



Pride Integrity Guts



ESPOA NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

October 2025

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Thanks to all Veterans this Veterans Day and every day, November 11, 2025!

END OF WATCH:

***Cathryn Bahm-** Passed away Feb 2025

***Dave Walizer –** Passed away on July 21st.

***Ray Rogers-** April 1938- July 2025

Nationwide - Total Line-of-Duty Deaths through October 1, 2025: **66**

Gunfire: **34**

Traffic: **22**

Other: **10**

California: **10**

Source: Officer Down Memorial Page- [Search for a Fallen Officer](#)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God."

Matthew 5:8

Our sincere condolences to the families of the above.

*Indicates member ESPOA

ESPOA:

This Fall's Twelfth Annual Pigs & Pistols Shoot has been set for Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Bishop Gun Range at 9:00 am. We advise all of you that need to qualify each year for 218 cards to check in with your agency.

You are invited to a steak dinner honoring Law Enforcement – cost is \$30 for dinner. Make your reservations quickly, as we only have until October 17 to do so. Dinner and ESPOA General Meeting will be held on Friday, October 24 (see flyer attached). Elections will be held, awards given out, Raffle tickets purchased (see flyer attached), and hopefully a good time for all. Make your reservations!! And thank you to Dominic Jahn, BPD, for the flyers. (see attached flyers)

ESPOA BOARD:

The ESPOA Board met on May 15th and September 18th this past quarter.

Financial Reports dated June 30, 2025, and September 18, 2025, were presented. As of the most recent report, balances were \$5,831.37 in the Checking Account and \$48,218.86 in the Savings Account, of which \$21,647.67 is designated as SWAC funds. The SWAC gift card balance was \$1,826.81. Both reports were accepted.

The Treasurer was authorized to file all State and Federal filings for Fiscal Year 2024–25.

Mark your calendars! The Annual Pigs and Pistols event is set for Friday, November 7 at the Gun Club. Lunch plans are being finalized, and Range Masters will meet beforehand to confirm scoring.

Scholarship Updates

The Scholarship Committee is reviewing a new request and checking in with a continuing recipient to confirm enrollment.

ESPOA OTHER CONCERNS:

ESPOA CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Captain Josh Ellsworth! After nearly 30 years of dedicated public service—beginning with the U.S. Army, then serving with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, the Beaumont Police Department, and most recently the Bishop Police Department—Captain Ellsworth has exemplified honor, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to his community throughout his career.



ESPOA MEMORIAM:

***Cathryn Bahm** – passed away February 2025. Cathryn had retired from the ICSO office staff. She was also a NIH Auxiliary volunteer for many years and a great supporter of law enforcement.

***Dave Walizer** - passed away Monday, July 21, at his home in Eldorado Hills, CA, the victim of cancer and Alzheimer’s Disease. Dave worked his way through the ranks in the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department, rising to the rank of Patrol Lieutenant. He transferred to the State Fire Marshal’s Office and rose to the position of Deputy State Fire Marshal. He was an amateur radio operator and a very talented man. He leaves behind his wife, Judi, and two sons. Dave was a member of ESPOA and a supporter for many years.

***Ray Rogers**- Retired CHP Sergeant Ray Rogers, a long-time supporter of ESPOA, passed away on July 2 at his home in Bishop. Born April 29, 1938, in San Francisco, Ray enjoyed the company of his children and grandchildren throughout his life.

REST IN PEACE, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

INYO COUNTY SHERIFFS' OFFICE:

July was an exciting month at the Inyo County Sheriff's Office!

On July 15th, we celebrated several key moments within our corrections Division:

- Julio Gonzalez was sworn in as a Correctional Officer
- Christian Hernandez was promoted to Correctional Corporal
- Perla Perez was promoted to Correctional Corporal

Just a couple of weeks later, on July 31st, we were thrilled to welcome three new team members:

- Deputy Michael Compito, transitioning from Reserve status
- Deputy Erika Vanderveer
- Correctional Officer Joseph Rael

And on September 11th, we had the pleasure of welcoming Deputy Stangle to our team!

Please join us in congratulating our promoted staff and giving a warm welcome to our newest members. We're excited to see the great work they'll do for the residents of Inyo County!



Joint Operation Results in Significant Seizures

During the week of August 14th, the Inyo County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Bishop Police Department in a coordinated enforcement effort. Together, the teams executed three search warrants and conducted multiple vehicles stops. The operation resulted in the seizure of several illegal firearms and more than one pound of methamphetamine—an important step in our continued effort to protect and serve.



We continue to show our support for the community not only through safety efforts, but also by attending numerous local events. These gatherings give us the opportunity to connect, build relationships, and share in the fun with the community we serve.



-Inyo County Sheriff Stephanie J. Rennie

INYO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Greetings from the Inyo DA's Office!

Changes abound at the Inyo DA's office. In July, Brad Braaten made his way down the hill and joined us as a Senior Deputy DA. Brad came to us from Mono County (sorry DA Anderson!) and has years of experience as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. He easily transitioned into the office and is quickly assimilating into our county family, even adopting a shelter pup – a chihuahua named Mojo. With Brad's addition, the office is fully staffed.

Fall brought more changes to the office with the restructuring of our support staff and the creation of litigation teams. Our newly minted Legal Advocacy Specialists, formerly known as legal secretaries, will now handle both legal secretarial and victim-witness duties. Jessica Frew, Lauren Johnston and Lidia Schultz are the trio charged with these new duties and advocating for our victims. Overseeing the three is Morgan Maillet, who also received a shiny new title – Administrative Operations Coordinator. Litigation teams comprising of an attorney, investigator and legal advocacy specialist will establish clear points of contact for each case, a benefit for both our law enforcement partners and victims. ADA Christensen is charged with giving each team a name, colors and mascots. Stay tuned!

The office is also gearing up for renovations to the Independence office. The addition of a much-needed security counter and partition is coming soon. This will increase our presence in south county, benefiting our residents and law enforcement partners. New paint and carpet are on our Christmas list, as we are pretty sure neither has been refreshed in years (decades!) And, of course, we are redecorating!

Wishing all our law enforcement partners a beautiful fall and stay safe out there!



Brad Braaten, Sr. DDA

LAS Lidia Schultz & Jessica Frew

LAS Lauren Johnston & AOC Morgan Maillet

Mojo the dog

-Dana Crom, Inyo County DA

MAMMOTH LAKES P.D.:

Fleet Updates: This summer, MLPD modernized our fleet with 4 new Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicles and 2 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PPV trucks—the first patrol trucks for our department. These vehicles help our Officers respond effectively to all types of emergencies.



Community Events: On August 5th, we hosted our first National Night Out! Thank you to all agencies and community members who joined us for K-9 demos, vehicle tours, roller skating, a dunk tank, food, and fun giveaways. We look forward to more collaborative events!



Technology & Safety: The Town Council approved another year of Flock Safety ALPR cameras, giving us 10 cameras covering key entrances to Mammoth Lakes. We also partnered with local schools and Mammoth Hospital to expand Raven gunshot detection systems and 3 additional ALPR cameras, helping us respond quickly to incidents. Since November 2024, these systems have aided in locating suspects, missing persons, stolen vehicles, and property.



Grants & Programs: MLPD received a \$39,652 OHMVR grant to continue building our OHV and OSV programs, launched in 2021. Funds will support new patrol vehicles, covered storage, safety gear, and officer patrol costs, enhancing our presence on summer and winter recreation trails.



Staffing & Recognition:

- **Officer Ryan Tanaka** was promoted to Police Services Technician, overseeing property and evidence management, forensic coordination, and compliance. Officer Tanaka joined MLPD in 2021 and continues his CSI and Crime Analysis studies.



- **New Officers:** On August 20th, Officers Emily Leach, James Clark, and Rudy Madera were sworn in and are now in Field Training. Officer Leach joins from Mono County Sheriff's

Office, Officer Clark is a Bishop native and Army veteran, and Officer Madera comes from Inyo County Sheriff's Department. Congratulations and welcome to all!



Dan Casabian, Chief of Police/Christina Ackerman

BISHOP POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Department Update

It has been a busy season at the Bishop Police Department, and we are excited to share a few highlights with our law enforcement partners and retired colleagues across the region:

- **Welcoming New Staff** – We brought on a **lateral dispatcher Nina Potter**, strengthening our communications team.
- **Technology Investment** – We implemented **License Plate Readers (LPRs)** to enhance our ability to track criminal activity and support investigations.
- **Training & Development** – Our officers completed a variety of **in-house training sessions**, and several attended **advanced officer training** across California.
- **Community Programs** – We proudly hosted our **second Community Police Academy**, building transparency and trust with residents.
- **Public Engagement** – Bishop PD participated in **National Night Out** (hosted by Mammoth PD), as well as **Mule Days, the Tri-County Fair**, and numerous other events that continue to grow each year.

These activities represent just a snapshot of what's been happening in Bishop. We know we're leaving out plenty, but we're proud of the momentum and the hard work of our officers, staff, and community partners.

Honoring Captain Ellsworth

This newsletter edition celebrates Captain Ellsworth, President of the Eastern Sierra Peace Officers Association, as he retires after nearly 30 years in law enforcement.

From starting as an Explorer with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to serving as Captain in Bishop, his career spanned jail operations, patrol, motors, investigations, and leadership roles—a true example of dedication and perseverance.



On behalf of the Bishop Police Department and the regional law enforcement community, we thank Captain Ellsworth for his decades of service, mentorship, and leadership.

We extend our gratitude to all active and retired law enforcement officers across the Eastern Sierra who continue to support one another and the communities we serve. Your legacy, like Captain Ellsworth's, continues to inspire the next generation.



NOTE: If you have served as an Eastern Sierra Peace Officer or other related position, retired or active, or are retired from law enforcement and now reside in the Eastern Sierra, and are not receiving this Newsletter but would like to, send your e-mail address, or if no e-mail, forward your mailing address to:

ESPOA

P.O. Box 101

Independence, CA 92526



bilyeu1@suddenlink.net

or contact: Josh Ellsworth

ESPOA President



jellsworth35@gmail.com

CLOSING:

“The most important thing in the world is family and love.” John Wooden

And

“For the Veteran, thank you for bravely doing what you’re called to do,
so, we can safely do what we are free to do.” UNK

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER!!!!!!

Editor- Lindsey Stine