**FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Workshop Coming This Fall

In this day and age, you are kidding yourself if you plan on retiring on your retirement plan alone. (Unless you like sleeping on a park bench.) Rangers are not at the top of the highest paid careers but if budgeted correctly, you too can have a comfortable retirement, or college fund or new house or whatever you use money for.

Jamie Fleming is a certified financial planner who is familiar with budgeting a civil service employee's salary. A former cop who knows how to speak to people rather than at them, she will share the basics and then some of getting your finances together. This is not a sales pitch and the sign up fee will benefit PRAC.

The date has been set for Wednesday, September 20th, 1995 at 1700 hrs. For directions to the Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, please call dispatch at (213) 665-5949 or 665-5189. For other questions, contact Kelly Byrne at (310) 548-7496.

For pre-registration: send a check or money order and how many will be attending and mail to PRAC, PO Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829 attn: Region 4 Workshop. The price is $10.00 per PRAC member before September 1. You can become a member by sending in an additional check (see the back of the *Signpost*). After September 1, the price for registration and for non-PRAC members is $15.00. All checks should be made out to Park Ranger Association of California. PRAC polo shirts will be on sale at the Workshop for $22.00. All proceeds will benefit PRAC.

See You On The 20th Of September!

---

**PICNIC**

**Region 2 Bar-B-Que**

Mark your calendars for Thursday September 28th. PRAC is sponsoring a bar-b-que at Vasona County Park in Los Gatos from 3:00pm till dark.

We will have good food, friends, volleyball, frisbee, and anything else you want to bring. PRAC will provide the burgers, hot dogs, and sodas. Bring something to share. The cost is $5.00.

If you join PRAC or renew an expired membership at the bar-b-que you can eat for free. Your membership will be good for the rest of 1995 and all of 1996. Call Ken Miller at (408) 866-1240 to RSVP before September 21.

---

**PORAC/LDF Update**

The PRAC Board of Directors has been looking at the possibility of PRAC becoming affiliated with the Peace Officers Research Association of California and the Legal Defense Fund. The benefits are many but they come at a financial cost.

The major stumbling block to PRAC becoming affiliated is setting up a payment system to PORAC. The members cost is very roughly $25.00 per month which would need to be paid each month. A member would have to check with their agency and see if they could set up payroll deduction to PRAC for the PORAC fees.

Before the Board works any more on the affiliation we want to know if there are enough PRAC members who are willing and able to set up payroll deduction for PORAC. Please read the enclosed information and return the survey.
Wanted: Ranger Exemplary
We Need You!
Kelly Byrne, Region 4 Director
City of Los Angeles Park Ranger

Ranger Exemplary, does that title sound like you? Then give Pam Hemke a call (she is PRAC's President) and put your name in the ring for Region 4 Director of PRAC.

Why Ranger Exemplary? Why not? I must admit that I really don't consider myself an exemplary Ranger (sometimes maybe but not all the time), but I do consider PRAC an exemplary organization that tries really hard to help the Park Ranger. The position of Regional Director is not a high profile job and the salary is nothing to brag about but there are several advantages.

One advantage is you will gain tons of knowledge through networking on a state wide basis. I use to think this was no big deal and that all it took was a couple of phone calls. But in attending conferences, board meetings and workshops I've met a lot of people that when I do call them up on the phone the response is always very generous. This connection has helped my agency in the City of Los Angeles as we petition for the right to carry firearms as Peace Officers.

You will also gain experience for the old resume on working for a state wide non-profit professional association. The job of Regional Director really doesn't take that much time and if your agency supports you, all the work can be done while you’re on duty.

The position that needs filling is currently in Region 4. This area covers the counties of Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura. There are approximately 30 members in this region so one challenge for the director is recruitment. The easy part for the new Director is that I’m going to stay active in PRAC and assist in the upcoming conference so I would be more than willing to assist the new director with anything that needs doing. Why don't I stay on as director? I would like to but I'm finding my off duty time is working on lobbying efforts for improvements within my own agency. I feel I would be more helpful to PRAC in helping a new Director rather than shoulder it alone for another two years.

If you have questions about the position please call myself, Pam or Doug Bryce using the numbers on the back of the Signpost.

The Signpost
Attitude on Enforcement
by Russ Hauck

With the recent unfortunate incident of a homicide in one of our parks came the cry of more enforcement by park rangers. In a city that has 32 parks and 6,000 acres of open space and three park ranger positions, two of which are currently vacant (I'm so tired of the "Lone Ranger" jokes I could burn my mask), I grow weary of the constant tug-of-war that pulls at our profession.

While we are frequently chastised as the "eyes and ears of the police department," and directed to "observe and report," and labelled with such unflattering titles as "wannabe," we are equally as frequently blamed for not doing enough to stop crime in the parks. Further, that does not relieve us of the responsibility to be able to identify a bird in flight 4,000 feet overhead when asked by a hiker, or a lizard described by a first grader that he saw last summer.

We are in a profession that is currently undergoing great change. Police Officers and Firefighters have already experienced changes in their respective professions. In the 1950's a policeman walked a foot beat, rattled doorknobs, pinched petty thieves, and broke up bar fights. If he encountered anything more significant, he called a Sergeant. Firemen fought fires. Today police officers are charged with instantaneously assessing the difference between a clumsy child and child abuse, being the referee in a domestic dispute, and constantly walking the fine line between necessary force and violation of civil rights. Firefighters tally 80 percent of their responses on medical aid situations and must be educated on new hazardous materials as quickly as industry creates them.

Our profession is currently in the middle of a dynamic phase. In the 1950's a park ranger was viewed as a caretaker of the environment, and seen as "interpreting our heritage." Today we have rangers that are strictly resource management, other strictly interpretation, some strictly law enforcement, and many that are combinations of these and other duties. We struggle to find our niche, but are increasingly asked to do more law enforcement.

As we continue to be pressed into service in an enforcement capacity, we must do some pressing of our own. We must press the fact that in order to do enforcement we need certain realizations. Realizations that include equipment, authority, and equality. There are successful examples of this everywhere: San Jose rangers will soon be wearing body armor; Rancho Simi rangers will soon be armed; Sacramento County ranger are pursuing POST agency status; Glendale and Long Beach rangers successfully amended the Penal Code to make Reserve Park Rangers equal to reserve police officers and reserve deputy sheriffs; numerous agencies are pursuing peace officer status.

While our bosses try to downplay our enforcement role to their bosses, "eyes and ears" and "observe and report" are pretty worthless options when you flip on the spotlight and see a 211 in progress. While being viewed as specialized law enforcement may be unsettling to some, it certainly has a place, and is increasingly becoming the trend. As such, we continue to fight our respective political battles.

But more important than all of this is the attitude that we must take toward enforcement. We can't continuously minimize our enforcement role. We have to maximize everything else. We have to accept enforcement as a necessary part of the job, but we have to spend our time highlighting the many, many good things that we do. If you've ever had someone thank you after you've issued them a citation, or heard a voice on the telephone perk up when you call to find out how they are feeling after you assisted them from their fall on the trail, or seen a child's eyes light up when she holds a gopher snake for the first time, you know exactly what I mean.
Legal Update
Park Codes
“Laws Designated to Protect Parks”

The California Legislature has created numerous laws that are specifically designed to protect public parks and open space areas. Did you know that private and public parks must provide adequate restrooms facilities for peak use? or if wood preservatives are applied to park playground equipment, state funding must be returned?

Can you believe that selling drugs in a park could bring twice the sentence as robbing a 7-11 store and shooting at the clerk?

These are just a few of the California laws specifically designed to protect parks, their staff, and park users.

The state legislature has provided these laws as tools to continue to make parks a special place in society. As park professionals we need to take advantage of this special legislation by:

• gaining a working knowledge of these codes
• using these laws as park management tools
• becoming a legal (park) information source for other related vocations (judges, prosecutors, police)

If we don't become the experts on park matters, who will?

It is not an easy task to obtain these park code sections. Specific references to “Parks” exist in almost all the legal codes in California, but seldom appear in the index or table of contents. Because of this very few people, park professionals or others (judges, prosecutors, police) are familiar with or even know of existence of these laws.

Over the years I have accumulated a working list of park related codes, and most recently completed a computer search of codes that will assist park managers (rangers) in the operations of their parks. If you think this information would be useful and would like a 25 page copy of the specific parks codes located in the Penal, Vehicle and Health and Safety Code, send $3.50 to cover printing and mailing to:

Michael Quane, PO Box 3, New Almaden, CA 95042

City of Los Angeles
Is Hiring, Finally!
by Kelly Byrne

It has taken a long time coming but the city of Los Angeles is finally hiring Park Rangers. Summer time is coming and a few more bodies can certainly help, not that the hiring will be done for the summer of '95 but I’ll settle for summer of '96. Park Rangers will be Peace Officers under Penal Code 830.31b and will also receive training in firefighting and environmental education.

If you have been reading the Signpost articles from the Region 4 Director the past year then you realize some of the challenges working for a large city. Heck, unless you have been asleep the past year you probably think of Los Angeles as the disaster capital (L.A. has four seasons: floods, fires, riots and earthquakes) that presents new problems for a Park Ranger. So unless you like challenges, don't apply.

Contrary to popular belief, L.A. does have rural areas. The city also has beaches, mountains, museums, senior centers, urban and suburban parks. There is a diversity of culture in the city of Los Angeles that is second to none. This is the main reason I love L.A. If you like looking at people who all look like their from the same family, don't apply. L.A. is rich in culture and anyone who tries to tell you different is quite ignorant about L.A.

The main reason people would want to work in L.A. is where else can you ski (snowboarding is my choice), and surf all in the same day. Or go hiking and see an off Broadway play all in the same day. Or watch movies being made and be paid $25 an hour for off-duty rate (another of my favorite reasons to work in L.A.). Think about it, the move may be for you.

For more information on the City of Los Angeles Park Ranger position call the Personnel Department at (213) 847-9760.
Smitty's Book Report

David always catches me up short. I had not yet finished my next book for the Signpost when I got his letter reminding me that it was time. As a former student, maybe he is getting even? I saw a coffee cup this weekend that had a statement on it that read, "So many books, so little time." How true. I still have at least five more books to read out of the seven that I received for my birthday. Mostly "recreational reading" about the Civil War. Deadlines remind me of my college days. Ya, I can remember those days. I'm not that old! I did finish reading the book I wanted to tell you about. It was an interesting one, although a little repetitious at times. It is another book that was mentioned at the conference last March. Compiled and edited by Thomas Blackburn and Kat Anderson, it is a book about the management of lands by the Native Americans of California. The title; Before the Wilderness, Environmental Management by Native Californians. It is an edited book that contains the work of several authors, and it is also one that would be a great book for the library of a park interpreter or resource manager. It should probably be on your shelf.

I obtained the book from a local bookstore for $31.50. They had to order it for me. It did come within a six week period, however. I am willing to loan it to someone, if they are interested. I say this, tongue in cheek, because there are two things you never loan to people; your spouse and any of your books! Pick the book up. Have your agency buy it for your park office library. You have one of those, don't you?


Be Professional. Increase Your Knowledge. Read!
Smitty, 74632,1257@compuserve. com

Penal Code Amended to Include Reserve Park Rangers
by Russ Hauck

Governor Wilson recently signed into law Assembly Bill 787 amending section 630.6 of the Penal Code to include Reserve Park Rangers. The legislation carried an urgency clause and become effective immediately. This change will allow park ranger agencies to use volunteers with peace officer authority to supplement paid rangers.

Staff from Glendale and Long Beach Park Rangers worked diligently to promote the legislation which was endorsed by the Park Rangers Association of California. Assemblywoman Juanita MacDonald from Carson sponsored the bill.

A reserve park ranger program can offer a broad band of opportunities. It creates an option for us to bolster our workforce as park budgets continue to be squeezed. It also allows us to provide additional services that we have never before been able to provide due to staff limitations.

There have been many changes associated with reserve peace officers in recent years, and many more changes are due to be implemented in the next eighteen months. Through this legislation, I have become a scholar of the Penal Code and the POST Administrative Policy Manual on issues relative to reserves.

I would be happy to share the information/knowledge that I acquired through my research. If you have any questions, please feel free to call at (818) 548-3795.
## Membership Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City State Zip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer or School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Classification or Major</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Voting Membership

- **Regular**: $35
- **Non-voting Membership**
  - Agency: (1-10 persons—2 mailings) $45
  - (11-50 persons—5 mailings) $70
  - (50+ persons—10 mailings) $90
  - Student: $10
  - Associate: $15
  - Supporting: $50

---

The Signpost is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA, 95829. The Signpost Editor is David Brooks. Articles of 1,000 words, or less are welcome. All submissions become property of PRAC and may be edited without notice.

Submissions should be mailed to David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Dr., Ben Lomond, CA, 95005. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 336-2948. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

- DavidB8480@aol.com
- CompuServe: 76516,3440
- eWorld: DavidB69543

---

Park Rangers Association of California
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

---

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NUMBER
12
Elk Grove, CA