

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

As your President this is my 2023/2024 report to our membership on the state of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

Let me introduce your Board of Directors:

- **President – Laurie Buchman**
- **Vice President – Katy Reeder; Fundraising**
- **Secretary – Gerrie Holmes – Meeting Notices, Metro Purchasing, Badging, Membership, Fundraising**
- **Treasurer- Donna Klein; Chairperson of Christmas Fundraiser and Auction Event**
- **Director – Cookie Penton – Facebook; Fundraising**
- **Director – Janet Delaney – Good and Welfare; Fundraising**
- **Director – Miriam Gutierrez; Store Chairperson; Fundraising**
- **Director – Jorge Soto – Store Assistant; Fundraising**
- **Dave Peightal – Field Trips; Fundraising**
- **Director at Large – Adriana Saenz - Fundraising**
- **LVMPD Advisor – Captain Kurt McKenzie**
- **LVMPD Advisor – Lt. Landon Reyes**
- **LVMPD Advisor - Officer Sam Diaz - Speakers**
- **MVP Liaison – Sharon Harding - Photography**

I was elected to the Board in January 2017 and President at the Board of Directors meeting held on July 31, 2017. I was re-elected January 2020 and January 2023 to the Board of Directors for another 3-year term and have been asked to continue to serve as your President. I am both honored and humbled to lead our Association in that capacity as I give this address for the 7th year in a row.

With the cooperation of all those serving, each member has an assignment or committee chairmanship as we continue to work on the following: The annual Christmas Holiday Fundraising Event held in December; the way we communicate our information to the membership via a newsletter, meeting notices and our continuously updated Facebook page; an informative overview on our Website; the focus on growing our membership from CPA and HCPA graduates; the Annual Dick Bennett

Memorial Service Award; seeking more ways of fundraising without losing the momentum of our current efforts; spending extra time with the CPA and HCPA classes to give them a welcome feeling to become Alumni; continuing to build relationships with LVMPD through our advisors, Deputy Chief, Captain, and Lieutenant; keeping the BOD updated at all times; encouraging our members to become more involved through committees; and urging members to run and serve as a Board Director.

We must remember from where we came as an Alumni Association when I stepped into the leadership role to better understand how we are so very strong today. I spend significant time preparing for the BOD and general meetings along with CPA and HCPA presentations; correspondence; acknowledgement for our speakers and donors; our newsletter and researching information germane to the association. I track more than 100 hours devoted to Alumni business each month. Add each Board member's hours and you can imagine the time we dedicate to the CPAAA as volunteers who believe in LVMPD and our community.

I am an optimistic gal who keeps my eye on the mission so that the CPAAA thrives. The Board shares that vision.

We offer interesting trips and informative monthly speakers.

We have grown the Christmas Fundraiser into a premier event. The chance to be together with food, fun, photos, festivities and friends are celebrated and enjoyed. In 2017, 7 years ago, the Christmas Fundraiser grossed just over \$6000. After a 2020 off year for COVID, in December 2021 we thought we set the bar high earning \$9,500.

When December 1st 2022 arrived, we thought we hit it out of the park raising more than \$12,000. On December 7, 2023 we bettered that by \$5000 grossing \$17,000 with the largest attendance to date and several RBT and MACTAC officers in attendance to see how we raise money for their requested training items.

I initiated and have regular communication with our major donor to continue the \$1000 match drive each June. We once again met the goal and they have promised to continue in 2024. In 2023 we earned \$2100 for a grand total of \$16,651 since 2016.

The 50/50 raffle, store items sold, donations, rewards granted, dues, and the Christmas fundraiser totaled \$28,165.89 in 2023. We ended 2023 with 285 alumni; the highest ever.

We funded RBT, Violent Crimes and Narcotics, Fusion Center and donations to the Injured Police Officers Fund in remembrances during 2023 in the amount of \$36,818.48; bringing CPAAA to a new high of \$199,900.84 donated since 2003. \$107,215 from 2003 thru 2016 and \$87,225 in the last 7 years. We are prudent, mindful and earn your trust everyday knowing your generosity in funding this CPAAA. We do not have any mega corporate donors; each of us collectively do our part. Not bad for an association that charges \$25 dues.

To grow our membership, Board members are in attendance at the opening, during and at graduation of each CPA and HCPA class. CPA and HCPA classes 1-2024 began in January. We averaged 41% of graduates joining in 2023.

The last 4 years I reported on the results of inclusion of the Hispanic CPA graduates to offer their bilingual graduates the chance to continue their affiliation with LVMPD by having them join as Alumni. Their 12- week class schedule is entirely in Spanish. They are joining at a steady pace. 83 or 29% of our membership are HCPA graduates, up from 21% in 2022. HCPA graduates Miriam Gutierrez, Jorge Soto and Adriana Saenz are serving as Board members. Officer Diaz serves as a Board advisor.

I also spend time before each meeting interacting with our members to give us that connection of mutual respect and appreciation for creating an atmosphere of CPAAA Family.

We are exploring ways to fundraise that can engage more members. Our Board of Directors is identifiable by wearing nameplates so that you know who is serving your interests. I continue - Items "From the President" in each newsletter with my contact information so you have the opportunity to reach me throughout the year.

We started a tenure recognition pin ceremony in 2023 to honor those who have been members for 10 years or more to show you how much we

appreciate your sustained participation. 128 or 45% of our members have been alumni for 10+ years. That speaks to the value we see of becoming and remaining a member.

The CPAAA store has numerous new items to offer you the best apparel and accessories.

What about 2024?

- We will have the Christmas Holiday Fundraiser Potluck on December 5th at HQ. Our efforts are already underway to bring you the best LVMPD experiences and auction items never before offered.
- **We continue to strive for interesting speakers and fieldtrips.**
- Our June Match donor has again said yes to challenge us to raise \$1000 to match theirs.
- I am extremely pleased to announce tonight the welcoming of our first City of Las Vegas CPA graduates to our alumni association as you all voted on at our last meeting. Their inaugural class graduated late last year. This is another step of expanding the opportunities for folks who have the desire to continue and support those who protect and serve - to be a part of something special. I will be speaking at their next class graduation in May. •
_We are working on video documentation of the LVMPD experiences so you have an idea of what each one is and how much the participants experience and enjoy.
- As Alumni you are key to our mission by being ambassadors for CPAAA, Metro and all who keep us safe.
- **We are #AmazingTogether and #VegasStrong**

I owe a great deal of gratitude to our Board of Directors, Metro Advisors Lt. Landon Reyes, Officer Sam Diaz and Cpt. Kurt McKenzie, MVP Liaison, Sharon Harding for the continuous support, and you, the members who have given me the chance to continue the CPAAA's work – support training to keep us on the cutting edge of best police practices.

The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association has a hardworking team; all volunteering hundreds of hours each month to keep us the best CPAAA in the country.

**Thank you for trusting and allowing me to lead the LVMPD CPAAA.
CPAAA**