



### **History and Purpose of SACOP**

The Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police (SACOP) has been an official division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), since the approval of a constitutional amendment at the IACP Annual Conference in 1977. However, the first meeting of SACOP can be traced back to the 1962 IACP Annual Conference. At that conference, a group of four chiefs met to discuss forming a committee within the IACP for state associations of chiefs of police to gather and discuss mutual concerns and interests. The group continued to meet at each annual conference, as a group not sanctioned by the IACP, until 1972. In 1972, the IACP Board of Officers approved a motion that officially established a committee of State Associations of Chiefs of Police, and five years later it was turned into an IACP division.

As a division, SACOP serves as the organizing body for the individual state associations of chiefs of police. SACOP also functions as the coordinating body between the state associations and the IACP membership as a whole, facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information related to a host of important topics in law enforcement. These issues are identified and discussed at the division's meetings or through discussions with the SACOP Executive Committee.

Since its foundation, SACOP has focused on the mutual concerns and interests of law enforcement nationwide. SACOP has created policy guidance, facilitated and encouraged dialogue, provided tools and resources, provided training programs and presentations, and created training project and workshop topics on a host of important topics. Use-of-force, disaster response, information sharing, responding to calls involving people with mental illness, firearms trends, suppression of crime, and communications systems are all topics that SACOP has addressed.

SACOP continues to play a large role in addressing ongoing and emerging law enforcement issues including: officer safety and wellness; traffic safety; legalization of medicinal and recreational marijuana; police equipment; technology; local, state, and federal legislation and unfunded mandates; and community policing and community-police relations.

### **SACOP Committees and Sections**

#### *SafeShield Committee*

When the SafeShield initiative—which is dedicated to identifying problems and threats that impact officer safety and finding solutions that incorporate improved policies, training, equipment, and uniforms—was created as a committee within SACOP in 2002, officer safety had already been discussed by SACOP members for decades. As leaders of the individual State Associations, SACOP members understood that it was their responsibility to provide law enforcement with the best training and equipment available in order to ensure safety in the face of the numerous and varied threats that they face each and every day.

The SafeShield Committee is made up of committed SACOP members who are focused on officer safety. It is organized under the philosophy that law enforcement leaders cannot accept the proposition that accidents or injuries are a reality of the law enforcement profession, and believes that the only acceptable number of officers killed or injured is zero. The committee believes that although chief

executives have limited control over dangerous situations an officer may face in the line of duty, they can control the outcomes through comprehensive planning, proper preparation, and the use of protective equipment.

The goals of the SafeShield Committee are:

- Identify problems and threats impacting officer safety
- Find solutions that incorporate improved policies, training, equipment, and uniforms

The many successes of the committee directly led to the formation of the IACP Center for Officer Safety and Wellness (COSW), in 2012. The SafeShield Committee now serves as a partial advisory group to the COSW, holds its meetings during the annual and midyear meetings of SACOP.

#### *Smaller Department Section*

The Smaller Department Section—which is charged with identifying and responding to the needs of law enforcement agencies with 50 or fewer sworn officers or serving populations of 50,000 and fewer—was also established under SACOP, is closely aligned with the IACP Smaller Law Enforcement Agency Program, and is overseen by the SACOP Manager.

The Section addresses policy issues, training, staffing, resource allocation, and the unique challenges confronting smaller agencies. Recently, it has focused on the CALEA accreditation process, recruitment and retention of officers, and responding to technology mandates.

#### **SACOP Membership, Structure, and Dues**

The core (active) membership of SACOP is comprised of the presidents of the individual state associations, the executive directors that manage each of the state associations, and one representative that serves as the liaison between the individual state associations SACOP. Active membership is also available to any IACP member that has previously served as President of their respective state association. Affiliate membership is available to all active or associate members of the IACP who serve as the chief executive of multi-state, regional, or local chiefs associations and members of the Smaller Department Section.

The three active members of each state association may attend any meetings of the division and participate in discussion and debate on the floor. However, in matters that require voting each state receives only one vote. This vote, and the making and/or seconding of any motions from the floor, can only be done by the current President of the individual state associations or the designated SACOP representative. In the event that neither the President nor the representative of an individual state association is present, the General Chair, upon request of the state, may appoint a representative that is an active member of the absent state's association and of the IACP, to vote.

The SACOP membership is divided into four regions— Mountain Pacific, North Atlantic, North Central, and South. To ensure the equality of the divisions, they are divided as such:

- *Mountain Pacific:* Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming
- *North Atlantic:* Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington DC
- *North Central:* Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
- *South:* Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia

Each state association pays a total of \$500 per year in dues.

### **SACOP Executive Committee**

The general membership of SACOP is represented by the SACOP Executive Committee. The Executive Committee comprises a set of voting members that include a General Chair, Vice Chair, Immediate Past General Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, four Regional Chairs, and the Chair of Executive Directors Committee. Nonvoting members of the Executive Committee also include all past SACOP General Chairs who are active in police service, the Chair of the Smaller Department Section, the Chair of the SafeShield Committee, and the Regional Vice Chairs. The offices of General Chair and Vice Chair are two-year terms, with the Vice Chair automatically ascending to General Chair at the end of their two-year term. These two offices rotate among the four regions. The Immediate Past General Chair also serves a two-year term. The Regional Chairs serve until it is that region's turn as Vice Chair. At that point, the election for Vice Chair is open to any President or SACOP representative from that region. The Chairs of the Executive Directors Committee, SafeShield Committee, and the Smaller Department Section all serve at the pleasure of the General Chair.

The current SACOP Executive Committee is:

- General Chair
  - John Letteney, Chief of Police, Apex Police Department (North Carolina) *South*
- Vice Chair
  - Timothy Lowery, Colonel/Chief of Police, Florissant Police Department (Missouri) *North Central*
- Immediate Past General Chair
  - Peter L. Carnes, Chief of Police, Stonehill College Campus Police and Safety (Massachusetts) *North Atlantic*
- North Atlantic Regional Chair
  - Theodore Smith, Chief of Police, Lincoln Police Department (New Hampshire)
- North Central Regional Chair
  - Bradley R. Wentlandt, Chief of Police, Greenfield Police Department (Wisconsin)
- Mountain Pacific Regional Chair
  - Tom Clemons, Chief of Police, Seward Police Department (Alaska)
- South Regional Chair
  - Rick Scarbrough, Chief of Police, Clinton Police Department (Tennessee)
- Secretary/Treasurer
  - Bernadette DiPino, Chief of Police, Sarasota Police Department (Florida)
- SafeShield Committee Chair
  - Kent Barker, Chief of Police, Tualatin Police Department (Oregon)
- Smaller Department Section Chair
  - Tom Wickman, Chief of Police, Frisco Police Department (Colorado)
- Executive Directors Committee Chair
  - Maggi McLean Duncan, Executive Director, Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police