



# Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again, its spring and we are beginning another campaign for membership, involvement and support of Kern County law Enforcement. Since 1988, I have watched many foundation volunteers and business sponsors help us help those who protect us daily. I have been so gratified at the rebirth and growth of our organization and how everyone has stepped up and reinvigorated and grown our organization. We have been able to raise generous support and contributions; that help us fund so many worthwhile projects for the 28 law enforcement agencies. We know from the "thank you's"; the officers appreciate the extra equipment, training, funding and community involvement we have given them.



Tom Sheets

We encourage all of to renew or join now; an application can be found online at our website kernlaw.org. If you know someone else who wants to join or support us, please encourage them to join today. In addition, we need more business support to continue our missions and we offer business and group memberships for larger donations. For \$1,000.00, you can have up to 5 friends or employees, receive a beautiful etched badge plaque for your wall and also be placed on our sponsorship site on our web page. Any donation given is tax deductible as we are a 501(3) c foundation.

Our scholarship committee has given over 24 law enforcement scholarships to local students pursuing a career in law enforcement. We are pushing this year to grow the membership and sponsors and recruit young new members as well. Board Members, Jon Busby, Greg Sturges, Angela Barton, Wes Bradford, Lynn Watkins and Sofie Zimmermann have already made their presence known by attracting many new members and new sponsors. We are offering a lifetime membership for \$1,000.00; regular membership for \$100.00, retired and active law enforcement members for \$50.00 per year.

On June 3, 2011, we will host the annual Law Enforcement "Officer of the Year Awards Dinner". Yes, again this year it will be a dinner at the Stockdale Country Club, which will be a first class awards presentation. Seating is on a first come, first serve reservation basis and we are expecting over 300 people who support law enforcement to attend. The website kernlaw.org also has information on this event. Tickets are on sale now; contact Pauly Wren @861-7911; individual tickets are only \$65.00 per person or a table of ten for \$800.00.

We are "on fire" and need you to join the team. We have many other sponsorship opportunities, so if you just want to give a donation please free to do so. Call any board member or contact our secretary Pauly Wren for further information. There is no overhead or salaries; all money goes to local law enforcement projects. We need and want your help and participation in any and all ways. For over 23 years we have been supportive of law enforcement, so join now and help Kern law enforcement thrive and enjoy our continued support.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

## FALL FORUM LUNCHEON 2010

BY LYNN WATKINS

On October 28, 2010, friends, family, colleagues and the community at large gathered at the Stockdale Country Club to salute the accomplishments of two of our Law Enforcement leaders. CHP Captain Brian Smith and FBI Supervisory Senior Resident Agent David Gelios are moving on to take on new responsibilities outside of Kern County but do so with appreciation from a grateful community.

Both men received the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation's prestigious "Administrator of the Year" award for their work while assigned to the Bakersfield area by their respective agencies.

The sold out crowd watched on as their presenters paid tribute to the accomplishments of the two men.

Captain Smith was promoted to the rank of Assistant Deputy Chief in the Fresno Office on September 1, 2010. Sheriff Donny Youngblood introduced Chief Smith and roasted him in a manner that often brought the crowd to roaring laughter. Anytime the two men are in a room together there is always laughter while they poke fun at each other. They have fun but let there be no doubt, they have the utmost respect for each other. As Sheriff Youngblood shared Chief Smith's long list of accomplishments, there was no doubt that he was very deserving of this recognition.

Chief Smith was being honored



for his efforts with promoting interagency cooperation throughout Kern County and also his recent promotion to Assistant Deputy Division Chief.

Charlie Fivecoat, Shafter Chief of Police, introduced Agent Gelios, praising him for his efforts with terrorism and his cooperation with all local Law Enforcement Agencies during his tenure in the Bakersfield FBI Office. Fivecoat emphasized that he and other Department Heads could always count on Gelios if they needed his assistance for any reason.

The Keynote Speaker was Randy Cook, Executive Director of Training, The Counter Threat Institute International LLC. Mr. Cook's presentation captured the attention of his audience as he covered terrorist threats coming from a variety of organizations from around the globe. A slide show

presentation outlined reasons why terrorist target people in poor areas and prisons where the educational level is low.

The lunch was prepared by the staff at Stockdale Country and once again the food was excellent, served buffet style with a choice of entre along with a variety of vegetables and desserts. I doubt that anyone left hungry?

Special thanks go out to Angela Barton who chaired this event with help from several members of the Board. And a giant thank you to our sponsors who gave so generously to this and other events hosted by KCLEF.



## Spring Awards Dinner 2011

**WHEN** June 3, 2011  
**WHERE** Stockdale Country Club  
**PRICE** \$65.00 each  
**TIME** Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
 Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.  
**TICKETS** Contact Pauly Wren @ 861-7911



# FALL FORUM LUNCHEON 2010





# GUESS WHO Just Turned 100?

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

**In June** of last year at the Officer of the Year Awards Ceremony, Sheriff Donny Youngblood presented Louis Kerker with the Foundation's "Public Service Award" for his involvement and dedication with the Sheriff's Department Community Service Unit.

At that time, Sheriff Youngblood praised Mr. Kerker for his dedication to his Sheriff's Department, but also acknowledged that when he's not volunteering at the Sheriff's Department, he's busy collecting food for the Alliance Against Family Violence or assisting children with the Shriners. Sheriff Youngblood pointed out that Mr. Kerker is an inspiration to all who know him.

On February 12, 2011, Louis Kerker turned 100 years old and is still inspiring the people who know him. There was a huge party at the Sheriff's Department attended by many friends from the Department, both active and retired, along with family members. There was a birthday cake and Sheriff Youngblood presented Mr. Kerker, affectionately known as "Louie", with a mantle clock in appreciation for his 20 years of service with the Community Service Unit (CSU) and of course for becoming the eldest member of the Sheriff's team. To put this accomplishment in perspective, Mr. Kerker began his volunteer work with the Sheriff's Department when he was in his 80's. WOW!

In order to really absorb just how long 100 years is you have to consider the changes or advancements that have taken place. Listed below are only very few of the things that were occurring when Louis was born;

- **The average life expectancy was 47 years**
- **Only 14% of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub**
- **Only 8% of the homes had a telephone**
- **A three minute call from Denver to New York cost \$11.00**
- **There were less than 10,000 cars and less than 200 miles of paved roads**
- **Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa and Tennessee were each more populated than California**
- **With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state**
- **The average wage was about 25 cents per hour**
- **95% of all births took place at home**
- **90% of U.S. doctors had no college education**
- **The population of Las Vegas, NV was less than 50 people**
- **Only 6% of all Americans graduated from High School**
- **20% of Adults in the U.S. could not read or write.**
- **There were less than 250 murders committed in the entire U.S.**

Just the technological changes since Louis was born are mindboggling and he has been here to experience it all.

Louis has been fortunate to witness our world change for the past 100 years. It's hard to imagine what he may have experienced in 100 years and is fortunate to be able to share it with others.

Louis is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy and was 30 years old when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on December 7, 1941, thrusting the United States into WWII.

During the entire week of his birthday, Mr. Kerker was honored and acknowledged for his achievements as a volunteer in the community of Bakersfield by the Elks and other organizations.

Louis Kerker shouldn't be recognized for reaching the milestone of 100 years old, he should be recognized for what he's accomplished and the people he's helped in his 100 years. Louis Kerker is truly a kind and caring soul who has proven through his everlasting energy that there is nothing like the heart of a volunteer.







# KERN COUNTY HAS A NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

**January 3, 2011 marked a new era for the Kern County District Attorney's Office with Lisa Green taking the helm. Kern County's new District Attorney comes to the job with 27 years of prosecutor experience and plenty of great vision and hope for the office. Green replaces Ed Jagels who left for a much deserved retirement, after serving Kern County residents faithfully for many years.**



**I** recently sat down with Lisa Green in her office after she granted me the privilege of being one of the first to interview her since taking office. She ran in an unchallenged election for the position of Kern County District Attorney. This victory also marked a milestone because Lisa Green is the first woman to be elected to this position in the history of Kern County, and she is no stranger to Kern County's stance on fighting crime.

I first met Lisa Green in the early 1980's when she was assigned to prosecute her first death penalty trial against Felipe Sixto who was accused of the sexual assault and murder of a 5 year old Arvin boy. My involvement in the case was minimal but my impression of the young Deputy District Attorney was that she was very thorough and passionate about her work. Sixto was convicted by another Deputy DA but the conviction was later reversed on appeal. When the case came up for retrial, the Deputy DA that tried the case originally had become a judge. The case was retried by Green who earned a second conviction which kept Sixto securely behind bars where he could no longer hurt a child. The hard work of Lisa Green and the Sheriff's homicide team that conducted the investigation are responsible for taking a dangerous predator off the streets.

I asked Green if becoming the first female in the history of Kern County to hold the title of District Attorney came with any extra pressure. She replied, "No, not for me." Gender is not the issue when it comes to protecting Kern County citizens. "I just think that my reputation precedes me and it was not built on being a woman." She did convey it made her happy knowing that she might serve as a role model for young girls and women. Then her eyes lit up when she said, "My daughter is proud of me."

As Green and I discussed her journey to the top job as District Attorney, the topic of where she was born and raised arose. Green shared that she was born in New York City but moved to the Buffalo, NY area when she was 4 years old and later attended Eden Senior High School in Eden, NY. One of her best high school memories happened while she was the Vice-President of the Junior Class in 1975. The President had to step down for personal reasons so she then became President for her junior year. "I ran for President during my senior year unsuccessfully, losing to a male athlete in the school and that kind of ended my high school career, in politics anyway." But it wouldn't stop her goal to find a career in law enforcement.

"I actually wanted to be a police officer and transferred to Fresno State University to pursue that goal as criminology major," she said. Prior to Fresno State, Green was attending a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. She shared that it was very expensive and she felt she wasn't getting a practical education. During spring break, Green went to San Diego to visit with relatives and discovered what draws many to the Golden State. "The weather was beautiful so I kind of thought that all of California was like San Diego," Green said as she smiled. She decided to give college on the West Coast a try and found Fresno State. But another change would happen. "During my senior year of college, my mother, who still lived in Buffalo, suggested, or asked me, well, she didn't want me to be a police officer. So, she suggested I apply to law school and so I said, 'Well, OK, but I was not really excited about that.'" She applied to only one law school because she really didn't care if she got accepted, but as it turned out, she ended up going on to law school in San Diego.

"I might add that had I gone into police work that I would have

been retired by now, so that is one thing."

*Lisa Green received her Juris Doctorate from the University Of San Diego School Of Law in 1983. While working toward her law degree, she was a member of the Moot Court Board, received the Order of Barristers Award and was a Contributor to the Law Review.*

For someone who loved San Diego weather, just how did she end up in Kern County?

"Well, I was a starving student, to tell you the truth," Green said.

She said she worked during law school as a waitress for three years and quit that job to study for the Bar Exam. After the Bar Exam in July 1983, she said she found herself basically having no money and in need of a job. Green told me she sent resumes to all of the 58 counties in California, applying for a job as a Deputy District Attorney, and only two were hiring law clerks at that time, Kern and Sacramento. She got an offer from Ed Jagels so she moved to Bakersfield in 1983.

"I didn't think I would pass the Bar but I needed the money so I thought I would just move up here for a couple of months and if I didn't pass the Bar, then I would go back to San Diego and study again, but I passed the Bar and here I am 27 years later," Green said.

*Green passed the Bar Exam on her first attempt but said when she finished the 3-day exam she didn't feel good about it. She told me that since she didn't feel she would be successful the first time, she figured that she would go back to San Diego and be with her then boyfriend, now husband, Jeff Green, while she studied.*

After Ed Jagels hired Green and she passed the Bar, those accomplishments changed her life and her direction forever. Green said, "I will tell you that I had been considering moving back to Buffalo to be a deputy district attorney and I interviewed with the District Attorney in Erie County, New York, which is Buffalo." She said she interviewed over Christmas break and it was during that time period that she met her husband-to-be and they started dating. Green then told me, "If I had gone back then it would probably have been the end of our relationship, so I remember talking to my father." Specifically, she remembered the conversation and telling him about the job in Bakersfield versus a potential job in Buffalo and he said "Lisa, if you ask 99 out of a 100 people where they would rather live, Buffalo or Bakersfield, I think they would tell you Bakersfield." So, I said, "That is probably right," and she took the Kern County job.

I learned that in 1993, Green received recognition for her work by being named Prosecutor of the Year for the Kern County District Attorney's Office. It was based on two cases, Sergio Venegas and Offord Rollins. She told me that "Venegas was a sexual assault, serial rapist case and the first in Kern County with DNA being admitted in the courtroom." She related, "Rollins was a student athlete tried in 1993 and both men were convicted." She said, "Ironically, about both of those cases, they were both overturned on appeal and I retried Sergio Venegas, the serial rapist, and he was convicted. He is still serving his sentence." The Rollins case was retried by the late Steve Tauzer (She had taken a leave of absence for a year to be with her children). The case resulted in a hung jury and ended with a dismissal.

I then asked Green if she was bothered by the fact that the Rollins case was dismissed after the hung jury. Her response was, "Of course, yes, that was a highly contested trial, but you try cases and you hope the jury will see it your way. Then you hope the appellate court will feel it was error free and they basically reversed the verdict for juror misconduct. I did not agree with that then and I don't agree with it now.

"But, you know what, that is how the system works."

So what's the best part of a prosecutor's job?

"What I liked the most was really the challenge and every case being different." Green related that she enjoyed that part of the job but because of the types of cases she worked, she was able to help people who had been victimized by very cruel acts, even by family members or helping family members get some type of justice.

"Well, what I like least is, about it was, well, I don't like to lose. I still don't like to lose."

I could see the complete sincerity in her eyes when she said, "I didn't like that because the stakes were so high in the sense that when you lose a case, then a child molester, rapist or murderer goes free, so I did not like that. Beyond that, I still like the job."

Green told me that she thinks that the strongest cases are the ones that ultimately plead out. The cases they do take to trial are the most difficult cases. "I think the most difficult kind of cases that I have prosecuted is the sexual assault cases, whether it is an adult or a child. Those are the real challenge." (For the jury, for the victims) Having to put a victim on the stand to relive these horrific experiences is always challenging and difficult. "I always tell the families that there is no such thing as a sure thing, because you never know what a jury is going to do. You really don't."

Green has prosecuted over 110 Felony jury trials so I asked her if there are some that stand out for her, in terms of difficulty, emotional toll or simply gave her satisfaction to get a conviction. "Well, that one case that I mentioned, Sergio Venegas, was a case that I will never forget because we had only prosecuted him for one of the rapes but he is clearly a serial rapist." She said there was a lot of strain on the victim because she was not from Kern County when she testified the first time. "Then it was reversed and I had to call her, so that was one of the hardest things that I ever had to do was to contact her and tell her that it had been reversed," Green said. "It was reversed, not because of anything that I did or she did, but because of the way that the FBI had calculated the probabilities for the match of DNA."

"The victim is just really a very brave woman."

Of course, many cases have presented real challenges so it's hard to single one out. "I will say that being in trial with Vincent Brothers for five months was very demanding." Green said she worked every day for five months, every single day, even the weekends on the Brothers' case. "I was glad that my kids were a little bit older and could understand why I was never at home, that was an extremely difficult case."

I told Green that everyone knows that it is her job to make cases, but asked if there was a great deal of satisfaction involved in getting dangerous people off the streets of Kern County? "Yes, that is the best part about the job, you just feel like you are helping people and making the streets safer. I hope that by being elected District Attorney that I can even reach out and accomplish that on a greater and wider basis than just handling individual cases."

So what did she admire most about Ed Jagels after working for him for 27 years and how did he influence her as a deputy, supervising deputy, chief deputy and finally as his elected replacement? "What I admired about Ed was that he let you try your case. He had confidence in your ability to go to trial, handle the case, and he didn't micro-manage." She said that micro manage is a common phrase that you hear nowadays, but that was not Jagels' style and she really admired that about him. "Ed asked me to be a supervisor on several occasions

but I didn't want to step away from trying the cases." Green said, "I was finally ready to do that in about 2001, and when I became a supervisor, there was not a lot of training involved in that area around here." She said training is one of the things that she is trying to change. "Actually, I was lucky enough to step into being a supervisor in the unit that I had been in, and that was the homicide and sexual assault unit, so there was really no learning curve involved in that the people that are in that unit are really some of the more experienced ones in the office." She told me "when I became Chief Deputy and even as elected DA, Ed was not long on advice, I will tell you that. He didn't have much advice about the office or those positions, for whatever reason, I think that is just kind of him."

I inquired about her being named "Woman of the Year" in 2006 by then-Senator Dean Florez, and what that particular honor meant to her. She told me that there is kind of a funny story attached to this honor: "When I got the call from his representative telling me that he was going to nominate me for this, I was very suspicious, kind of like the prosecutor in me." She said that she actually wasn't sure about the whole thing because it came out of the blue and she really didn't know the Senator. "So, when I came to really understand that it was just recognition for my career, basically, and then I was very honored and humbled, especially given the fact that he is a Democrat and I am a Republican. He kind of crossed party lines and he was just recognizing me for hard work and I was fine with that."

She went up to Sacramento with the other women who had been nominated and thought there were about 40 altogether. Green was able to take her daughter along as her guest and her daughter was able to be on the floor with her when she received the honor from Senator Florez. Her husband and a friend from the Bakersfield Police Department also accompanied Green to Sacramento to witness the event. "I just thought that this was setting a good example for my daughter who does not want to be a lawyer. She is interested in the arts, but just to be able to see her mom getting recognition for working hard. I think that is the best kind of role model that we can be as parents."

I asked Green whether she felt all those hours she spent on cases helped her daughter understand that all that hard work and long hours pay off. "I think so, I always tried to, my habit when the kids were little was, I would run out of here (office) or try to get out of here by 5 o'clock so I could get home and beat the traffic, then make dinner. I would then spend time with the kids and head back to the office between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening and work until maybe 10 o'clock. And by doing this, it did not take time away from my children."

Green said she followed this routine until her children got older and added that after she had been in court all day, she just felt like she needed to leave the office for awhile and think normal thoughts about normal things and then go back to the office refreshed. She said that working from home didn't work for her and their policy dictates that you must do the work in the office to earn compensatory time. She said that this worked out fine for her and she actually got a lot of work done.

But did she ever have any aspirations or career goals to someday occupy the chair she is sitting in now?

"Absolutely not, never, no, and people remind me." Green said that several people asked her over the years, prior to her decision to run, whether she wanted to be the District Attorney and she always said "no" because she had no interest, and as long as Ed Jagels was the DA, she was happy because he treated her very, very well. "It was not until it became apparent that he was not going to run again that I then considered running."

Jagels did have the respect of his peers.

"He is an incredibly smart man. I mean he really, really is and he did this job for a long time, and I will tell you what, you know, even the newer people that are working here now who have not been in the office that long, they love Ed. They really, really do and for the most part that is how the people around here felt about him. I really believe that is true."

In Green's new role she is responsible for three divisions: Criminal, Crime Lab and the Bureau of Investigations. There are a total of approximately 240 employees, 84 of which are attorneys assigned

to the Criminal Division. There are about 30 people in the Bureau of Investigations, about 40 people in the Crime Lab and then maybe about 100 support staff all together. The chain of command is comprised of a Chief in charge of each division, the Chiefs answer to the Assistant DA and then there is Green herself at the top.

I asked Green if there been any major changes in either policy or personnel since she took office. She responded, "Policy, not yet, there probably will not be major changes." She did tell me that certain things have happened during the first two months of her administration that have caused her not to be as far along with the policy as she would like to be in terms of reviewing and updating some of the things related to operations but not so much there. She told me that there were some new policies implemented in the last four months of Jagels' administration, such as their Brady policy coming into line and a couple other things but was not specific.

"I have hired five attorneys since the first of the year due to retirement and things like that. That is pretty exciting because there are a lot of people looking for jobs and we hired some really excellent people, so I am really excited about that."

I asked Green if she would share any major plans for changes in the DA's office. She said, "Major plans, we have fortified our domestic violence unit and I am hopeful to focus our attention a little bit more on elder abuse and things like that."

Another interesting thing is that out of the 84 attorneys, over half have less than five years experience, so Green's goal is to focus on training to get them to a point where they can handle the serious and more difficult cases. She told me that the DA's Office is losing people at the top with the most experience and recently, with Mike Vendrascio's retirement, there are only two attorneys left who have tried a capital case in the DA's Office. "I am one of them and the other one is Art Norris, and I will not be trying more capital cases." She told me that because they are such a young office, training is essential so more attorneys are able to try those difficult cases and "try them well, and effectively, so I think that is my challenge. I really do."

Green told me that training was definitely her biggest challenge and her number one goal is to have her staff not just capable, but really performing at a high level in the courtroom advocating for victims, and being proficient at their jobs. She said that beyond that, just getting the money to accomplish those things and keeping her staff levels where they are at present is also going to be a challenge.

How have the difficult economic times affected her budget? "Well, it has already affected it," she said, noting that a few years ago, the DA's Office had 90 attorneys and now they are down to 82 but were able to hire two more because of a grant they received from the Office of Traffic and Safety bringing the total to 84. The operation of the crime lab is also based on a budget. "So, I am just hoping that the two new Supervisors and the three that were on the Board from before recognize how important it is to fund the DA's office." She further stated "I might add that it does not do any good, and I have said this many times, for the police to go out and arrest the bad guys if we don't have the people to keep them in jail, and if we don't have the prisons to put them in or the jail space to keep them in as well, but that is a whole other issue."

She mentioned that the Crime Lab and the Bureau of Investigations are a little down on positions. She told me that in the end she felt if they could keep the numbers where they are with regard to attorneys, that they should be able to maintain the same kind of prosecutory effort that they enjoyed under Jagels' tenure.

Green also shared that her Chief Deputy was presently Scott Spielman but with the retirement of Mike Saleen, Spielman will move into the position of Assistant District Attorney. She said that was always her plan because Saleen told her early on that he would be retiring so she knew that Spielman would be the Assistant DA but no decision had been made on who will fill the Chief Deputy slot.

Given her new role, will she miss prosecuting cases? "One of my requirements for the supervisors is that they are required to carry one case at a time. It might be a case that will plea down the line or go to trial but, they have to have at least one case." Green said that rule applies to her as well and she carries a case load of one, just as she requires her Supervisors to do. She told me that the case she presently carries is a child abuse case with no death involved that is

in the early stages. Green said she feels it's very important to lead by example. She added that she has been in court observing the newer deputies and she feels that is important, but she will also be in court with her own case. Jagels was known to try cases occasionally. "He took on death penalty type cases and then the sheriff's deputy who was injured in McFarland, but he did (prosecute cases)," Green said.

I asked Green if the fact that she ran unopposed gave her a sense that peers (meaning attorneys) in Kern County felt that she was the most qualified and capable to carry on after the retirement of Ed Jagels? She said, "What I think, honestly, is that we ran a smart campaign, which means that we announced our intentions early and raised the money early, a lot of money early." She added, "I think my reputation is good. Don't get me wrong, and maybe that is why no one within the office ran."

Our conversation shifted gears and took off in the direction of her family. Given that her husband was an attorney, I asked her how her family felt about this wonderful career accomplishment. "My husband is an attorney and he does something completely different than I do, but he actually was a DA and our careers intersected for about maybe three or four years." She told me he had a lot of fun doing this job when he first started out like everyone does. She said his office was right across the hall from hers and it was just too much togetherness. He now works for a large farming company in town. "My family, well, my son is a sophomore at UCLA and he voted in his first election, the first election he voted in was for me, so that was pretty cool and he has one of my big signs up in his room at college, 'Lisa Green for DA'."

She said she and her husband talked to their children about her running for DA and they were all supportive. She said that she didn't feel that by being a working mom, it took anything away from raising her children. You could see her beaming with pride when she said, "They are really great kids and I feel that my No. 1 accomplishment is my three kids. I feel that has really gone well, so far, so far so good."

"Sometimes we may look back and have some regrets but I really don't. I think that if you can set an example by just working hard and having good work ethic, and then they see that. I hope that is true."

With the oldest child recently graduating from UC Irvine, one child in college and one a senior in high school, do any of them have an interest in practicing law?

"Actually, the oldest son just got his first job, so if he was thinking about law school, I think that he put that on hold because he actually has a real job, graduated from college and got a job. That is great so I don't know what will happen with him."

She said the middle son might actually go to law school. "He is a history/political science major at UCLA and he did mock trial in high school. I coached his mock trial team and he actually was a natural. Even though he is my kid, I have to say he was a natural at being a lawyer and the whole cross examination/direct examination thing, so I think that might be in his future."

"My daughter is a dancer and she has no interest in the law, although she is very good at arguing and in making good points."

Green and I then discussed that she had been honored by the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (KCLEF) and what it meant to her.

"I was the first prosecutor...when the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation honored me, the detectives, and my investigator Charlie Brown for our work on the Brother's case, it was June 2007; it was right after the verdict. That was one of the really, my proudest moments to be honored. I was the first prosecutor to get that award and that really meant a lot to me and I have gone to all of the dinners since then, because it is just close to my heart."

I told her that KCLEF was very proud to support all the PALs and the SAL in Kern County and mentioned that our biggest project last year was sending both the Sheriff's Department and BPD Honor Guard to Washington DC for Police Week.

"Yes, I remember that and I think it is just great, and I will tell you this, people always talk about the individual honors and this and that, but in law enforcement it is a hard business. They rarely get recognized for good work or achievement so to do that once a year when the names are submitted and the people are honored, I think that is great and it is just recognizing hard work. A lot of people take



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law enforcement for granted, so I think it is wonderful."

Green is looking forward to serving the citizens of Kern County. One of the things that she is doing is going out to Ridgecrest one day per month and staying in their office out there, which is not only good for the employees in that office, consisting of two attorneys

and two support staff but also the citizens of Eastern Kern County who want to come to talk to their DA about something, then "I will be there for them." She said she is very happy about that and already spent one day there last month.

"There may be changes that won't be so obvious from the outside, but I think people liked Ed Jagels' approach to crime fighting and prosecution and that does not mean a lot of changes, so I think most of the changes will be more inside."

*During and after this interview, I found Lisa Green to be very pleasant, relaxed and forthcoming, as we spoke about her experiences and challenges during her professional journey to the top Law Enforcement post in Kern County. As I asked her questions she answered without hesitation with what felt like absolute sincerity. As I left her office, I couldn't help but feel that the people of Kern County are fortunate to have her protecting our interests and keeping us safe through the successful prosecution of dangerous criminals.*

## 2nd Annual **TEXAS HOLD'EM** Poker Night

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (KCLEF) hosted its 2nd annual Poker Tournament at the CHP "420 Club" located on Alfred Harrell Highway in Bakersfield.

This event was attended by close to 200 people who came out to support Kern County's Law Enforcement agencies. Almost half of those in attendance were players and the rest came out to show support for their favorite player or partake in their favorite spirits. The mouth watering steak dinner with all the fixings was catered by Big Mike's BBQ, owned by former NFL star Mike Arey, who donated his profits back to KCLEF. KCLEF also thanks Eddie Rice of RLS Industries who was a \$1000.00 sponsor of the event.

There was some awesome music performed by the "Two Timerz RockingCountry Band" sponsored by Randy's Towing who also donated the beverages. The crowd received a special treat from Gene Thome, owner of Bear Mountain Sports, who belted out a couple of Merle Haggard's old standards. It was obvious that the crowd outside were enjoying themselves as much as the players inside who were totally engaged in the art of "the bluff" trying to coax their opponents into making a critical mistake thus being eliminated from the competition.

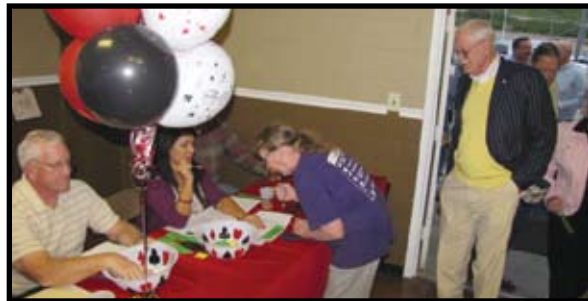
Mayor Harvey Hall made an appearance at the event and visited with the crowd while he enjoyed his dinner and observed a bit of card play.

There was a raffle which included a variety of very nice gifts donated by a number of businesses in the community that support the efforts of KCLEF. Raffle Gifts were donated by the following;

- **Dinner for 2 donated by KC Steak House with tickets to the Maya Theater**
- **A coffee pot with special features donated by Wal-Mart**
- **A stand up stainless steel mixer donated by Wal-mart**
- **Lunch for 2 donated by Uricchio's Trattoria**
- **A pair of men's and women's upscale sunglasses donated by McGees at Bakersfield Optical**
- **A 4-day Mexican Cruise provided by KCLEF**

As the night went on the crowd watched with anticipation as all but best players were eliminated. After taking a short break, the final 8 faced each other for the showdown of the evening pitting friend against friend for the title of Champion of this year's event. When the smoke settled, Ken McMinn, Chief of Police in Taft won the tournament, with the final 8 players splitting the \$2500 pot.

Special Thanks to Sofie Zimmermann and Stan Moe who co-chaired this successful event and were assisted by members and supporters of KCLEF.







## KERN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| District Supervisor, Joshua Porter<br>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL<br>4800 Stockdale Hwy., Ste. 213<br>Bakersfield, CA 93309 | Major Gregory C. Jarmusz, Commander<br>95th Security Forces Squadron<br>EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE<br>105 Yeager Boulevard<br>Edwards AFB, CA 93523-1145 |
| Chief Tommy Tunson<br>ARVIN POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>200 Campus Drive, PO Box 156<br>Arvin, CA 93203                           | Robert Guyton, SSRA<br>FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION<br>4550 California Avenue, Suite #440<br>Bakersfield, CA 93309                                |
| Chief Greg Williamson<br>BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>P.O. Box 59<br>Bakersfield, CA 93302                             | District Attorney Lisa Green<br>KERN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY<br>1215 Truxtun Avenue<br>Bakersfield, CA 93301  |
| Chief Terry Freeman<br>BEAR VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>25101 Bear Valley Road<br>Tehachapi, CA 93561                      | Chief Larry Bentley<br>KERN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY<br>1215 Truxtun Avenue<br>Bakersfield, CA 93301   |
| Mike Marquart, Acting Chief/Ranger<br>BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT<br>300 S. Richmond Road<br>Ridgecrest, CA 93355            | Chief David M. Kuge<br>KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT<br>PO Box 3309<br>Bakersfield, CA 93385-3309   |
| Chief Steve Colerick<br>CALIFORNIA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>21130 Hacienda Boulevard<br>California City, CA 93505         | Sheriff Donny Youngblood<br>KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.<br>350 Norris Road<br>Bakersfield, CA 93308  |
| Lt. Tom Stenson<br>CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME<br>1824 Norris Road<br>Bakersfield, CA 93308                            | Chief Steve Alvidrez<br>KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT<br>5801 Sundale Avenue<br>Bakersfield, CA 93309  |
| Captain Bill Nation<br>CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL<br>4040 Buck Owens Boulevard<br>Bakersfield, CA 93308                     | Chief Derek W. Merritt<br>MARICOPA POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>400 California Street<br>Maricopa, CA 93252  |
| Lt. Terry Roberts<br>CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL<br>29449 Stockdale Highway<br>Bakersfield, CA 93312                         | Chief David Oberhoffer<br>MCFARLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>401 West Kern Avenue<br>McFarland, CA 93250   |
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| Chief Marty Williamson<br>CA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD<br>9001 Stockdale Highway<br>Bakersfield, CA 93311              | Chief Ken McMinn<br>TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT<br>320 Commerce Way<br>Taft, CA 93268   |
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## BAKERSFIELD CHP Has a New Commander

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

Captain Bill Nation is the new commander of the Bakersfield CHP, replacing Brian Smith who promoted to Assistant Deputy Chief in Fresno. I sat down with Captain Nation in his office to find out what I could about his ride to the top job of one of the largest CHP Commands in the State of California.

Captain Nation was raised in the San Jose area and attended St Francis High School in Mountain View, CA. He said he later received his AA Degree in Administration of Justice at De Anza College. Nation said that he is less than a year from his BA Degree, but that process was interrupted when he joined the CHP in 1985.

Captain Nation told me his first assignment out of the Academy was in Blythe, CA. He said he was assigned there for a year and then went to the San Jose Office where he was a Motorcycle Officer for 5 years. He shared that San Jose was a very busy place to work and that there are several large cities in and around Santa Clara County. It was during that time that he met his wife who was taking her State Nursing Board test when she was in the process of becoming an RN. He told me that his motor partner and best friend introduced him to his wife's sister. They dated for about a year and then were married in San Jose. They eventually moved to Fresno where she worked in a hospital for 13 years and has now been a school nurse for the past 8 years. He and his wife have two children, a daughter who is a senior in High School and a son who is a freshman in High School.

Nation told me that after he transferred to Fresno, he spent the first 5 years in a car and when they got motorcycles, he rode motors for the next 5 years and spent a little time doing background investigations on new hires.

Capt. Nation told me, "I didn't take a promotional exam until I had 18 years in the field and then took the Sergeant's Test and was promoted in 2003." He said his first assignment as a Sergeant was in Oakhurst near Bass Lake.

Captain Nation told me that he promoted to Lieutenant in 2006 in Santa Cruz, CA. "I stayed there through the week in a trailer and commuted home to Fresno on the weekends." He said he was in Santa Cruz for about a year when a Lieutenant vacancy came up in Fresno so he was able to transfer there becoming the Administrative Lieutenant and remained in that position for about 4 months. When a Lieutenant Commander position became available in Los Banos, CA. he applied for a transfer and got the job.

Captain Nation was assigned to the Los Banos job for a little over 3 years when he was selected for a "Law Enforcement Fellowship Program" in Washington D.C. so he was able to go back there and work in a Gang Taskforce with the FBI for 6 months. He said that it was during that time and just prior that he was testing for Captain and made the list. While he was still in Washington D.C. he interviewed for and accepted the position of Captain in Bakersfield. "When I returned from D.C., I was placed in Bakersfield." Captain Nation said that he was actually promoted on December 2, 2010 but did not physically report until February 15, 2011. He told me that Brian Smith left in September 2010 after he was promoted to Assistant Division Chief in Fresno so Bakersfield was without a Captain for a few months until he reported. In the interim, the area was placed in the capable hands of Lieutenant Alex Carillo who was assisted by Lieutenant Larry McGuire. He said that Carillo "did an excellent job of keeping this place going with almost no issues of concern."

I asked Captain Nation what was his impression of Bakersfield so far. "After working in the Fresno area for so long, which is roughly the same size, the biggest difference I see so far is the community support for Law Enforcement is just amazing. I know you've heard it before but Bakersfield is a big town but with a small town atmosphere." Nation said. Nation also shared that he noticed that the various allied agencies in Kern County interact and support each other and has also no-



ticed similar support from local industry.

I then asked Captain Nation if he had any issues or concerns about the Bakersfield Command. "No, not right now, there are 150 people assigned to this office so that means 150 personalities you have to work with." He said that when he reported, "there was no agenda for me or anything I was told to come in here and fix." He said the office had been running smoothly before and continued to after his arrival. He said his intention is to be proactive and responsive to the needs of the community and stay focused on the mission of the Highway Patrol.

Captain Nation shared that the command consists of 110 Traffic Officers, 11 Sergeants and 2 Lieutenants, as well as 25 dispatchers and 2 supervising dispatchers. He said there are also support staff and mechanics that work at the office making the Bakersfield Office one of the largest in the State in terms of both size and activity. He gave his Traffic Officers credit for their hard work generating most of the activity.

The facility where the CHP is presently housed has been there for scores of years and is too small, I inquired if there were plans to build a larger one. Captain Nation told me that the State is presently looking for property to build on, but gave no further details.

I asked Captain Nation if he had aspirations of promoting any higher. His response was, "I have almost 27 years in and my plan is to do around 30 years. I want to retire doing what I still enjoy." He told me that when he first came on the CHP his goal was to ride a motorcycle and he did that. When he decided to start taking promotional exams, his goal was to make Captain and now he's done that. He said he has now achieved the professional goals he set out to accomplish, "Who knows what the future holds, but promoting again is not on my list of things to do before I retire." He told me that he didn't view his job as his command; he feels the command belongs to the men and women out there doing their jobs to make the highways safe. He said he feels it's his job to come in and find a way to provide the resources they need to get their job done and be successful.

"That part is fun, watching all our personnel, both sworn officers and civilian employees be successful, coming into work everyday with that passion to do a good job and if I can be part of that, or help them with that, then that's big fun for me too." He told me that he was blessed with people that come to work, enjoy their jobs and do a great job. He mentioned that, "our measurement is the mileage/death rate which is the lowest it's ever been in California."

I asked Nation about hobbies. He said, "I played sports as a kid but don't do much of that anymore except for golf, which I occasionally play when I have time." He said that the biggest thing he's into right now, and has been since a kid, is Muscle Cars. He said he's always been a muscle car fanatic and presently owns two, a 1969 Chevy Z-28 Camaro and a 1970 Dodge Challenger R/T. Nation said he enjoys car shows and now his son is at an age where he is interested and the cars are something they can enjoy together. He said he really enjoys his family time and supporting his children with their school activities such as his daughter's cheerleading and his son's wrestling.

Over the years, Bakersfield has been fortunate to have CHP Commanders who have embraced our community making it their own. After sitting down with Captain Nation and having him share his background and his thoughts, I have to say that once again we have a top notch leader at the helm of Bakersfield CHP.

# Annual **BBQ/RANGE** Qualification

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On October 29, 2010, retired members of the Kern County Sheriff's Department gathered at the Sheriff's Department Firing Range in Hart Park. This year's event was one of the largest in recent memory with well over 100 in attendance.

The purpose of this event is two fold: First, it gives the retired folks a venue to meet with old comrades they don't run into throughout the previous year and to catch up on each others activities.

Second, the event provides an opportunity to qualify on the firing range in order to meet the Federal requirements to carry a concealed weapon outside of California.

In between the morning and afternoon qualification sessions, there is a BBQ lunch with all the trimmings prepared and cooked by the Search and Rescue Cook Crew and then served by the Sheriff and his Command Staff. The food is always good and provides an opportunity to enjoy a great meal and do some more catching up.

Special thanks go out to the Sheriff's Benefit Association, Sheriff's Command Association and the Kern County Detention Officer's Association who all shared sponsorship of this event with each organization donating \$400.00 to cover the cost.

I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall of 2011...



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Newsletter Editors **Lynn Watkins, Thomas L. Sheets & Pauly Wren**  
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**THE KERN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION  
WILL HOLD ELECTIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS IN  
MAY 2011 WITH THE RESULTS ANNOUNCED  
ON JUNE 3, 2011 AT OUR ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER.**

The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your dues and donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

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