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LAPD Concert Band

By Christina Challey

When you grow up in a musical household with a father who not only played the clarinet, but also is known for naming one of the world's most famous guitar companies—Guild—you might think you would be influenced to play either the clarinet, the guitar or both. But this was not to be for Rudy Detgen.



Rudy's Harley

Rudy said his house always had musical instruments in it—accordions, keyboards, basses, his Dad's clarinet and guitars. (And yes, his father, while working as a sales representative for a guitar company, "was actually the man who chose the name 'Guild' for the company!") Yet, even with this myriad of instruments around the house, none really "spoke" to Rudy.

Then, in his early 20s, it happened! He heard, and then got the bug for, the saxophone! He said he heard the sax played in a local band, and the rest became history. He got himself a sax, found a private teacher and learned how to play. Today he plays soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone. Not to say these are the only instruments Rudy plays; he also plays a mean blues harmonica—but his "preferred weapon" of choice is the baritone sax.

Born in Burbank, Calif., Rudy has lived the last 30 years in Ventura County. Since 1982, he has been the owner of Westside Automotive, a full-service auto repair shop in Canoga Park. He spent eight years as a Scout

leader for his two boys, as well as three years as a volunteer for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. Raising his sons to appreciate the importance and value of volunteerism was an important part of Rudy's approach to their education. And, their education has included both sons successfully completing master's degrees!

When Rudy was invited to an LAPD Concert Band rehearsal by friend and alto sax player Steve Danchik, his dedication to volunteerism again came into play. After that first rehearsal, Mary Holcomb, the band's director of operations, pulled Rudy aside and said, "You're in!" That was all he needed to hear, and three years later he is still volunteering his time and enjoying the opportunity to play in the band.

Rudy also frequently plays in his local college band's wind ensemble, as well as a saxophone quartet. When not playing



Rudy at the Sept. 2, 2016, LAPD graduation.

his sax, Rudy enjoys fishing, shooting, riding American motorcycles (see photo of his Harley-Davidson license plate) and going to live musical events.

Along with Rudy's two sons, he has two beautiful grandchildren, twins—a boy and a girl.

Thank you, Rudy, for being such a dedicated musician and LAPD Band volunteer! ♦

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which comprises the volunteer rank-and-file delegates, works very hard and diligently at getting it right. The Political Action Committee then makes a recommendation of endorsements to the Board of Directors for their approval. The Board then discusses the recommendations and makes a final decision about the candidates.

I can assure you that each time the LAPPL voter guide for the members is published, we have good, articulable reasons why we believe the candidate names we have there are the best possible for the given race. These are not decisions made in a vacuum. We weigh many different factors when selecting appropriate candidates based on research and in-person interviews. These choices may not always coincide with your personal choices or even with some of your personal values. The purpose of the PAC interviews and the subsequent candidate selection and endorsement is to pick the most suitable candidate to benefit the membership of our labor union as a whole. That umbrella covers a lot of different issues, from issues of morality and conviction (death penalty, early release program, gun rights, crime punishment, reformatory laws), fair compensation (pension, health benefits, fair pay), legal rights (gun and free speech rights, Peace Officer Bill of Rights, City Ethics Commission fining officers, and whether or not the DA is caving in to public pressure to unjustifiably file on police officers) and public

policy (homelessness bills, minimum wage mandates, revenue-raising or destroying-policies, other feel-good versus do-good policy initiatives). We also weigh on the past record on what the candidate has done to further or hurt the cause of public safety and the LAPPL as a labor union, including past statements that the candidate may have said that was construed as damaging to the law enforcement community.

The difficulty for some in accepting the set process and its subsequent recommendations often lies in that, as individuals, we are not monolithic in how we vote. Some things are more important than others on the aforementioned list. Some are based on principle, such as gun rights, death penalty and free speech. Some issues are more pragmatic, like fair compensation, health benefits and working conditions that were equally as hard fought for and are indeed important for the well-being of our families. For others it may be issues of discipline, working conditions and legal rights. Sometimes our voting guide recommendations may not sit well with the members because of their personal party affiliation.

As I mentioned earlier, the goal of the LAPPL PAC is to benefit its members as a whole, and we are a nonpartisan organization. The LAPPL welcomes any candidate who we believe can further our goals as a law enforcement labor organization.

For any PAC-related questions or suggestions, please email me at TJTarjamo@lappl.org or call me at (213) 798-2286. ♦