

CENTURION

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

2022 | Quarter 4





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since May 2021, we have been diligently working to build relationships and bridge the gap between police officers and the community we serve. I have placed a strong emphasis on building Blue Cares as the outreach arm of the Association. While we are focusing on building and expanding the impact that Blue Cares has on the community and encouraging more officer involvement, we have also been busy speaking with many activists. In 2021, several activists challenged our collective bargaining status. We were able to successfully defend against this challenge. In response to this challenge, I recognized that we needed to have a conversation with local community leaders. I know that we can never achieve an agreeable outcome if we just stand at the polls or demonstrations and yell back and forth. **Real change comes from listening, communicating, and understanding those we work with.** Because our members live and work in the community, we must be willing to have a conversation with community leaders. As a result of having these conversations, and getting Blue Cares directly involved in efforts to help our local residents, we are beginning to change the narrative and are finding common ground with many community leaders.

Through working with community leaders and City Council, our Collective Bargaining Team was able to negotiate a contract we believe is fair to the members while simultaneously addressing concerns of the community we serve. I have also recognized that a myriad of circumstances has caused what seems to be an insurmountable amount of stress on our members. With turnover through retirement and resignations at an all-time high, I believe the Association needs to address these stressing factors and the impact they have on our members. I am proud to announce we have been developing a mentor program through which our members can build healthy relationships and recognize the need for mental health support. We are all willing to fight and cover each other on our daily calls **to make sure everyone goes home; we must also take care of each other when it comes to our mental health.** I am also pleased to announce that in addition to the Centurion we have launched a mobile app. The goal of this app is to strengthen the membership through increased communication to eliminate rumors and any feelings of being left in the unknown. I have been working hard over the last year and half to strengthen and care for the membership. I look forward to the coming months as these projects continue to develop. Thank you all for your continued support and willingness to serve the citizens of San Antonio.



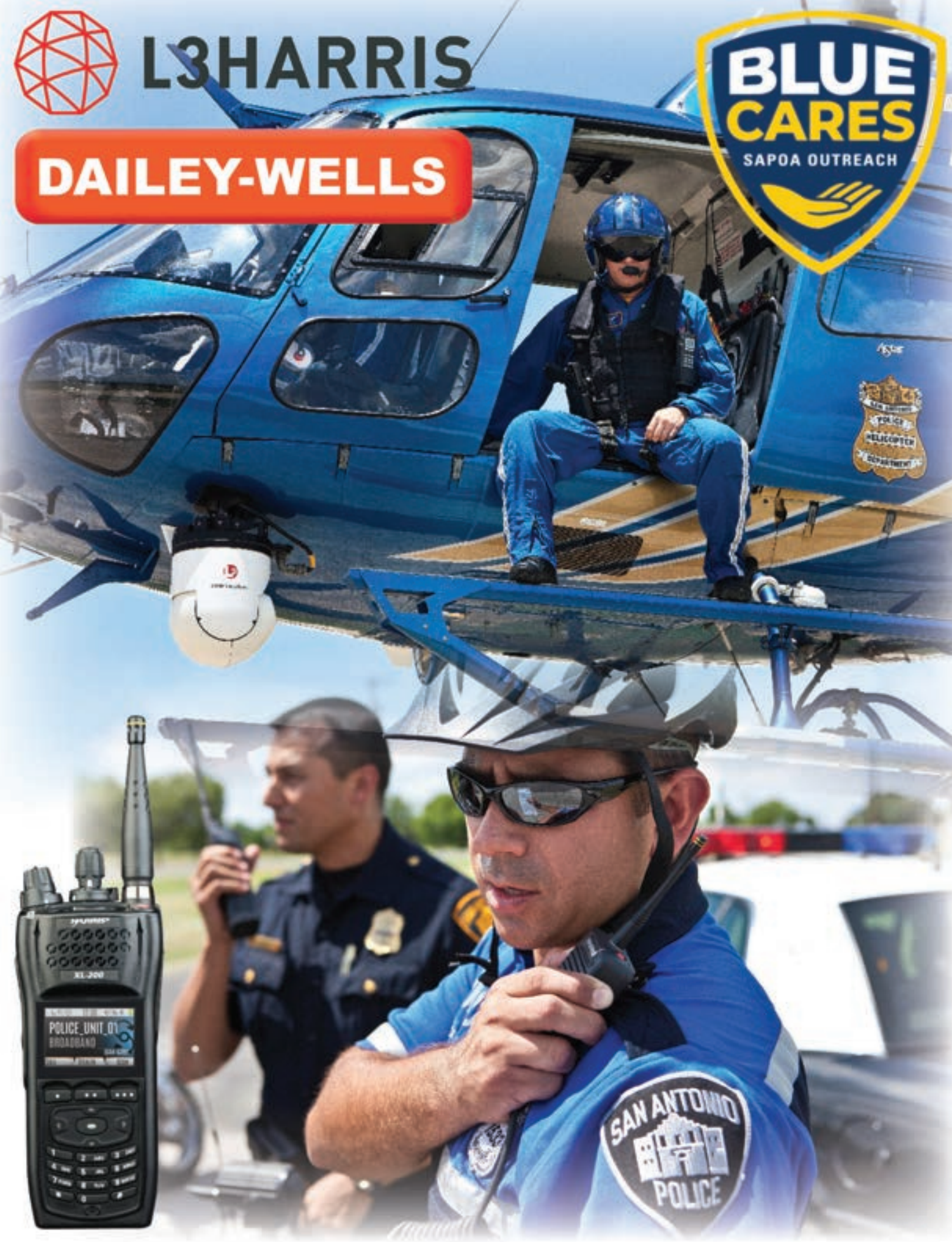
“Real change comes from listening, communicating, and understanding those we work with.”
— Danny Diaz





L3HARRIS

DAILEY-WELLS



HONOR FLIGHT SAN ANTONIO

GROWN MEN DO CRY

By: Lt. Matthew Colla #4062

I've had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Wall Memorial in Washington, D.C., three times. The first time, I was fifteen years old, when I attended a leadership development course sponsored by the Future Farmers of America (FFA). "The Wall," as it is commonly referred to, had just been dedicated. As a young kid, I was completely awestruck by the endless number of names chiseled into the black granite stone. I witnessed the bearded veterans wearing their worn and weathered solid green fatigues interacting with The Wall. It was while standing there, witnessing these

adults overcome by emotions as they were visiting with The Wall, I experienced a life altering thought. I realized freedom was not free and every American owes a debt to this country to enjoy the freedoms we have. I returned from Washington, D.C. with a new understanding of my obligation to this great nation. I decided if the 58,318 combat heroes killed in action who were the sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts had been willing to pay their debt with the ultimate sacrifice, then the least I could do is volunteer to serve in the military. I served

cont.



from 1989 to 1993 in the US Army. I was stationed in Germany and witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall ending the Cold War. I was then deployed to the desert for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. After my four-year enlistment, I returned home and became a San Antonio police officer in 1994.

The second opportunity I had to visit The Wall came in September 2018. My father was selected by Honor Flight San Antonio (HFSA) to go on a *"trip of a lifetime"* to Washington, D.C. to visit his war memorial. I volunteered to go as his guardian on the trip. My father served in the US Navy during the Korean War. While visiting the different war memorials in the National Mall, we moved through The Wall quickly because he wanted to spend more time at the Korean War Memorial. This was my first real involvement with HFSA. After returning home, I inquired about volunteering with them.

My third visit to The Wall came in May 2022. I volunteered to go with HFSA as a guardian with a Vietnam veteran named, Mario. During the pre-trip meet and greet, Mario's wife told me in private that Mario seldom talked about the friends he lost in Vietnam and hoped I would have the chance to let him share these stories to continue his healing process. It was during the long plane flight to Washington, D.C. when Mario opened up about his service in the US Marine Corps. He told me his platoon had trained together during boot camp before being shipped off to Vietnam together. He told me of the bravery and heroism of three buddies that were killed during his time in Vietnam. Mario said he really wanted to see their names and take home

tracings from The Wall. The first two days of the trip we visited many memorials and sights in the District of Columbia area.

On the final day, we visited the WWII Memorial as a group and then headed off individually to the Korean War Memorial and Vietnam Memorial Wall. Before arriving at The Wall, I obtained the panel and line number for Mario's buddies. There is a saying I have often heard about The Wall, "when you touch The Wall, The Wall touches back;" unbeknownst to me at that moment The Wall was getting ready to touch me. Mario and I headed down into the memorial finding the first panel on our list. The name we were looking for was on the second line. The panel was about seven feet tall in this area and aside from the height, obtaining the tracing for Mario was rather easy. Mario spent some time gently touching the name and recalling memories of his friend. We gained our composure and moved down to the next panel on the list. Mario asked if I could find the name for him because he was still overcome with emotions. It was a simple request, and I was there to help. The name I was looking for was located on line 67. I reached as high as I could and started counting as I moved my finger down The Wall. I was in the teens of my line count when all of a sudden it felt like I had been hit in the chest with a sledgehammer. The magnitude of what each individual line represented overwhelmed me. The tears started to flow. By the time I reached the twenties I was weeping, and the count had

slowed. I would stop at each line and pay the respect which our heroes earned making the ultimate sacrifice. Things were rather blurry, and I do not know exactly how I was able to get the tracing completed without destroying it. Now we moved further down to the third panel. It was then I discovered Mario's final buddy was located on line 100. I thought to myself, I can do this. The tears started heavily by the time I reached the twenties. I pushed on, but it was near line fifty I decided to count by twenty-five instead of trying to make the full 100. After completion of this final tracing, we attended a group photo for the veterans before working our way out of the memorial.

As I have reflected on this event, it brings me great joy and pride to have been there with Mario. There are numerous times during the Honor Flight when the gravity of the situation overwhelms the senses and you tear up. For example, when visiting Arlington Cemetery Taps is played, the veterans share letters from home, and then

civilians applaud us when we move through the airports are just some of these times. It is during these events you realize grown men do cry. I plan to continue volunteering with HFSA as long as they will have me.

HFSA is a non-profit organization whose goal is to take all WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit their memorials for free. This is accomplished by donations. Each veteran is paired with a guardian who assists the veteran during the trip. The guardians are all volunteers who make a tax-deductible donation covering a portion of the cost of their trip. If you know of any veterans who qualify or any businesses or individuals who would like to donate or participate, please have them contact HFSA for information.

honorflightsanantonio.org

For more information or to volunteer:
Honor Flight San Antonio

- <https://honorflightsanantonio.org/#>
- (210) 802-7472
- 14080 Nacogdoches Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247

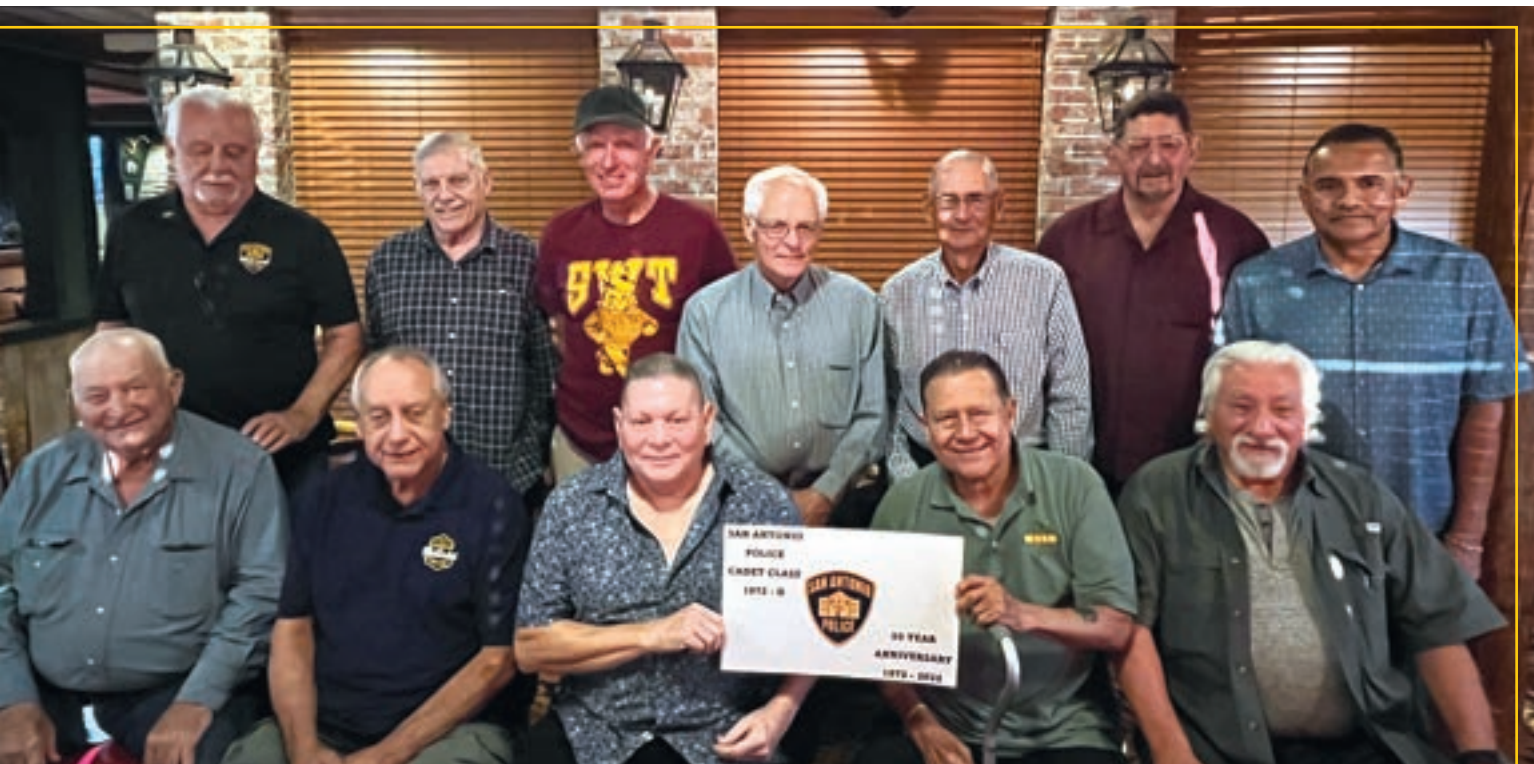


SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT CADET CLASS of 1972-D

By: Henry Alonzo – Retired SAPD

SAPD Cadet Class 1972-D began the police academy on September 11, 1972, in the basement of the police building at 214 W. Nueva. Our class included 26 police cadets and two arson investigators. There were two training classrooms in the basement to accommodate two cadet classes at the same time. The physical training room, located in the basement, was so small that we had to run 33 laps around this room to complete a mile run. The firing range, also in the basement, was small, loud and a fun place if you liked lead.

Our favorite instructor was Detective Tony Montalvo. He claimed to have several degrees from “What’s A Matter U.” Tony introduced us to MK Davis bar where he had his own parking space. Our classes, which included penal code and traffic laws were pretty reasonable. Everything was smooth and comfortable until the clock struck 3:00, time for physical training. Between the push-ups, running and the dying cockroach (laying on your back with your arms and feet in the air) we would have preferred a root canal. We did enjoy yelling at our classmates during boxing.



SAPD Class 1972-D met at Saltgrass Steakhouse to celebrate 50 years since the day the Police Academy started. All members of 1972-D have since retired, and they have continued to meet regularly as a class to reminisce about the “good ol’ days.” Many members of 1972-D were also Vietnam Veterans and share life-long bonds from war and policing the streets of San Antonio. The members of SAPD Class 1972-D wanted to share with readers that they still have all their hair, even if it is gray!

Front Row Left to Right: Jim Lubbock, Richard Moreno, Mario Juarez, Johnny Ornelaz, Rafael Gonzales
Second Row Left to Right: Raymond Hernandez, Thomas Smith Jr., David Goetz, Terry Larison, Bill Morales, Ernie Riojas, Henry Alonzo



We dreaded physical training, but somehow, we got through it.

We took our Probationary Patrolman Exam on December 22, 1972, and the list was certified on December 26, 1972, our Date of Rank. We graduated from the police academy on February 9, 1973. We were brand new police officers out on the streets. We worked the night shift for two years straight. The department didn’t have walkie talkies, so we didn’t have a radio when we left the police car. If we needed assistance while out of the car, we had to ask a citizen to run to the police car and ask the dispatcher to send backup.

In 1972 our monthly pay was \$630 a month or \$7,560 a year. Needless to say, we worked a lot of extra jobs. We had no collective bargaining the first few years, so benefits were at a minimum. When we started our patrol assignment, we were issued a .38 caliber revolver. Later we changed to a .41

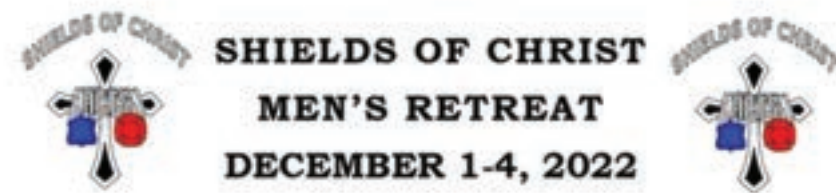
magnum then to a .357 revolver. One of the positive things we enjoyed was the fact that there was only one police station. All police officers reported to the same station, everyone knew everyone. This is certainly not the case with the sub-stations today.

It’s hard to imagine while in the police academy that this is the beginning of a 25-to-30-year career. This job was professional, respectable and exciting. It fed our family and paid our car and house payment. Many of us were able to send our kids and grandkids to college. I personally sent my daughter to the University of Notre Dame on a police officer’s salary. Yes, there was stress and difficult times, and we lost some good friends along the way. We have been blessed with a wonderful career. The majority of us have been retired over 15 years. SAPD Cadet Class 1972-D would do it all again.

SHIELDS OF CHRIST MEN'S RETREAT

All too often, our law enforcement officers and firefighters lose their connections to faith and family. Many times, it's due to the dark and negative interactions they face while performing their duties every day. Their eyes have witnessed the abuse of children, family violence, and the tragic toll of neighborhood deaths, which may sometimes include one of their own. The "Shields of Christ" are law enforcement officers and firefighters uniting and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ among our brothers and sisters in the public safety community,

and the community they serve daily, by providing specially formed retreats known as A.C.T.S., an acronym for Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service. "Shields of Christ" is a call to our law enforcement and firefighting communities to strengthen their faith and the manifestation of that faith, which will direct and protect them through their career and personal life. The Shields of Christ – ACTS Retreat will provide opportunities to grow spiritually and renew a sense of purpose for what God has planned in our lives.



**"... HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE."**

Matthew 3:11



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-Jamie Shaw

COMMITTEES

BUDGET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Budget Oversight Committee is staffed by multiple volunteer officers selected from across the department. The mission of the Budget Oversight Committee is to provide oversight through independent review of every financial transaction of the San Antonio Police Officers' Association (SAPOA). Every SAPOA deposit and expenditure is reviewed during monthly meetings of the committee. The committee then reports directly to the Board of Directors in the event of an unresolvable issue or substantial policy violation. The committee is co-chaired by Det. Stephanie Campos and Det. Rhonda Barnett. Members can reach the co-chairs by email at budgetoversight@sapoa.org with any questions.



Jason Sanchez
Treasurer, SAPOA
210.630.3818

ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee is empaneled by the Executive Board of the Association to examine the business dealings and practices of the Association. The committee's goal is to ensure the dealings and practices are beyond reproach, and do not bring any discredit to the Association. The Ethics Committee is composed of one chairperson, and up to seven (7) other members of the Association. The chairperson is put in place by the

president of the Executive Board but serves at the leisure of the entire Executive Board. A minimum of three (3) members will be required for a quorum. The chairperson maintains order during the meetings of the committee and is responsible for the report to the Board of Directors.

Any complaint being requested to be examined by the committee will not be accepted anonymously. All complaints will have a point of contact and specific information relating to the complaint. This is to prevent random accusations from being made based upon alleged hearsay or gossip.

For more information, please contact the Committee Chairman:
Andy Chernak | 210.422.3879

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Special Events Committee is chaired by John "Danny" Diaz and is responsible for the planning and execution of various events hosted by SAPOA throughout the year. These events include the annual SAPOA Picnic held every September, and the Annual Memorial Car Show held at the San Antonio Police Training Academy. The Special Events Committee also maintains various cook teams for additional smaller events throughout the year including, but not limited to, cooking at the substations and cooking for Fiesta. The Special Events Committee also serves to support activities and events hosted by other committees. This is done through cooking and generating volunteer support at events that may be hosted by the athletic, political action, or other various committees as needed to support the mission of SAPOA. Recently the Special Events Committee provided food and support at this year's Hero Flight as well as many other public events throughout the year.

If you need more information on the Special Events Committee or would like to get involved, please contact the following:



Danny Diaz | 210.248.4305
or
Scott Ambrose
Vice President
210.683.6111

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Athletic Committee is to plan and carry out all San Antonio Police Officers' Association sponsored athletic events. The committee hosts two basketball tournaments, a soccer tournament, a flag football tournament, a softball tournament, and a bowling tournament throughout the year. In addition to helping plan and host athletic events, many of the committee members act in supporting roles with other committees at a variety of events throughout the year. Several members have helped with cooking for school events as well as helped with fundraising efforts for officers or their families in need. This year the Athletic Committee assisted checking in officers, retirees, and their families at the annual SAPOA Picnic. In addition to checking people in, the Athletic Committee hosted a cornhole tournament at the picnic which provided additional entertainment for the attendees.

The Athletic Committee consists of 21 active members and one retired member. Det. Carlos Ancira and Ofc. James Ybarra serve as the committee chair and co-chair. The remainder of the committee consists of the following members:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Det. Carlos Chavez | Ofc. Daniel Gonzales |
| Det. Erik Garza | Ofc. Edmond Perez |
| Det. Jason Mendez | Ofc. Eric Moreno |
| Det. Michael Gonzales | Ofc. Johnny Perez |
| Det. Raul Rendon | Ofc. Marc Valero |

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Det. Antonio Flores | Ofc. Michel Perez |
| Det. Robert Valenzuela | Ofc. Robert Gonzales |
| Det. Ronald Rocha | Ofc. Oscar Perez |
| Ofc. Chris Arroyo | Ofc. Albert Sanchez |
| Ofc. Cristina Gonzales | Ret. Henry Ann Charles |

All members of the Athletic Committee have been voted onto the committee by the Board of Directors. While they are not currently seeking additional committee members, the committee always welcomes the help of any members wishing to assist at events or wanting to volunteer at cookouts. Members are encouraged to stop by and visit or help the committee anytime they are out in community. Please contact Det. Carlos Ancira for more information on the committee or to sign up to help.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 2023 – date TBD
John Rocky Riojas Basketball Tournament
- March 2023 – date TBD
SAPOA Tony Barasa Flag Football Tournament

For more information or to volunteer please contact the Committee Chairman:
Det. Carlos Ancira | 210.639.2524

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

The By-Laws Committee meets when changes need to be discussed about the by-laws. The current agenda for the By-Laws Committee is to review the number of directors to ensure fair representation for members, possible changes due to the department's reorganization of the covert section and evaluating the duties of the Executive Board.



Anyone requesting more information can contact:

Christopher Lutton
210.862.9231

COMMITTEES

DONATION COMMITTEE

The Donation Committee consists of SAPOA members who vote on requests for donations from organizations, such as non-profits.

The committee decides if the criteria is met and votes on the request. The committee meets once a month at the beginning of the month for all the previous months' requests. The Donation Committee does not fund sporting events that members want to participate in. For example, the association does not pay for a team or member to golf but will sponsor a hole.

Anyone desiring more information can contact: Cece Cantu | 210.207.7400

CONTRACT BARGAINING COMMITTEE

The San Antonio Police Officers' Association is recognized as the sole and exclusive collective bargaining agent for the police department consisting of all sworn police officers, excluding the Chief of Police. The association's Bargaining Committee shall be permitted to attend negotiating sessions with city representatives when required. The purpose of this committee is to bargain in good faith with the city representatives during times when the contract is about to expire, bring back to the membership a fair and just contract for their consideration, and vote. Currently, there is no sitting committee since the contract has been voted on. Discussions are going to be on-going in the work-life balance and performance evaluation committees. We are looking into training

opportunities over the next couple of years for members who would like to serve on the next committee.

Anyone who is requesting more information can contact:
Christopher Lutton | 210.862.9231

DANCE COMMITTEE

The SAPOA Dance Committee is responsible for planning, prepping and orchestrating the Annual SAPOA Christmas Dance. The Dance Committee currently consists of 13 members lead by Chairman Det. Christopher Ortiz and Co-Chair Det. Daniel Loudermilk. The Dance Committee meets, on average, five times throughout the year or as needed leading up to the event. As current committee members retire, there are opportunities for association members to join and get involved in the process.

Answers to frequently asked questions:

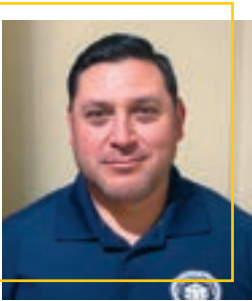
For many years, the SAPOA Christmas Dance has been held at the San Antonio Shrine Auditorium for several reasons; one of many is the reasonable price for the amount of space needed to accommodate our guests. Also, the management staff does not force us to use a catering company and allows our committee to bring in outside food such as the 12-ounce steaks that are cooked on site every year by our own cook team, lead by Det. James Whitney. After the event is over, the committee meets in January where they conduct an after-action review to discuss potential entertainers that may be hired for that year's event. Once a list of entertainers is made, the committee will vote on who the entertainment will be.

If any association members have questions or concerns, they are encouraged to reach out

by contacting the chair & co-chairman who are always appreciative of any suggestions members may have.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

The SAPOA PAC is the non-partisan political arm of the San Antonio Police Officers' Association. The PAC interviews political candidates for possible endorsement to include but not limited to City Council, State Representatives, US Congress and county officials. The PAC consists of officers of different ranks, and they meet usually once a month. The chair of the committee is Johnny Perez, co-chair is Amanda Viera and 11 other members to include the SAPOA President John "Danny" Diaz. There are many opportunities to get involved, members are always welcome to contact Chairman Johnny Perez at jperez@sapoa.org or 210.264.6989 with any questions.



Johnny Perez
SAPOA PAC Chairman
CLEAT Regional Director
210.264.6989

LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Labor Relations Committee is comprised of four members of the department. Two are selected by the Chief of Police and two are selected by SAPOA. Among the many duties of the committee, we hear issues and make recommendations on safety and specifications of equipment, accountability for lost city property, departmental policies and procedures and other areas of common officer interest.

The committee also serves as the Equipment Advisory Committee for the purpose of testing and evaluating equipment and then making a recommendation to the Chief.

The four members of the committee are officer Steven Flores, Sgt. Amy Morris, Sgt. Rey Garcia, and Lt. Mark Molter. Lt. Molter serves as the chairperson, but this position rotates every three months. The committee meets when necessary and does not have a set schedule. This current committee has pledged to work together as a team to make the best decisions when it comes to recommending equipment for officers to use in the field. The committee utilizes subcommittees in several areas comprised of members who are considered subject matter experts such as firearms, uniforms, technology, etc. This helps the committee make educated recommendations on these matters.

If you have something you think would benefit the department, you need to submit an interoffice memo through your chain of command to the Chief's office so it can get assigned to the committee. Remember, the committee only makes recommendations. Other factors can come into play on whether a recommendation comes to fruition.

If you would like to ask the committee a question, you can either reach out to a member directly or send an email to SAPDLRC@sanantonio.gov. We look forward to serving the members in our positions on this committee.
Lt. Mark Molter #4045

COMMITTEES

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The role of the Grievance Committee is to provide a just and equitable method for resolving disagreements between the parties regarding the interpretation of the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The Grievance Committee only hears matters involving the interpretation, application, or alleged violation of a specific provision of the CBA between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Police Officers' Association and only meets when a grievance has been submitted.

Any officer having a matter which is felt to be a grievance, first, must within 21 calendar days of the actual or constructive knowledge of the occurrence or the event causing the problem, submit such grievance in writing identifying the specific article and section of the agreement alleged to have been violated to the association with a copy to his/her immediate supervisor.

Said determination of whether a grievance exists shall be made by an association Grievance Committee. Once the determination has been made and the matter meets the requirements of the grievance procedure, the grievance moves on to the next phase of the procedure.

For complete CBA verbiage visit SanAntonio.gov Collective Bargaining Agreement Article 15 Grievance Procedure. All grievances are submitted to the SAPOA President Danny Diaz at Diaz@sapoa.org and

SAPOA Secretary/Grievance Chair Amanda Viera via email at sec@sapoa.org.

Grievance Committee Members:



Chair:
Ofc. Amanda Viera,
SAPOA Secretary

Co-Chair: Sergeant Scott Foulke
Co-Chair: Lieutenant Hector Lopez
SAPOA Vice President:
Detective Scott Ambrose
SAPOA Treasurer: Detective Jason Sanchez
Detective Stephanie Campos
Detective Elueterio Rendon
Officer Ron Garcia
Officer Robert Duppe
Officer Johnny Perez

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Insurance Committee is an ad hoc committee that was formed to review supplemental insurance plans for endorsement by the San Antonio Police Officers' Association. The committee is not actively staffed nor meeting regularly. The committee is chaired by Jason Sanchez. Due to recent member feedback, the committee has begun to reassemble. The committee is expected to review current market options by the end of the first quarter of 2023. Members may submit comments, questions, or recommendations to the chair via email to jason@sapoa.org. Members who would like to assist in the review process are welcome to join. The first meeting is anticipated to occur in mid-November.

Jason Sanchez | Treasurer, SAPOA
210.630.3818

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On January 13, 2022 around 02:45 I was parked clearing a call when I heard a call for an “Accident Major” come out. I recall the details of the call stating a vehicle was on fire at the intersection of Fredericksburg Rd. and Hildebrand Ave. In that moment, I looked up from my screen and saw black smoke start

to fill the sky. Realizing I was just down the street from the accident, I advised dispatch to place me on the call and immediately drove towards the scene.

Upon arriving, I observed what appeared to be a sedan fully engulfed in flames. Panicked bystanders advised me a female passenger was pinned inside the vehicle. After struggling to gain access

through the passenger’s side door, I was finally able to open the vehicle from the driver’s side. I attempted to locate the trapped female but was blinded by the thick smoke surrounding. Just as I was getting ready to crawl inside, I caught a glimpse of a limp hand. Slowly, the figure of a woman began to emerge, and I could see she was unconscious, slumped over the middle console. Knowing time was working against us, I quickly reached over and began pulling her towards me from wherever I could grab. While doing so, I could feel that her body was lodged by something in the vehicle, but I was resolute on getting her out. I continued to pull until she finally came free. The fire continued to pose a threat and I could see the female was in a state of semi-consciousness. Recalling my training, I placed both my arms under hers and clasped my hands together tightly.

I then proceeded to drag her towards my patrol vehicle while officers arriving on scene worked to extinguish the vehicle fire. Once SAFD arrived, they attended to the female who medically cleared with minor injuries sustained during the incident.

If I had to choose my favorite thing about being a police officer, I would have to say it’s working alongside my brothers and sisters in blue to accomplish something greater. “These things we do, so others may live”. When I first learned the motto the United States Air Force Pararescue lives by, it resonated with me. From then on, I adopted and chose to exemplify it through my work as a San Antonio police officer. Since the day of the incident, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to be in the right place at the right time. I believe God was watching over us all that night and guided me each and every step of the way as I pulled the victim out to safety.



“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” — Edmund Burke



SAPOA Annual Christmas Dance

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM



ALZAFAR SHRINERS

901 N Loop 1604 W Access Rd
San Antonio, TX 78258

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Retirees and non-members can purchase tickets
on November 28, 2022

Members \$100 | Retirees \$125 | Non-Members \$150
Book your seat. Limited space available.

Any questions, please contact
Chris Ortiz: 210.857.3835

or

Daniel Loudermilk: 210.705.9209

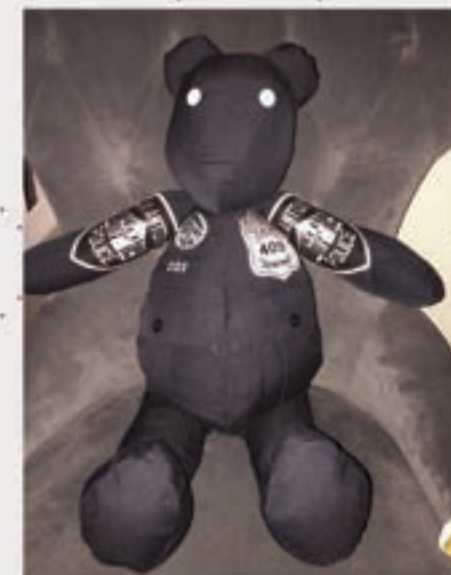
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Uniform and Memory
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Contact Brianne Heywood

210-381-3839

brianne989@outlook.com

 **Order early for Christmas!!**

THE SAN ANTONIO HISPANIC POLICE OFFICERS' ORGANIZATION (SAHPOO)

The San Antonio Hispanic Police Officers' Organization (SAHPOO) is dedicated to serving the officers and families of the San Antonio police department while developing strong ties and relationships with the community we serve.

SAHPOO is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing college scholarships to members and the community for high school graduating seniors. Scholarship awards exceed \$40,000 a year.

SAHPOO is led by six board members who actively oversee the management and development of the organization. Each board member is responsible for coordinating an event. These are excellent opportunities for members to volunteer and join committees for special projects.

SAHPOO has grown to approximately 1,000 members. Member meetings are held every other month at various locations. SAHPOO also assists officers who may be in need as well as community organizations and events. Board members may be reached by email.

Frances Ochoa | President
Frances.ochoa@sanantonio.gov

Hector Lopez | Vice President
Hector.lopez@sanantonio.gov

Joey Vidal | Vice President
Joey.vidal@sanantonio.gov

John Herrera | Secretary
John.herrera@sanantonio.gov

Crystal Ferguson | Treasurer
Crystal.ferguson@sanantonio.gov

Arthur Alaniz | Sgt. At Arms
Arthur.allen@sanantonio.gov



About Blue Santa

In 1976, the Blue Santa Program was created to help bring holiday happiness to families and children throughout San Antonio. Blue Santa is all about bringing hope and joy to families that struggle to make ends meet during the toughest times of the year, the holidays.

Blue Cares welcomes new, unwrapped toy donations all year long, but especially during the holiday season. Your toy donations support our Blue Santa program that serves children from disadvantaged homes throughout our city. To donate toys to Blue Cares, please visit us at the San Antonio Police Officers' Association headquarters at:
**1939 NE Interstate 410 Loop, STE 300
San Antonio, TX 78217**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Proceeds Benefit SAPD Survivor Families



RETIREE FIREARM QUALIFICATIONS DATES

There will be a 9am, 11am, and 2pm qualification.

There is now a background check that must happen, so retirees must sign up at least a week prior to the dates, or they will be turned away at the door.

Remaining dates for 2022

November 28

December 19

Tentative dates for the 2023 retiree quals.

January 30, 2023

July 31, 2023

February 27, 2023

August 28, 2023

March 27, 2023

September 25, 2023

April 24, 2023

October 30, 2023

May 22, 2023

November 27, 2023

June 26, 2023

December 18, 2023

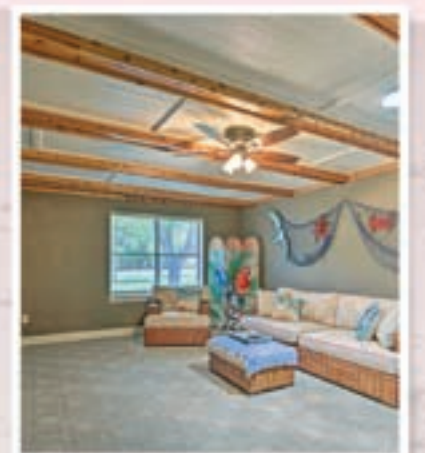
Retirees need to bring all of the following with them on scheduled qualification day:

- Weapon
- Minimum of 2 magazines
- 50 rounds of ammunition
- Check or money order for \$25 payable to COSA



BOERNE BEACH HOUSE

Embrace island life at this beach-themed vacation rental in Boerne, Texas! Complete with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, this charming home has space for 8 and offers a welcoming environment. Whip up meals and dine al fresco on the patio while enjoying 2 private acres, before having a fun-filled game night! Explore Boerne and the beautiful Hill Country and historic Main Street!



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Clinton Hajek
info@tricountygsm.com
830-885-2261

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dmriveraphotos@yahoo.com
Daphni Rivera
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Gary & Kristie West
210-573-2130

THE SAN ANTONIO BLACK POLICE OFFICERS' COALITION

The San Antonio Black Police Officers' Coalition was established in 1984. The primary focus has been and still is, the community that we protect and serve. The coalition serves as an extension of law enforcement to the community with readiness, integrity, respect, and most of all, honor. Joining the coalition is simple, visit our website sanantonioblackpoliceofficers.org and click 'join' or you can reach out to any Executive Board member listed. The coalition is always looking for enthusiastic, creative, and committed members.

Meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month. Feel free to contact event coordinators listed or our board members with questions. Close out the year volunteering at our 20th Annual Turkey Giveaway on November 21 and our Christmas Dance on December 2.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Alonzio Hardin | President
sabpoc@yahoo.com

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Joel.Silva@sanantonio.gov

Matthew Brown | Sgt. Of Arms
Matthew.Brown@sanantonio.gov

Levon Harrison | Secretary
Levon.Harrison@sanantonio.gov

Doug Greene | Parliamentarian
Doug.Greene@sanantonio.gov

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Kevin.Bell@sanantonio.gov

Levon Harrison
Levon.Harrison@sanantonio.gov

Sharonda Harris | Scholarships
Sharonda.Harris@sanantonio.gov

*Christmas
Party*

Friday, December 2, 2023

Pueblo Hall
3315 Northwestern, San Antonio, TX 78238

Doors Open 6:30pm-12:00am

SanAntonioBPOC.ORG



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

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By: Alec Cosio

My name is Alec Cosio. I work Central B Shift and I've been on the Department for six years. Mental health issues run in my family, and I share my story as a survivor to offer hope and strength for all those that need it. I can remember days when I was young, watching my mother take the kitchen knives and try to cut herself. I remember fighting with her to get the knife away and then having to hide all the sharp objects in the house so that she wouldn't hurt herself. As I grew older, I realized that I struggled with many of the same mental health issues. But I tried my best to suppress them, to overcome them on my own. I would push the thoughts aside and try to fix things on my own. Eventually I joined the department and broke out at South B shift.

Like every officer, I witnessed many calls that over time we become desensitized to, but also like many of us, I experienced several calls that remain with me to this day. The weight of these calls while on probation began to weigh heavily on my mind. One specific call in which I witnessed three juveniles die as a result of a crash had a significant impact on my mental health and my motivation for proactive work. Over time, these calls and the history of my own mental health and childhood trauma began to impact my everyday life. I knew that I had mental health issues and needed help, but I chose to suppress it.

Growing up, I saw people in my own family get disowned and shunned for having mental health problems. I also developed the belief

that the world around me would turn me away, disown me, and shut me out if I ever asked for help. I thought that the department would take my badge and gun; I believed I would lose my friends. I felt that if I sought help, my whole life would be ruined. I knew I needed help but I chose to do it alone.

Because of my fears of exposure, I chose to isolate myself. My family knew that I would "need my space" and I would be better in a few days. I isolated myself from not just my family, but from friends and work. I would rather stay home and be by myself than go out or visit with anyone. I would suppress my feelings and sweep them under the rug — a routine that I became comfortable with doing repeatedly. As time went on, this habit became more frequent going from once a year to twice a year, eventually not being able to go a full week without feeling like I was losing my mind. This instability compounded all of the normal stressors of life and the job.

This began to affect my relationships both at home and at work. As I tried to negotiate this whirlwind of feelings and emotions on my own, I would make series of decisions that had lasting impacts on my personal life. As a result, I ended up divorced, my ex-wife left me. I suddenly went from being a husband and a father to thinking I would never be able to see my daughter again. I felt like a failure as a father. I had heard the horror stories of child support and custody battles. I began to worry if I would be able to afford my own bills and still be able

to support my child, all while wondering if I would ever see her again. My ex wasn't just my wife, she was my best friend and the only family that I had in San Antonio. In one fell swoop, I lost everything. I felt completely alone, I had lost friends and the only family I had left here.

My isolation continued though. I would call into work and took as much time off as I could. During this period of calling in and missing work, I found myself in a dark place. I knew that I had mental health problems, and I tried my best to fix them, but it seemed like everything I tried would just make things worse. I reached out to my Sgt. and asked for help. I was put in touch with Dr. Price and eventually contacted Frances from Officer Wellness. When Frances first called me, I declined her first and second call. I didn't want to talk to another officer. I know CIT; I know how it works and I didn't want to deal with that. Frances didn't stop calling though, and I knew she wouldn't give up until I talked to her. Eventually I answered; she didn't ask me anything other than what I needed from her. Within twenty-four hours I was visiting a therapist. Over the next few weeks, I worked with my therapist and Frances. Struggling to work through my mental health, I began to feel like they cared for me, like I wasn't alone. As time progressed, both my therapist and Frances suggested that I go to the hospital for more intensive treatment. I began to feel as if they didn't really care; I felt as if I was so far beyond their help that sending me to a hospital was their way of giving up on me, but it wasn't.

One night I reached the depths of my despair. I felt alone, like no one cared. I believed that I had become someone that I didn't want my daughter to know. I thought that as she grew older, she would come to know the person I really was and would resent me. I felt like I was a burden to everyone around me. I believed that everyone I knew would be better off without me in their life. I made the decision in

that moment to take my own life. During my attempt, my ex walked in as the noose hung attached to the ceiling fan beside me. I was reluctant, but she was persistent and finally convinced me to stop and to go with her back to her place. As we were driving on the highway, I was still determined to take my own life. I opened the door and tried to jump from the car. Luckily, I got caught on the seatbelt and the door closed on me which prevented me from coming out of the car. I spent the night at my ex's place.

The next morning, I called Frances with the Officer Wellness Program and I told her that I needed to go the hospital. I was scared, and I still felt alone. Frances was able to answer some of the questions, but the unknown still lingered heavy on my mind. This job was the only stable thing I had left. I felt like I had lost connection with everyone else. I didn't know what was going to happen: Am I going to lose my job? Are they going to take my gun away? Will I be on Admin duty for the rest of my career? Will people know what happened? Will I be ridiculed and shunned? I had no idea what was to come. The only thing I did know was that I had already tried to end my life so I figured I could try going to the hospital and see if maybe it would help.

I was voluntarily emergency detained; I was taken to the hospital in a patrol car. Even though I was finally getting help, I resisted it mentally. I felt like they had given up on me, all rationality had gone out the window. In the back of the patrol car, I felt like a prisoner, like "that guy that got ED'd." I didn't want to be "that guy." We've all seen the people we ED and I didn't want to be sitting next to some guy I'd taken in on an ED before. The thought crossed my mind, and if I had been in a regular car I would have jumped out of the car on the highway. I was in such a dark place that none of my thinking was rational.

I quickly learned that as an officer they have a facility and units designated specifically for

active first responders and active military members, so that we are not put in units with the general public. The staff in these units actually do care. I had to go through intense therapy and worked with the doctors and therapists to figure out appropriate medication. Over time I was able to learn that I had PTSD and other mental health diagnoses. I began to work through my mental health issues. As the days turned to weeks, I improved.

I spent two weeks in the hospital and a subsequent four weeks in therapy. For a total of six weeks, I was out of work, and no one knew where I was until now. During that process, I learned that there are resources more than just the doctors from psych services. I learned that people do care and I am not alone. I learned mental health issues affect many of us.

The day after I was released from the Hospital, I was at the gym, and I saw Justin Garcia. We chatted for a bit and caught up on all the normal small talk. I had the desire to tell him what I had just been through, but I hesitated and had second thoughts, deciding to keep it to myself. That was the last time I talked to Justin before he took his own life.

I feel, as officers, we all experience hard times, and we see some of the worst that society has to offer. We respond to people's worst nightmares as if they are just another day at the office for us. We deal with these events, we push it aside, and we suppress it. Depression feels like drowning, you're just sinking, and the pressure is closing in around you. You try and try to swim to the top, to get out and escape, but you just can't reach the surface. Eventually, for some people, you stop trying to reach the surface. You begin to sink further down into the darkness and let the pressure consume you, in the depths you find yourself alone. But you are not alone, there are many who have been in these depths and

made it back to the surface. There is a way out, there is help.

Everyone knows about it, but no one talks about it...maybe it's time we start talking.



If you or someone you know needs help, please contact:

FOR SAPD OFFICERS:
SAPD Officer Wellness Officers
Ofc. Frances Ochoa | 210-262-1585
Ofc. Gabe Mendoza | 512-557-4453

National Police Suicide Hotline
Copline
1-800-267-5463

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SAPOA MOBILE APP

Includes:

- Member Benefits
- SAPOA Shop
- Event Calendar
- Board of Director Meeting Minutes
- **More!**



2022 SAPOA MEMBER PICNIC

Thank you to all our members, family and friends who came out to the membership picnic on September 30 at Comanche Park! Special thanks to H-E-B for donating the meat. Over 100 briskets and 2,500 Kiolbassa sausages were cooked by our wonderful cooking team. See you next year!

THANK YOU



BLUE CARES

Blue Cares is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the community outreach program of the San Antonio Police Officers' Association (SAPOA). For 45 years, Blue Cares has served our community by providing assistance to underprivileged families. Within the last year, Blue Cares has undergone substantial organizational changes, including rebranding and restructuring our community outreach goals. Under the leadership of President Danny Diaz, the organization has revamped its focus areas to ensure the pockets within the San Antonio community that are most underserved receive assistance through Blue Cares.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became evident that more families were in dire need of assistance. Blue Cares has taken a new approach to help alleviate the burden families have felt and continue to feel across our community. Within the organization's three premiere programs: Project CJ, Blue Santa, and Patricia Calderon Scholarship program, families can receive relief from food insecurity, receive toys for the holidays, and funding for high school seniors to attend college. To provide assistance, Blue Cares needs help from individuals like YOU who can donate their time and dollars to maintain the momentum the organization has established. The organization has been fortunate to sustain itself through generous corporate and individual sponsors, but they are always looking for help to continue to provide aid to a struggling community.

Members are always welcome to assist them in their efforts. These opportunities include gift wrapping for our Blue Santa Program, preparing hygiene kits for families in need, and providing event support for our premiere fundraising events.

Anyone interested in getting involved is asked to sign up at:
<https://www.bluecaresicare.com/get-involved/>

Anyone wishing to donate to Blue Cares can do so either:

- In person at the San Antonio Police Officers' Association located at:
1939 Northeast Interstate Loop 410, Ste. 300
San Antonio, TX 78217
- Or online at:
<https://www.bluecaresicare.com/donate/>

For more information on Blue Cares - SAPOA Outreach, please contact:



Amanda Gonzalez
Executive Director
210-413-5952
amanda@sapoa.org



BLUE CARES UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Date	Event	Location
Tuesday, November 1	Blue Santa Toy Drive Begins	
Thursday, November 3	Blue Santa Toy Organizing Party	Blue Cares Office
Friday, November 4	Blue Santa Toy Organizing Party	Blue Cares Office
Friday, November 4	Last day for Sponsors to Submit Goodie Bag Items	Blue Cares Office
November 7-9	Volunteer Shifts for Blue Santa	
Thursday, November 10	Blue Santa Golf Tournament Goodie Bag Stuff Party	
Monday, November 14	Volunteer Shifts for Blue Santa	
November 17-18	Blue Santa Golf Tournament	JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country
Tuesday, November 20	Thanksgiving Event with Pastor Vincent	Lincoln Courts
November 21-22	Volunteer Shifts for Blue Santa	
November 28-December 9	Volunteer Shifts for Blue Santa	

DECEMBER

Date	Event	Location
Week of December 10-16	Blue Santa Toy Distribution Pop-Ups & Organization Pick Ups	
Tuesday, December 13	Blue Santa Toy Distribution with Councilwoman Cabello Havrda 6pm-8pm	Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Friday, December 16	Blue Santa Toy Distribution with NAACP 6pm-8pm	Second Baptist Church Community Center





BLUE SANTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2022
(NOVEMBER 18 IS CURRENTLY SOLD OUT)

TPC SAN ANTONIO
23808 RESORT PKWY, SA TX 78261

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:00 AM
SHOTGUN START AT 9:00 AM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
THE SAPOA BLUE SANTA PROGRAM



Sponsorship Opportunities

TITLE SPONSOR \$40,000

- Premier recognition on all 2022 event pre/post materials and signage
- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage with hotlink to your company website
- Premier recognition in the SAPOA magazine, Centurion
- Promotion on Blue Cares social media pages
- Opportunity to address audience on event day
- Company logo on 4 tee box signs
- Company logo on golf cart gps screen
- Company logo embroidered on sleeve of Blue Santa golf polo
- Opportunity to provide promotional items for swag bags
- 5 teams (20 golfers)
- 20 breakfasts, lunches, and swag bags
- 20 Blue Santa golf polos

COURSE SPONSOR \$25,000

- Prominent recognition on all 2022 event pre/post materials and signage
- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage with hotlink to your company website
- Premier recognition in the SAPOA magazine, Centurion
- Promotion on Blue Cares social media pages
- Company logo on 3 tee box signs
- Company logo on golf cart gps screen
- Opportunity to provide promotional items for swag bags
- 4 teams (16 golfers)
- 16 breakfasts, lunches, and swag bags
- 6 Blue Santa golf polos

EAGLE SPONSOR \$10,000

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo on 2 tee box signs
- Company logo on golf cart gps screen
- Opportunity to provide promotional items for swag bags
- 3 teams (12 golfers)
- 12 breakfasts, lunches, and swag bags
- 12 Blue Santa golf polos

BIRDIE SPONSOR \$5,000

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo on 1 tee box sign
- Company logo on golf cart gps screen
- Opportunity to provide promotional items for swag bags
- 2 teams (8 golfers)
- 8 breakfasts, lunches, and swag bags

PAR SPONSOR \$2,500

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo on 1 tee box sign
- Company logo on golf cart gps screen
- Opportunity to provide promotional items for swag bags
- 1 team (4 golfers)
- 4 breakfasts, lunches, and swag bags

FOURSOME \$1,000

- 1 team (4 golfers)
- 4 breakfasts, lunches, and swag bags

INDIVIDUAL \$275

- 1 golfer
- 1 breakfast, lunch, and swag bag

NON GOLFER \$50

- 1 breakfast and lunch

NON GOLFER PACKAGES

BREAKFAST SPONSOR \$500

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo featured on signage during event

LUNCH SPONSOR \$500

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo featured on signage during event

BEVERAGE SPONSOR \$500

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo featured on signage during event

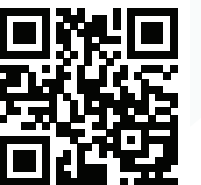
GOLF CART SPONSOR \$500

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo featured on signage during event

SWAG BAG SPONSOR \$500

- Website recognition on Blue Cares webpage
- Company logo featured on signage during event

SPACE IS LIMITED!
REGISTER NOW



REGISTER NOW AT [BLUECARESICARE.COM/GOLF](https://bluecaresicare.com/golf)

REGISTER NOW AT [BLUECARESICARE.COM/GOLF](https://bluecaresicare.com/golf)



DECEMBER 10, 2022

SAHPOO

Christmas Dance

TICKETS ON SALE

\$100 for Members • \$120 for Retirees

\$140 for Non-member starting November 15th



Service fees apply.



MEDIA KIT

AD SPECS AND PRICING

Table with 3 columns: Ad Type, 1X Price, 4X Price. Rows include Center Spread, Full Page, Half Page, Quarter Page, and Eighth Page.

All ads must include a .125" bleed.

GENERAL ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Centurion is published quarterly. The deadlines for submissions are as follows:

- Quarter One: Includes recap of issues and events from October-December. Submissions due by Feb. 1
Quarter Two: Includes recap of issues and events from January-March. Submissions due by May. 1
Quarter Three: Includes recap of issues and events from April-June. Submissions due by Aug. 1
Quarter Four: Includes recap of issues and events from July-September. Submissions due by Nov. 1

AD REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

We accept final document sizes of 50MB or less.

ACCEPTED FILE FORMATS:

Press Quality PDFs are accepted. All elements must be CMYK, art must be 300dpi, and all fonts must be converted to outlines prior to submission.

IMAGES

Images must be CMYK.

For optimal resolution, artwork should be at least 300dpi at 100%. Line art should be 1000dpi at 100%.

VOL53NO4: 2022

Editor & Art Director editor@sapoa.org
Managing Editor contact to be john.rogers@sapoa.org

San Antonio Police Officers' Association (SAPOA)
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