvious over the years that, in a political environment, you have to make decisions based upon actions rather than rumor, and that is the approach this union is taking with the new administration. Here's a brief recap of Governor Schwarzenegger's first two months:

Rod Hickman appointed Secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency

(YACA): CCPOA veterans know this name because Rod came from our ranks. He walked the line and understands the challenges of our job. This perspective is important as Secretary Hickman faces the challenge of managing YACA. We have met with Rod already and begun a productive dialogue; while we may not always agree on specific policy issues, we believe we will have an open, honest dialogue that seeks to find common ground.

Jerry Harper replaced at the California Youth Authority (CYA): CCPOA's differences with Director Harper are well chronicled, and we were clear in our position that CYA needed new leadership and direction. Governor Schwarzenegger recently appointed Walter Allen III to replace Jerry Harper at CYA. Allen, like Hickman, is a front line officer, having served with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement as well as a past president of the California Narcotic Officers Association. Although we have had only limited opportunities to discuss CYA issues with Director Allen, he has indicated to us that he is interested in working cooperatively with CCPOA to fix the problems that currently plague the Department.

CCPOA leadership meets with Governor Schwarzenegger: Corrections Vice President Chuck Alexander, CYA Vice

President Louie Adame and I met personally with Governor Schwarzenegger in his office at his invitation. YACA Secretary Rod Hickman, Cabinet Secretary

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Marybel Batjer and Bonnie Reiss, a senior advisor to the Governor, also participated in the meeting.

Governor Schwarzenegger was gracious, humorous but definitely all business. He stated clearly that he understood how challenging our jobs are, and he respects the fact that CCPOA members put themselves at risk daily to protect the people of California. The Governor communicated to us that he wanted CCPOA to work with him to reform the Department of Corrections, increasing efficiency and budget savings without impact to officers' ability to perform their duties. We were particularly impressed that Governor Schwarzenegger was aware and appreciative of CCPOA's 2003 \$700 million budget-savings recommendations to former Governor Davis and legislative leadership. He knows California needs to get its finances in order, and he is smart enough to appreciate that CCPOA can be a valuable partner. The Governor closed our meeting by asking CCPOA to work with him to bring California back. We share his desire to see our state rebound, and we are willing to roll up our sleeves and address issues related to that effort.

So in Sacramento, where rumors run rampant and facts are sometimes scarce, CCPOA makes decisions based on actions. You know where we stand, and that CCPOA will always put its members first. If the actions taken by the Governor during the first two months of his administration are any indication, there is reason for optimism.

A TRIBUTE TO OFFICERS ON THE JOB DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By: Front Street Staff

Most employees look forward to the holiday season, especially because they can take time off from work to spend with their families and loved ones. CCPOA members throughout California are no different, but thousands sacrificed family holiday festivities to walk the toughest beat in the state during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. They gave up time with their families to keep California safe, and we all owe them a heartfelt thank you.

That is exactly what CCPOA President Mike Jimenez, Executive Vice President Lance Corcoran, CYA Vice President Louie Adame, CDC Vice President Chuck Alexander and Supervisory Vice President Robert Dean and other leaders throughout California did...personally. At nearly every facility in the state during the holidays, union leaders took time to acknowledge the dedication of Unit 6 members with a face-to-face thank you and the presentation of a commemorative 24/7/365 pin.

"Visiting facilities and talking to members is exactly what we need to be doing on the holidays," Jimenez said. "The members are the backbone of this union, and we appreciate every single person who proudly and professionally wears a Correctional Officer badge. It was an honor to spend the holidays with the men and women who keep California safe by walking the toughest best in the state."



CCPOA Leadership visited facilities over the holidays to personally express their gratitude to officers working during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

This ongoing effort to reach out directly to members is important because it ensures that the union is always in touch with its rank-and-file.

"The troops were floored to see CCPOA's leaders paying them a visit during the holiday," Pleasant Valley State Prison Chapter President Sheree Ghidelli said. "Members told them, 'we know you're out there working for us and we appreciate you visiting, but go be with your families.'"

OH Close Chapter President Patti Padmore echoed this point. "The fact that the state president and his leadership team took the time to visit members

during the holidays demonstrated that there is no 'us and them' within the union," she said. "With CCPOA it's all 'us' and that is why we are so successful. Our leaders have the same perspective as the officers they represent. The fact that they would give up time with their families to spend with their union brothers and sisters speaks volumes."

These visits also provided CCPOA leadership to discuss important issues that impact the lives of Unit 6 members. Members asked about facility closures, the status of our contract and what can be expected from the Schwarzenegger Administration.

"People want to know about their jobs and what kind of support they'll get from the new Governor," Padmore said. "It was good for members to be able to ask these questions face-to-face and get answers from their leaders. It lets the members know they are appreciated."

24/7/365 — this symbolizes the correctional officers' continuous commitment to performing their duties on behalf of Californians, and it also illustrates CCPOA's commitment to its membership.

"We'll never rest or take our people for granted. Our most important job is listening to members and then fighting for them," Jimenez concluded.

MAKING SAUSAGE, MEDIA STYLE HOW BITTER BUREAUCRATS MAKE NEWS AND TROUBLE

By: Lance Corcoran, CCPOA Executive Vice President



How many of you would bet your home on something you read in a newspaper? If you did, in many cases, you'd end up homeless. This is not said in an effort to attack the media, but rather to communicate the fact that the media is a tool for political interests to push their agenda. Reporters are looking for controversial issues to cover, and in Sacramento, disgruntled or politically-motivated bureaucrats can be the best sources of information.

A recent front page story illustrates this point. The first paragraph lights the fire, "Convinced that California can no longer afford its \$5.3 billion prison and parole system, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration is exploring moves that would all but eliminate parole conditions for nonviolent, non-serious offenders and eventually — through early release and lighter penalties — dramatically shrink the prison population."

Buried deep within the story, however, is the fact that the Secretary for the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency – Rod Hickman – was unavailable for comment. Other "sources" were cited without attribution. So to summarize, when a prominent newspaper runs a front page story on sweeping correctional policy changes without talking to the Agency Secretary and hiding behind anonymous sources,

you should consider the motives. In most instances, such stories are the result of a bitter bureaucrat trying to undermine the new administration. This is the same approach that lazy Department

investigators take when they don't want to invest the time to conduct thorough case reviews; it's certainly not the same level of effort and professionalism exhibited daily by Unit 6 members throughout California.

The good news for CCPOA members is that your leadership doesn't get its information by reading the newspapers. We talk directly to the Governor, Secretary Hickman and work closely with them on important policy issues. We believe Secretary Hickman is a true professional who is working to identify cost savings, but that does not mean he will endanger the public to save a couple of bucks? How do we know that? Because he told us personally. But that's something you probably won't read in the newspaper.

Bottom line: just as you are on the front lines protecting California from hardened criminals, we are on the front lines of communication with the administration, the legislature and Secretary Hickman, discussing issues important to the state's public safety, and how we as peace officers can best protect California. Rather than be a bitter bureaucrat looking for a quick sound bite, we – as always – are working toward solutions of substance for our membership.

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