



GENDARMIE

St. Louis Police Officers Association



The Official Publication of the ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - Lodge 68

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August 2025

SLPOA Executive Board Election Edition

At-Large

President
Martin Garcia

Vice President - (*One Year Term*)

Brian Eisele
Mike Herzberg
Brett Williams

Financial Secretary
Michael Reeves

Sergeant At-Arms
Joe Busso

Division Representatives

Division 1
Erica Kenney
Kellie Pogue

Division 3
Nicholas Holt

Division 5
Edward Napier

Division 7
Edward Hemkens

Division 9
Joe Schmitt

Division 11
James Wilcox

GENDARME ELECTION RULES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Elections for available positions on the Executive Board will be conducted online via the secure voting portal on the SLPOA website. Members are encouraged to confirm that their registration and contact information are current on the SLPOA website. If you are not registered, please do so as soon as possible. If you have an account but you forgot your password or login, you can request a password reset through the website or contact SLPOA Business Manager, Joe Steiger, for assistance.

He can be emailed at joe.steiger@slpoa.org. DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT. YOU WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE WITH TWO ACTIVE ACCOUNTS.

In accordance with the SLPOA Bylaws, voting will open on Monday, September 1, 2025, and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2025.

All active members in good standing with the St. Louis Police Officers' Association are eligible to participate in voting. At-



large positions will be determined by votes from all active members, while division representative positions are selected exclusively by members currently assigned to the respective divisions. This election cycle includes two contested races: Vice President and Division 1 Representative. Uncontested races will also be listed on the ballot for their respective divisions.

Those elected members will assume their positions at the next scheduled Executive Board meeting, contingent upon the official certification of results by the sitting Executive Board.

All candidates are invited to address the General Membership at the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. We encourage all members to attend and hear directly from the candidates. As a reminder, there is a \$2,000 attendance prize, generously donated by the St. Louis Police Foundation; members must be present at the meeting to be eligible to win.

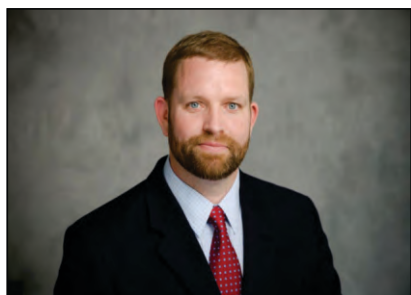
Former SLMPD Officer SLPOA Co-General Counsel



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During our time together we will discuss important topics like these:

- Understanding the major challenges in Retirement
- Discover potential solutions that can help address these challenges
- Social Security Strategies and Healthcare Cost in Retirement
- 457(b) & DROP Account Options

**Next Session
Date/Time:**

**Oct. 29, 2025 @
6:30pm**

Prudential Advisors is providing this workshop for informational or educational purposes only and does not provide investment advice or recommendations about managing or investing your retirement savings.



Matthew McDonough

Financial Advisor, MA

Prudential Advisors

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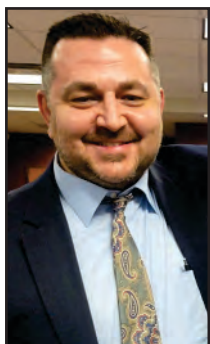
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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate for President - Martin Garcia



I am humbly running for President of your Saint Louis Police Officers' Association.

- Was graduated from the Academy July 10, 2002.
- Served in multiple assignments through my career.
- Became involved in the SLPOA in 2008. Held multiple positions

within the SLPOA. Served as the Legal Chairman for seven years.

Over the last fifteen plus years, I have had the honor of participating in magnificently (and amazingly) growing your Association into what it is today.

I look forward to navigating this next historic chapter on your behalf.

Brian Eisele - Candidate for Vice President (One Year Term)

Having served as a police officer for 17 years with the SLMPD and witnessing the evolution of the board, I have seen how disconnect can occur when the board is made up largely of individuals from the same unit. I believe that our board—YOUR board—should be composed of a diverse group of people from various positions and backgrounds.

As a K9 officer, I have the ability to be all over the city and work directly with the boots on the ground. While everyone will always have the opportunity to voice their



concerns which I will always listen to, facing the same struggles together simply hits differently.

I have a 30-year goal and a vision for the future; I am committed to dedicating the time needed for the big picture and the long-term goals. To me, obtaining the position of Vice President means being part of positive change within our organization, a change that benefits all of us, not just the satisfaction of saying "I did that."

Vote for Brian Eisele SLPOA Vice President.

Candidate Statements Cont. on pg. 4

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Email: thurmer@sbcglobal.net

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate for Vice President - Mike Herzberg (One Year Term)

I'm Mike Herzberg, a 28-year veteran of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, currently assigned to the Homicide Section. My career began as a patrol officer in the Third District for nine years, followed by stints as a detective in the Sex Crimes Unit and Ninth District Detective Bureau. I also served on the Major Case Squad.

The backbone of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and our union, the St. Louis Police Officers Association/Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #68, are our patrol officers. Having spent my first nine years as a patrol officer, I know firsthand the dedication, bravery, and resilience it takes to serve on the front lines, protecting our communities every day. Patrol is the heart of our department, and your sacrifices drive our mission. As I seek the office of Vice President, I pledge to fiercely advocate for you, ensuring your voices shape our union's fight for better pay, staffing, and working conditions. I will always be just a phone call or email away.

I'm a happily married father of two adult children, a Gulf War veteran, and a dedicated union member. I currently serve as a representative on the Police Relief and Police Funeral Societies' Executive Boards.

As a career-long member of the St. Louis Police Officers Association/Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #68, I've been deeply involved in our union. I've served on the Legislative and Legal Committees, the editorial board of the Gendarme newspaper, and as its general editor for the past three years. Additionally, I was a Board Trustee for the Missouri State Fraternal Order of Police for four years.

In 2020, I organized our union's first Peer Support Training, a three-day course on critical incident stress management, hosted at our hall. The training equipped 35 of our members with skills to support each other after traumatic events.

I've also volunteered on the campaigns of SLPOA-endorsed

politicians, and am a regular donor to our Political Action Committee.

With my union brothers and sisters, I've made numerous trips to Jefferson City to advocate critical issues, including eliminating the residency rule, protecting our pension, passing the Missouri Law Enforcement Bill of Rights, and restoring the Board of Police Commissioners (State Control). These victories required years of persistent lobbying and sacrifice.

For twelve years, I served as the SLPOA Division 10 Representative, prioritizing clear and consistent communication with our members about SLPOA's contract, pay, residency elimination, legal, and legislative efforts.

I've also represented our union as a delegate at multiple National and State Fraternal Order of Police conferences. At a recent national conference symposium on building strong labor organizations, I was inspired to mentor future leaders. After completing my sixth term as representative, I encouraged Brother Al Hogan to run for my position. Al has since excelled in that role.

In May, when Vice President Dave Rudolph retired, President Martin Garcia asked me to serve as interim Vice President, and I proudly accepted. I've seen Martin grow into an exceptional leader, and I'm excited to support his vision for our union's future. With your vote for Vice President, I will continue working alongside Martin, the SLPOA Executive Board, and Committees to secure better pay, benefits, manpower, and working conditions for our members.

Stay safe out there, and take care of each other.

Thank you for your support.



Candidate Statements Cont. on pg 5



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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate for Vice President - Brett Williams (One Year Term)

I'm Brett Williams, and I'm currently a patrolman assigned to the District Five A-Platoon. I'm running for Vice President of the SLPOA because our union is strongest when every voice is heard — patrol, specialized units, supervisors, and every shift around the clock. Over the past few weeks, I have visited some roll calls, fielded many phone calls, and listened to your concerns:

- Patrol officers are feeling overlooked, undervalued and completely disenfranchised in union priorities.
- Meeting schedule makes it nearly impossible for many members to participate, specifically impacting nightwatch officers and those with family concerns.
- Uncertainty about whether due process is being protected during internal affairs investigations.
- Pay, Manpower, and the quality of life in the Districts.
- Internships, Detachments, and Jokers.

As the Vice President, I will work to:

- Increase Patrol Representation — Work to get appointments for patrol officers on committees to ensure patrol concerns/priorities are front and center.
- Make Meetings Accessible to All Shifts — The 6PM meeting moved to a 4:30 PM meeting — accessible to day shift (right after work), morning half of specialized units, and possibly midnight shift before they go to bed. A new 9:30 PM meeting (Bi-Monthly based on interest.) — accessible to Night-watch (before work), afternoon watch (during work), and specialized units. This will signal that the SLPOA values every member's ability to participate, not just those who happen to be free at 6 PM on a Wednesday.
- Protect Due Process for Every Member — If patrol officers fear that internal discipline might be unfair or politically motivated, the SLPOA's job is to make sure due process is guaranteed, visible, and consistent. I want the SLPOA to advocate for Officers intent to be a mandatory consideration when determining punishment. Intentional

misconduct (willfully violating policy,) is fundamentally different from good-faith errors made in the heat of a call. Without factoring in intent, a minor but well-intentioned policy deviation could be punished the same as a deliberate, reckless act, which is unfair.

- Improve Transparency & Communication — Regular updates on union actions, with a special focus on how those actions impact patrol and front-line officers.
- Be a vocal advocate for better pay, working conditions, and the retention of Officers that have stuck it out over the past few turbulent years.
- Review the internships to see how this can be altered so that career progression does not continue to be a "dead issue." The current halt on career progression has, is, and will continue to cost us talented Officers.
- Jokers must be brought back. This should be a priority that for some reason fell by the wayside.



Every member deserves a voice, fair treatment, and a union that has their back. That's the SLPOA I want to build as your Vice President, one that listens to patrol, values every shift, protects due process, and fights for pay, staffing, and the career opportunities we all deserve. Together, we can make our union stronger, more transparent, and more representative of every officer. Thank you for your trust and support, I'd be honored to earn your vote.

Candidate for Division 1 Representative - Erica Kenney



For those of you that don't know me, I am Erica Kenney.

Having served as a dedicated police officer for 19 years, mostly assigned to the 1st District, I was raised with tremendous respect for our profession. My grandfather, a 31-year veteran of the SLMPD, taught me the importance of advocating tirelessly for officers - a principle I still hold.

My fellow officers in the 1st District know that we are on the verge of tremendous change. The Police Association will be pivotal in shaping our department's future recruitment, retention, and policy decisions.

When I had the honor of being selected as your interim 1st District representative, I pledged to be a tireless advocate for you. I promise to continue keeping the best interests of my fellow officers at the forefront of every decision we make. I remain committed to bringing your important and valued ideas and recommendations to the table so your voice is heard.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate for Division 1 Representative - Kellie Pogue



My name is Kellie Pogue and I am running for Division One Representative on the Executive Board of the SLPOA.

I have been a member for over seven years during my employment at St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department as a patrol officer and as a detective. My experience working in multiple

specialized units has allowed me to observe, understand, and be a part of the different demands of the officers on the street and in the ever-changing political climate of policing.

As Division One Representative, I will ensure that District One stays informed on current topics keeping them engaged as members, stand by their side guiding them in any legal representation necessary, and be their voice for any suggestions or concerns. We are stronger together!

Candidate for Division 5 Representative - Ed Napier

Hello,

My Name is (Ed) Edward Napier. I am the current Fifth District Representative for the St. Louis Police Officer's Association.

First and foremost, thank you to all for your support over the past few years. I would not be in this position without your support and trust.

As your representative, I strive to bring your concerns to the board and committees in the hopes of them being addressed. I will always seek the truth to give you the right answer, even if it is unpopular.

Thank you again for your continued confidence and trust in me being your representative.



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Candidates for Board of Trustees Election

At the close of this year's Trustee Election Filing Period (4:00 P.M., 08/08/2025), the following have filed a Declaration of Candidacy for the position of Active Trustee to this System's Board of Trustees for the three- year Term of Office which begins October 1, 2025:

Daniel Sweeney

Under provisions of the Police Retirement System Trustees' Manual, Section 3.09.4, "In the event only one qualified candidate for any Trustee office to be filled by election files a timely and valid Declaration of Candidacy, no election shall be conducted for that office and said candidate shall be certified by the Board as the elected candidate for that office."

Daniel filed a timely and valid declaration of candidacy, so I anticipate he will be certified by the Board as the elected candidate.

Therefore, there will be no need to mail ballots to Active members of the System for this position.

Candidates for Position of RETIREE Trustee

At the close of this year's Trustee Election Filing Period (4:00 P.M., 08/08/2025), the following have filed a Declaration of Candidacy for the position of Retiree Trustee to this System's Board of Trustees for the three- year Term of Office which begins October 1, 2025:

Gerald Leyshock

Michael J. Anderson

Envelopes bearing the return address of the System's auditor, Sikich LLP and marked "Official Pension Ballot" will be mailed to the home of record of every retired officer on Friday, August 22, 2025. The envelopes will contain the official ballot and a postage-paid return envelope addressed to the office of the auditor, Sikich LLP. Only those ballots received in the auditor's office prior to 4:00 P.M. on Friday, September 12, 2025 will be counted.

The results will be announced on Friday, September 12th after 4:00 P.M.



Dave Sinclair Sr.
Former St. Louis City Police Officer



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Includes food and drinks**

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Shotgun Start at 9am

For more information click
on the QR Code or email:
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