



CALIFORNIA STATE LODGE

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

Stephen James, National Sgt.-at-Arms

Stephen (Steve) James joined the Long Beach Police Department in August 1992. He was elected as a Long Beach Police Officers Association (LBPOA) Director in 1997 and later rose to become the Association's President following a general membership election. Steve began his tenure as President in January 2001 and remained in office until his retirement in October 2017. As a testament to his leadership, Steve was never again contested in a Presidential election, and he received the top votes in every subsequent Director election.

Long Beach Police Department positions and accomplishments

Steve was promoted to Sergeant in 1999 and then to Lieutenant in 2004 which is his retirement rank. While at the LBPD, Steve served as a patrol officer, field training officer, plain clothes felony car, academy instructor and motor sergeant. Steve received numerous commendations, two Meritorious Class A and two Meritorious Class C awards, and two silver stars for bravery.

Long Beach Police Officers Association Director / President

Steve served 22 years on the union board, 17 of which were as the President, making him the longest serving President in the history of the union. During his tenure, Steve elevated the professionalism and standing of the LBPOA on a local, state, and national level on several fronts including labor, as the Chief Negotiator, and political where he was a 20+ year member of the political action committee. Steve served on the City of Long Beach Health Insurance Advisory Committee for over 20 years where he was able to employ creative strategies to secure generous benefits for all City employees. Steve was elected by other California Law Enforcement Labor representatives as President of both the Southern California Alliance of Law Enforcement Associations and the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations. Steve was also appointed by the Governor to sit on the State's Medal of Valor Selection Committee. Steve was appointed to the LBPOA Widows and Orphans 501(c)(3) in 2001 and remains on that board today.

Fraternal Order of Police Positions / Activities / Awards

Steve has been a member of the Fraternal Order of Police for over 20 years. In 2005, he was elected as the California National Trustee. At the National Conference in August of 2023, he was elected as the National Sgt.-at-Arms. He is also the Chairman of the National FOP Legal Defense Plan committee. During his tenure on that committee, the legal plan has grown from just over 30K members to over 110K. Steve was instrumental in all aspects of California's hosting of the 2009 National Conference in Long Beach. He has been appointed to numerous committees over the years, including the Presidential endorsement committee in 2016. In California, Steve has been awarded both the Member of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement awards and has been instrumental in helping California grow from approximately 6,000 members when he joined to over 20,000 today. Steve has taught classes around the country on collective bargaining, communication, financial responsibility, political action, and how to run a police union.

After retiring from the Long Beach Police Department, he went to work for the California State University System where he has held several titles, all the while negotiating contracts on behalf of the system with all of the unions.

Steve is Married to Amy and has 5 Children; Tiffany, Amy, Parker, Skyler, and Cooper.