SAN DIEGO COUNTY
HONORARY DEPUTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

2027-2029 Board of Directors Candidates

MEMBER ELECTION GUIDE

Meet the candidates seeking to serve HDSA. Review their qualifications and full questionnaire responses on the pages that follow.

Members will vote in person at the luncheon on Monday, December 14, to elect three of the five candidates to the HDSA Board of Directors.



Rick Foehr
15 years of membership



Alexander Karalnik
4 years of membership



Kevin Sears
10 years of membership



Christopher Shamoon
1 year of membership



Wayne Smith
1 year of membership

HDSA / BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Rick Foehr

2027-2029 TERM



15 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Why I would be a valuable member of the HDSA Board of Directors

1. I have been a business owner since 2005. I bring that business expertise to the position
2. I have a passion for public safety and service, as a retired firefighter paramedic
3. I have been involved in education since 1975 in the field of EMS, as a licensed paramedic (I still maintain my paramedic license after being retired since 2005)
4. I am the co-owner of a career college, EMSTA College. We teach EMT and Paramedic Training
5. I am the founder of FAHEE (Foundation for Allied Health and EMS Education), a 501 (c)3

Candidate statement

I was a firefighter paramedic with the Santee FD for 7 years (1972-1979). They gave me a medical retirement in 1979, due to a smoke inhalation incident. I spent the next 26 years working as a licensed paramedic in the private sector: Hartson; Med Trans; and AMR before retiring in 2005 to start my career college. I plan on retiring from my second career, as a school owner/operator, in the next 2 years. I believe that my experience, as outlined above, would qualify me to serve on the board.

HDSA / BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Alexander Karalnik

2027-2029 TERM



4 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Why I would be a valuable member of the HDSA Board of Directors

1. Throughout my career, I have developed strong business leadership skills through building and managing businesses, identifying growth opportunities, negotiating strategic partnerships, and making important decisions in challenging and competitive environments. As an entrepreneur, I understand the importance of developing a clear vision, setting priorities, managing financial resources responsibly, and turning ideas into practical results.

My experience has taught me how to evaluate opportunities, solve problems, build productive relationships, and bring people together to achieve common goals. I believe these skills are valuable in a board setting, where thoughtful decision making, collaboration, accountability, and long-term planning are essential.

As a member of the HDSA Board of Directors, I would bring an entrepreneurial mindset, fresh perspectives, and a results-oriented approach. I would look for opportunities to strengthen the organization, improve operational effectiveness, expand partnerships, and develop sustainable strategies for future growth. Most importantly, I would be committed to using my business experience to support the organization’s mission, serve its members, and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the community.

2. I believe that successful organizations need a clear vision, well-defined priorities, and a strategic plan that guides decision-making and supports long-term success. It is important not only to address immediate challenges but also to anticipate future needs, identify opportunities for improvement, and make decisions that create lasting value for the organization and its members.

My business experience has taught me to look at the bigger picture, evaluate different options, establish realistic goals, and develop practical plans to achieve them. I understand the importance of balancing ambition with financial responsibility, ensuring that new initiatives are achievable, sustainable, and aligned with the organization's overall mission.

As a member of the HDSA Board of Directors, I would work collaboratively with fellow board members to establish clear priorities, evaluate existing programs and practices, and identify opportunities to improve efficiency, strengthen community engagement, and increase the organization's long-term impact. I would encourage the use of measurable objectives and regular progress reviews so that the board can assess what is working, identify areas that need improvement, and make informed adjustments when necessary.

I also believe that strategic planning should include listening to members, understanding their concerns and expectations, and ensuring their perspectives are considered when setting priorities. By combining thoughtful planning, open communication, and a willingness to explore new ideas, I would aim to help HDSA build a strong foundation for the future, respond effectively to changing needs, and continue delivering meaningful value to its members and the broader community.

3. I believe that sustainable fundraising and strong business partnerships are essential to the long-term success of any organization. To grow, expand its programs, and better serve its members, HDSA needs to continually explore new sources of financial support, build meaningful relationships with sponsors, and develop creative ways to generate resources. My entrepreneurial background has given me an understanding of how to identify opportunities, communicate value, negotiate partnerships, and build relationships that benefit all parties involved.

As a business owner, I understand that successful partnerships are built on trust, shared objectives, and a clear understanding of what each party hopes to achieve. I believe these principles can be applied to fundraising by developing mutually beneficial relationships with businesses, corporate sponsors, community leaders, and other organizations that may share an interest in supporting HDSA's mission.

As a member of the HDSA Board of Directors, I would look for opportunities to expand the organization's network of potential supporters, explore new sponsorship opportunities, and help develop fundraising initiatives that are both effective and sustainable. This could include engaging local and national businesses, building relationships with corporate partners, encouraging community participation, and exploring innovative fundraising approaches that align with HDSA's goals.

I would also support a strategic approach to fundraising by identifying clear objectives, evaluating the effectiveness of different initiatives, and focusing on opportunities that offer meaningful long-term benefits rather than only short-term results. I believe that fundraising should be viewed not simply as raising money, but as building a broader network of people and organizations that believe in the mission and want to contribute to its success.

My goal would be to help HDSA strengthen its financial foundation, expand its reach, and create new opportunities to support its programs and initiatives. I would bring a proactive, relationship-driven, and results-oriented approach, while working collaboratively with fellow board members to ensure that fundraising efforts remain responsible, transparent, and aligned with the organization's mission.

4. I believe that sound financial management, transparency, and accountability are essential to building a strong, trusted, and sustainable organization. A board of directors has an important responsibility to ensure that the organization's financial resources are managed carefully, that spending decisions are made thoughtfully, and that available funds are directed toward priorities that provide the greatest benefit to its members and support its overall mission.

Through my business experience, I have learned the importance of budgeting, managing expenses, evaluating investments, negotiating favorable terms, and making decisions based on both immediate needs and long-term financial consequences. I understand that resources are never unlimited, and successful organizations must make thoughtful choices about how to allocate their budgets while maintaining high standards of service and planning for the future.

As a member of the HDSA Board of Directors, I would support responsible budgeting, regular financial reviews, clear reporting, and appropriate oversight of the organization's income and expenses. I would encourage the board to evaluate the financial impact of major decisions, establish realistic budgets for new initiatives, and assess whether programs and expenditures are achieving their intended results. I would also support identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary costs, improve operational efficiency, negotiate better terms with vendors, and make better use of existing resources without compromising the quality of services provided to members.

I believe financial accountability also requires open communication and trust. Members should have confidence that the organization is making responsible decisions, following appropriate procedures, and acting in the best interests of the community it serves. Maintaining that confidence requires sound internal controls, clear responsibilities, appropriate financial oversight, and a commitment to addressing concerns professionally and transparently.

My approach would be practical and solution-oriented. Rather than focusing exclusively on cutting costs, I would look for ways to maximize the value of every dollar, strengthen financial stability, and ensure that spending decisions support the organization's strategic priorities. I would also encourage a long-term perspective that balances current needs with the importance of maintaining adequate reserves and preparing for future challenges.

Ultimately, I would bring a strong sense of responsibility, business judgment, and a commitment to accountability to the board. My goal would be to help HDSA maintain a solid financial foundation, use its resources effectively, and make informed decisions that protect the organization's interests and support its long-term success.

5. I believe that effective negotiation and responsible resource management are essential to the success, financial stability, and long-term sustainability of any organization. Every organization has limited resources, and strong leadership requires finding ways to maximize the value of those resources while maintaining quality, meeting commitments, and supporting the organization's goals. My entrepreneurial and business experience has taught me to look beyond the initial price of a product or service and consider the overall value, long-term costs, potential risks, and benefits of every decision.

Throughout my business career, I have developed experience evaluating proposals, negotiating commercial terms, building supplier relationships, identifying cost-saving opportunities, and finding practical solutions that benefit all parties involved. I understand that successful negotiation is not simply about obtaining the lowest price; it is about securing the best overall value, establishing fair agreements, and building relationships that can provide lasting benefits. I also recognize the importance of preparing carefully, understanding the organization's needs, comparing available options, and making decisions based on facts rather than assumptions.

As a member of the HDSA Board of Directors, I would bring this practical approach to evaluating contracts, vendor agreements, service providers, and other organizational expenditures. I would look for opportunities to negotiate more favorable terms, reduce unnecessary expenses, leverage the organization's purchasing power, and identify partnerships that could provide valuable services or resources at reduced costs. Where appropriate, I would also encourage competitive bids and objective comparisons to help ensure that major purchases and agreements are made in the organization's best interests.

Beyond cost savings, I believe resource optimization means making sure that the organization's time, people, facilities, and financial resources are being used effectively. I would support reviewing existing processes to identify inefficiencies, avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort, and prioritizing initiatives that deliver meaningful benefits to members. I would also encourage the board to evaluate the total cost and expected value of significant decisions, including their long-term financial implications.

Another important area is building mutually beneficial relationships with businesses, service providers, and community partners. Through thoughtful negotiation and collaboration, HDSA may be able to secure sponsorships, discounts, donated services, or other forms of support that extend the organization's resources and create additional opportunities for its members.

My approach would always be practical, transparent, and focused on the organization's best interests. I would respect established board procedures, ensure that potential conflicts of interest are disclosed and appropriately managed, and support decisions based on fairness, accountability, and measurable value.

Ultimately, I would use my business experience and negotiation skills to help HDSA make smarter financial and operational decisions, reduce avoidable costs, strengthen partnerships, and maximize the impact of its available resources. My goal would be to help the organization achieve more with the resources it has while building a stronger and more sustainable foundation for the future.

Candidate statement

With more than 20 years of business and entrepreneurial experience, I serve as CEO of both Passion Joy LLC and RLA Distribution Services Corp. My background includes business leadership, strategic planning, financial management, negotiation, and building partnerships in domestic and international markets.

As a member of the HDSA Board of Directors, I would bring a practical, hands-on, and results-oriented approach. I would work to identify fundraising opportunities, strengthen business and community partnerships, improve operational efficiency, and ensure responsible use of organizational resources. I believe in transparency, accountability, teamwork, and long-term strategic planning.

I also strongly believe in the rule of law and respect for law enforcement. I would consistently support our Sheriff’s Department in its efforts to protect public safety, uphold the law, and serve our community. I believe a strong community depends on cooperation between residents, leadership, and law enforcement, along with mutual respect and personal responsibility.

I would approach board service with integrity, dedication, and a willingness to listen, collaborate, and turn ideas into practical results. My goal is to help HDSA grow responsibly, strengthen our community, and build a safe, successful, and sustainable future for all residents.

HDSA / BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Kevin Sears

2027-2029 TERM



10 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Why I would be a valuable member of the HDSA Board of Directors

1. I have worked at range A with the HDSA members and Sheriff personnel providing a safe environment to conduct sponsored events.
2. Have worked with Bob O'Niell at Duffy Town and other HDSA personnel maintaining the buildings and grounds.
3. Currently serving as Safety Shooter Course Chair.
4. During my career at the Federal Government, I had the opportunity to run many projects as a Program Manager.
5. Have good work ethic.

Candidate statement

As a member of HDSA, I have had the privilege of working with some great people at the range, providing a safe environment for members to participate in shooting events.

As a Civilian Volunteer, I work closely with the Weapons Training Unit to make sure the range is maintained and setup for HDSA events and Sheriff qualifications. Although I do not have a lot of experience working with a Board of Directors, I feel that I have gained important knowledge about the HDSA and Sheriff's Department over the years to help with the current and future requirements for our organization.

HDSA / BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Christopher Shamoon

2027-2029 TERM



1 YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP

Why I would be a valuable member of the HDSA Board of Directors

1. As President of the Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group, I work closely with residents, local businesses, elected officials, and public agencies to address community concerns, improve neighborhoods, and advocate for public safety. This experience has strengthened my ability to build relationships, bring people together, and turn community priorities into meaningful action.
2. As a business owner, insurance professional, and registered investment advisor, I bring experience in financial planning, risk management, budgeting, and responsible stewardship of resources. I also serve as Treasurer of a local homeowners association, where I help oversee financial decisions and long-term reserve planning. I believe these skills would be valuable in supporting HDSA's financial sustainability and growth.
3. My experience serving in leadership positions within community and nonprofit organizations has given me an understanding of board governance, organizational accountability, strategic planning, and collaborative decision-making. I understand the importance of balancing an organization's mission with responsible financial oversight and effective leadership.
4. Through my professional career and community involvement, I have developed relationships with business owners, professionals, and community leaders throughout San Diego County. I believe these connections could help HDSA expand its membership, develop sponsorship opportunities, strengthen fundraising efforts, and introduce new supporters to its mission.
5. I believe strong communities depend on positive relationships between residents, businesses, and law enforcement. My involvement in community leadership has reinforced the importance of supporting those who serve and protect our neighborhoods. I would welcome the opportunity to help HDSA strengthen its support for the Sheriff's Office while building greater community engagement and awareness of the organization's mission.

Candidate statement

I am honored to be considered for the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Honorary Deputy Sheriffs' Association.

As a San Diego business owner, investment advisor, and active community leader, I have dedicated much of my time to strengthening our neighborhoods and supporting organizations that make a difference.

I currently serve as President of the Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group and Treasurer of a local homeowners association. These roles have given me valuable experience in community advocacy, organizational leadership, financial oversight, and working collaboratively with residents, businesses, and public officials.

Professionally, my background in insurance, investments, and business management has reinforced the importance of sound financial decisions, accountability, and long-term planning.

I believe I can bring a valuable combination of leadership experience, financial expertise, and community relationships to HDSA. I am particularly interested in helping expand membership, strengthen fundraising opportunities, and ensure the organization continues to provide meaningful support to the men and women of the San Diego County Sheriff's Office.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve and contribute to HDSA's continued success.

HDSA / BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Wayne Smith

2027-2029 TERM



1 YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP

Why I would be a valuable member of the HDSA Board of Directors

1. As the owner of a successful painting company for over 14 years, I bring hands-on leadership, business management, problem-solving, and decision-making experience. I understand what it takes to build something, manage people, create relationships, and follow through on commitments.
2. I believe in being involved in my community and building strong relationships. Through networking organizations and community involvement, I have developed connections with people from many different backgrounds. I would bring those relationships and networking skills to help expand HDSA’s reach and impact.
3. I am someone who believes in showing up, taking responsibility, and getting things done. I understand that serving on a board requires more than just attending meetings. It requires commitment, participation, accountability, and a willingness to put in the work to help move the organization forward.
4. I want to be part of something bigger than myself. I believe organizations like HDSA need people who are passionate about helping others, willing to share their ideas, and dedicated to making a meaningful difference. I would bring energy, a positive attitude, and a willingness to contribute wherever I can be most valuable.
5. Through my business and involvement in organizations like BNI, I have developed strong relationships throughout the local business community. I can use those connections to introduce new supporters, build partnerships, and bring more businesses and community members into the HDSA.

Candidate statement

My name is Wayne Smith, and I am a local business owner with over 12 years of experience building relationships and serving our community. Through my business and involvement in BNI, I have developed strong connections throughout the local business community that I believe can help expand HDSA’s reach and fundraising efforts.

I enjoy bringing people together, organizing events, developing new ideas, and finding ways to get people involved in worthwhile causes. I believe in supporting our Sheriff’s Department and the men and women who work hard every day to keep our communities safe.

If elected, I will bring enthusiasm, fresh ideas, business connections, and a strong work ethic to the board. I don’t just want to hold a position; I want to be involved, contribute, help raise money, and make a difference.

I would be honored to serve and help HDSA continue growing its impact in our community.