

**From:** P.O.C. Public Information Officer Richard Bergstresser [mailto:pio@peaceofficers.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** Public Information Officer (PIO) Richard Bergstresser  
**Subject:** FW: Response to CSLEA Website Message



## 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 Public Information Officer (PIO) Richard Bergstresser on behalf of the **P.O.C.** Board of Directors

**Subject** : **Response to CSLEA Website Message**

**Date** : Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009

The following letter was recently sent to CSLEA by Police Officer Pete Araujo of the California Department of Developmental Services. It is reprinted here in its entirety with permission from Officer Araujo.

Dear CSLEA,

I recently read an on-line message that CSLEA posted on the CSLEA website titled "POC Unveils New Board of Directors." The message disrespected Chris Lewis (New President of POC) for not possessing a full basic POST certificate and for **being an unarmed peace officer**. Well CSLEA, I too am an unarmed peace officer for the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Office of Protective Services (OPS) and CSLEA has not done anything to arm the OPS! We are a POST participating agency and our Police Officers are required to possess a full basic academy POST certificate. We have had Police Officers and Special Investigators injured on duty from violent court committed patients and people who have walked onto DDS State Hospitals.

To my knowledge the OPS is the only State of California ran police agency that is unarmed and many times schedules less than two Police Officers a shift. We do not possess a radio communication system with access to local mutual aid agencies, we practically do not have a department manual to protect us from civil litigation, and we are compensated less than similar classifications within the state civil service

system. I have shown CSELA respect in the past and I pay my full dues like other peace officers represented by bargaining unit 7.

So I find it very tasteless and disheartening that CSLEA would make fun of peace officers who are unarmed. We want to be armed for our safety! We serve the State of California every day. DDS Police Officers drive marked police vehicles and wear police uniforms without a gun! That's right - we wear a police uniform, drive in a police car without mutual aid communications, and many times work without a partner!!! If CSLEA thinks that the peace officers they represent are a joke for not being issued a firearm, than why would they not fight for unarmed peace officers to obtain the safety equipment they need for their personnel safety and the safety of the public they protect! Enough is enough, help us obtain firearms and adequate staffing levels! I mean we realize that OPS is a small agency and our numbers are too small for CSLEA to obtain parity raises for us, but at least get us firearms to protect our lives.

Peter Araujo

PS: I have gone to POST trainings and have met countless California Department of Justice Special Agents with less than full basic POST certificates!

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