

## SEA WAVES

# Simi Police Association Apologizes For Outrageous Ad Against Simi Schools

***The following was posted by Chris Coulter, President of the SVPOA (Simi Valley Police Officers Association) in response to their political ad in the Acorn on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>:***

"I must apologize for the ad that appeared in the Acorn today about the schools. The ad was out of line and inappropriate. As the current President of the Association it is ultimately my responsibility to accept the blame for such a bad piece of campaigning.

For the last four years, I have had the honor of serving as the President of the Simi Valley Police Officers' Association. As an Association, we have worked hard to become a part of the community and we are deeply concerned about the issues that you are also concerned about. During my four terms as President, I have been personally involved in the election campaigns that took place in 2010 and 2012. So as 2014 began, I told my members that for 2015 I would be stepping down from my position to be a Dad, husband, and a regular guy again as I had some major family commitments coming up in the summer. I would be unable to give the time to the POA that would be required and my members deserve someone that could commit as needed. I have spent the year trying to build up members that have expressed the desire to become the next generation of leaders for the Association and let them run some of the programs that I had done in the past. The elections committee was one of the programs I placed into the hands of those that wanted more responsibility. These members interviewed the candidates, made endorsements, and created the ads that have been run without my input and for the most part have done a pretty good job, until this point. They have crossed a line and it was wrong. I assure you that these members will be dealt with appropriately.

Again, I apologize and I want to assure you that it was never our intention to disparage the hard working men and women at the Simi Valley Unified School District."

The apology from Chris Coulter, SVPOA President, was necessary to correct the disparaging comments printed about our schools and staff. Where we once had a supportive working relationship between SEA and the POA, this reprehensible type of campaigning is inappropriate and damaging to our community. *It's unfortunate that the those in charge of the POA campaign resorted to such a negative ad to get their officer elected to the school board.*

SEA will be in contact with Officer Coulter as we plan to invite him to the next Rep Council meeting in November to speak to this issue. Simi Valley teachers and police officers need to be working together in the interest of our students and families.