

CPAAA STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR 2024

FEBRUARY 2025

As your President this is my 2024/2025 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 – Renn HjellumLim – Fundraiser drive coordinator, Store Supervisor, CPA classes**
- **Secretary – Gerrie Holmes – Sends out Meeting Notices, Records Minutes, Metro Purchasing, Badging, Membership, Fundraising**
- **Treasurer- Donna Klein; Keeps the financial records, files legal SOS documents and others related to her duties, Chairperson of Holiday Fundraiser and Auction Event**
- **Director – Cookie Penton – Facebook; Fundraising**
- **Director – Janet Delaney – Good and Welfare; Fundraising**
- **Director – Karen Nickles - Store Co-Manager; Fundraising**
- **Director – Eric Goodman – Field Trips; CLV CPA Liaison, Fundraising**
- **Director – Stephanie Itkin – Speakers; CLV CPA Liaison, Fundraising**

- **Member at Large – Adriana Saenz – HCPA Liaison, Store Sales, Fundraising**
- **Member at Large – Jasmin Millberg – Store Co-Manager, Fundraising**
- **LVMPD Advisor – Captain Raul Rodriguez**
- **LVMPD Advisor – Lt. Landon Reyes**
- **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 8th year.

With the cooperation of all those serving, each member has an assignment or committee chairmanship and Holiday Fundraiser experience event to coordinate. We continue to work on the following: The annual Holiday Fundraising Event; the way we communicate our information to the membership via a newsletter, meeting notices, our continuously updated Facebook page; and an informative overview on our Website. We focus on: growing our membership from CPA, HCPA and CLV CPA 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 3 CPA classes to give them a welcome feeling to become Alumni; continue

to build and maintain relationships with LVMPD through our advisors, Deputy Chief, Captain, and Lieutenant. I keep the BOD updated at all times; encourage our members to become more involved through committees; and urge members to run and serve as a Board Director. We are proud of the volunteers helping at graduations, the store and of course the annual Holiday Fundraiser. I am very pleased with the 8 candidates who applied for election to the Board.

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, HCPA and CLV CPA presentations; correspondence; acknowledgement for our speakers and donors; our comprehensive newsletter and researching information germane to the association. I track more than 110 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, law enforcement agencies 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 Holiday 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 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. This past December 5, 2024 with a great attendance and several RBT and MACTAC officers to see how we raise money for their requested training items we hit \$13,600. That is over \$52,100 in the last 4 years.

I initiated and have regular communication with our major donor to continue the \$1000 match drive each June. This past year another \$1000 donor joined the match. We once again met the goal and they have promised to continue in 2025. In 2024 we earned \$3160 for a grand total of \$19,811 since 2016.

The 50/50 raffle, store items sold, donations, monetary awards granted, dues, and the Holiday fundraiser totaled \$33,130 in 2024. We ended the year with 321 alumni; up from 285 in 2023; the highest ever.

Donna, our Treasurer, recommended to invest in short-term CDs with monies we had accumulated and not immediately needed for requests. This was to take advantage of favorable rates resulting in an additional \$800 income when it matured on February 5th. We have reinvested again.

If you look at our Newsletters on our website you will see photos of all we funded in 2024: Organizational Development

Bureau, Major Crimes and Policing, K-9, the Injured Police Officers Fund remembrances in the impressive amount of \$43,835.83; bringing CPAAA to a new high of \$216,835.87 donated since 2003. \$107,215 from 2003 thru 2016 and \$109,621 in the last 8 years. We are prudent, mindful and earn your trust everyday knowing your generosity in funding this CPAAA. Not bad for an association that charges \$25 dues.

This past October we finally received our state sales tax-exempt status, which now allows us to purchase without the added costs. It was a long process, but Donna and I pursued it to a beneficial conclusion.

To grow our membership, Board members are in attendance at the opening, during and at graduation of each CPA and HCPA class. CPA Class 1-2025 began in January and the HCPA Class begins March 5th. In January 2024 we added the opportunity for the CLV CPA graduates to join our alumni association. 18 became alumni in 2024 for 6% of our membership. Graduates Eric and Stephanie are Board Directors and will serve as liaisons to that CPA which began last night.

The last several years I reported on the results of inclusion of the Hispanic CPA 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. 46 of our 2024 HCPA graduates joined. In total 93 are alumni;

29%. HCPA graduate Adriana is serving as an At-Large Board Director and HCPA Liaison. Denisse Mendez has also accepted my offer to be an additional HCPA Liaison and attend Board meetings to learn more about the workings of our Alumni Association.

In total 94 academy graduates of the 200 became new alumni for an average of 47% of graduates joining in 2024.

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

Our Board of Directors is identifiable by wearing Officer badges 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.

I asked the Board to start a tenure recognition pin ceremony and in 2023 we began honoring those who have been members for 10 years or more to show you how much we appreciate your sustained participation. 93 folks, representing 29% of our members have been alumni for 10+ years. Next January we will have 2 members reach 35 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. In 2024 we added a jacket.

What about 2025?

- **Our Board of Directors election last month saw 8 applicants apply. That is our biggest response ever; more people wanting to become involved is exciting.**
- **We will have the Holiday Fundraiser Potluck on November 20th 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 donors have again said yes to challenge us to raise \$1000 to match theirs.**
- **Last week I represented the CPAAA presenting to an International Delegation from Kuwait, Lebanon, UAE and Morocco regarding community engagement as a partner to LVMPD.**
- **We are working on more volunteers to document our achievements and the LVMPD experiences.**
- **I am extremely pleased to announce a huge step for the CPAAA – our reputation of taking in monies and using those for the support of LVMPD training requests with other agencies also benefitting from training at the JETI is being acknowledged. With no funds used for administrative oversight; it has**

established the association as a highly regarded, transparent and efficiently run non-profit. With that recognition out in the community we have been approached and chosen to receive a major monetary donation of \$30,000 as a first payment with more to come. This has taken place in the last few days, with the opportunity to now entertain even bigger requests for funding. Another local business that works in conjunction with Metro following horrific events contacted me to engage in talks of another significant donation. How exciting would it be to have a CPAAA funded K9. Let's all take a big bow; wow. Look what we have built together as alumni.

- You are key to our mission by being ambassadors for CPAAA, Metro and all law enforcement agencies 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, Cpt. Raul Rodriguez, and MVP Liaison, Sharon Harding for their continuous corroboration, 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.

Your hardworking Board is built on teamwork; all volunteering hundreds of hours each month to keep us a top tier CPAAA in the country.

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