

## General Manager

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**From:** General Manager [pbarty@peaceofficers.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 10:37 AM  
**To:** General Manager, Peace Officers of California  
**Subject:** P.O.C. and the "Warden Conspiracy."



## PEACE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA e - MEMO

**To** : All Sworn Peace Officers eligible to form their own Peace Officer Only Bargaining Unit (BU 22)  
**From** : The **P.O.C.** Board of Directors  
**Subject** : **P.O.C. and the "Warden Conspiracy."**  
**Date** : Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009

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## THE "WARDEN CONSPIRACY"

CSLEA is unable to move past their paranoid fantasy about the "warden conspiracy" and is terrified to acknowledge that Peace Officers of California is a viable and growing employee organization. It is time to put this nonsense to rest once and for all!

## THE RELATIONSHIP SOURS

CSLEA treats it's "affiliates" as though they were the weaker partner in an abusive relationship. CSLEA claims to have total control over these employee organizations, treating them dismissively during good times and harshly at the slightest hint of dissent. After the abuse, CSLEA (like any other batterer), claims it was done in everyone's best interests, and really - they just had to do it. Nobody, individually or as an organization, deserves any such treatment.

The following timeline details how the Wardens came to get backhanded by CSLEA:

- On May 26, 2006 **\$17.5 million** was included in Senate Bill 1129 specifically to increase compensation for Wardens. This was due to lobbying by the Wardens themselves – CSLEA did nothing to promote or discourage this action;
- On May 30, 2006, the Assembly sent a letter to the Budget Conference Committee supporting that **\$17.5 million** augmentation;



- The recent resignation of Bob Orange as President had nothing to do with failed expectations. According to CSLEA, there was no chance of getting a petition submitted, no chance that PERB would accept the petition, no chance that **P.O.C.** would gain members, and no chance that **P.O.C.** could offer quality LDF. All of those things have happened under the leadership of Bob Orange and his resignation (after 30 years of State service next month) is entirely related to his impending retirement and his pressing family obligations (which includes helping to take care of his wife who was permanently paralyzed as a result of being bucked off her horse and who is also receiving treatment for Lyme disease);
- CSLEA contends in their last two postings that the legislature wants to “*punish Game Wardens*” and that they have grown “*audibly tired*” of them - and specifically Bob Orange. Nothing could be further from the truth! Interesting that Orange has received a bipartisan California State Senate Resolution for his “*achievements and extend special public recognition and commendations to him for his professional and civic leadership.*” Specifically mentioned in the Resolution, Orange . . . “*provided results oriented vision . . . for promoting improved pay . . . law enforcement . . . public safety.*” It was also stated that Orange “*has fulfilled his duties with the integrity and professionalism that is imitated by many but achieved by few.*” CSLEA’s propaganda does not quite measure up to the official stance does it? CSLEA prominently claims legislators are tired of, and want to punish the Wardens & Bob Orange yet consistently fails to provide any legislative names for substantiation;
- The primary rhetorical tool used by CSLEA is to take an individual statement out of context, wrap it in fearful warnings and sell it to the members as fact – the same tactic employed by fear-mongers throughout history. The 2007 e-mail that CSLEA occasionally trots out to scare people about joining Peace Officers of California contains a single line about the Wardens assuring themselves a funding source – which taken out of context is easy to spin as “those greedy Wardens.” Put into the proper context where an independent Wardens Association had their member-paid dues funding illegally seized by CSLEA and the CSLEA argument fails;
- **P.O.C.** will assure every affiliate their fair share of dues money and release time, no matter what CSLEA tries to tell you.

Every single Unit 7 Peace Officer possesses the skills of an investigator and the healthy skepticism of a cop. Put those skills and skepticism to work – do you see any real evidence that Peace Officers of California is run by and for the Wardens?

## THE FUTURE

Surely it is time to put the “warden conspiracy” nonsense to rest once and for all and to move forward with speed, confidence and the resolve that comes with knowing that you are doing the right things for the right reasons? For the reasons cited above, please do not give any credibility to the fear-mongering of CSLEA, or accept their out-of-context accusations at face value. We all know that a Peace Officer-only Union is the best thing for us now - and for the future.

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