



**IMPORTANT NEWS FOR CCPOA CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

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**CCPOA starts first round of campaign interviews.** The CCPOA PAC Committee is interviewing state legislative candidates all this week (February 21 – 24) — the first round of what will ultimately be many weeks of interviews for offices ranging from State Assembly to the Governor's office. In addition to these personal interviews, CCPOA also carefully reviews candidates' past voting records and their responses to a written questionnaire asking their thoughts and opinions on key public safety and labor issues. Unlike other groups, CCPOA's endorsements are based solely on a candidate's positions on issues directly relevant to its members and our profession — not on ideology or political party.

**CCPOA sponsors 3.0 at 50 legislation for supervisors.** Yesterday Assemblyman Ted Lieu introduced AB 2626, sponsored by CCPOA, which will finally provide correctional supervisors with the 3.0 at 50 retirement benefit already being enjoyed by rank and file. We'll keep you posted as this bill moves through the legislature.

**Bermudez takes on sex offender parole issue.** In response to the recent discovery that corrections officials are having parole agents "hide" sex offenders in our communities, often near schools, Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez held a legislative hearing in his Southern California district to dig deeper into the problem. A summary of the testimony to come ...

**Sacramento Bee puts spotlight on sex offenders.** After completing a six month investigation, the Sacramento Bee is running a series of articles on the highest-risk sex offenders housed and "treated" at Atascadero State Hospital. Here are some of the highlights:

- While sex offenders are sent there for a strict, five-stage treatment program, a loophole in California law allows those who refuse treatment to gain earlier release with less supervision.
- To date, 54 rapists and child molesters won release through the end of 2005 by refusing treatment and instead using the court hearings each offender receives every two years to gain release.
- Only four of the 500 men there have completed the five-step program, and one of those returned to custody less than two months after his release.
- While these offenders appear on California's Megan's List website, they're not distinguished from lesser sex offenders — even though they were all considered so dangerous and violent that they had to serve the remainder of the prison sentences committed to maximum-security psychiatric facility.

**Hickman's "dirty deeds."** A recently uncovered photo [attached] from a few years ago shows that poor judgment is not new to Secretary Hickman.

With a wide grin, Hickman, then head of a California prison's Security Investigations Unit, is seen posing with his crew behind a sign reading "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap" — a phrase from the popular AC-DC song about a killer for hire.

CCPOA issued the following statement: "It's baffling, but not surprising. At best, Rod Hickman displayed an appalling lack of judgment in sitting for the photo — the same poor judgment he continues to demonstrate as agency secretary, where his 'dirty deeds' keep piling up."