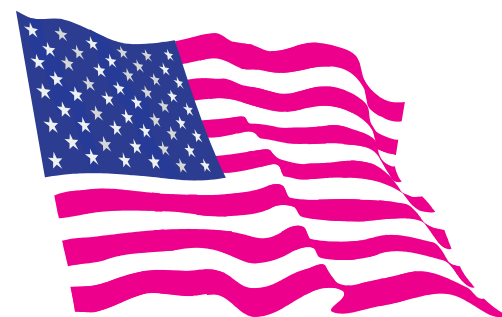




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Law Enforcement JOURNAL

Summer 2006



POAM Endorses DeVos

By Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

Citing a lack of initiatives coming out of Lansing, and a continued loss of law enforcement positions in Michigan in the face of increased Homeland Security spending, POAM Legislative Director Kenneth E. Grabowski announced the organizations' endorsement of Dick DeVos for Governor. The announcement came on June 1, 2006 during POAM's Annual Delegates Meeting held at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI.

"Mr. DeVos visited our office on multiple occasions to discuss issues and ask for input," said Grabowski. "Dick and his staff are well organized and his commit-

ment and experience in creating jobs is impressive," added POAM Business Manager William Birdseye. "We feel that Dick DeVos has the best chance to help make Michigan prosperous again."

DeVos has an impressive track record. He started working at the business his father founded and in 1974 became the head of International Operations for the company. His leadership role in the downtown Grand Rapids revitalization has helped make the area the vibrant and growing metropolis it is today. His philanthropic ventures have had a dramatic impact on health care and education in the region. Between 1991 and

1993 he served as President and CEO of the NBA's Orlando Magic.

"State revenue sharing cuts have made negotiating a fair contract in our local municipalities extremely difficult," added POAM President Jim Tignanelli. "If this trend continues I have doubts about the quality of people entering the profession. Mr. DeVos is committed to our law enforcement officers' right to negotiate a fair contract, and his economic background should put the state and local communities in a better position to secure the careers of Michigan's Finest." □



DeVos spent time talking about issues with Doug Muller from Farmington Hills (center) and Scott Atkinson of Taylor (right).



Legislative Director Kenneth E. Grabowski is hopeful as he presents an award to "Governor" Dick DeVos.



DeVos will look good in "POAM Blue".

HEAVY HEARTS IN DEARBORN HEIGHTS

CORPORAL JASON MAKOWSKI DIED TRYING TO PROTECT CITIZENS, FELLOW OFFICERS

By Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

He could have gone home. Jason Makowski had already finished his overtime stint when the call came in. But there was no way to stop this officer from fulfilling his obligation to serve and protect his community.



By the time Dearborn Heights police officers had arrived on the scene of a 911 call about a man out of control, shots had already been fired. The initial shots were random and the first responding officers were encouraging the perpetrator

to put his weapon down and come out of the house. Sixty-one-year-old Jeffery Wolf continued to argue with the officers from inside his home. At this point

Jason and other officers were securing the perimeter of the house to protect citizens in the neighborhood. Although it was the most dangerous position, Makowski immediately took the point, so he could also keep an eye out for his fellow officers as they began their deployment. As Jason peered a few inches around the corner of a brick chimney he was struck in the head by a .45 caliber bullet.

Wolf continued shooting until the recently arrived SWAT Team ended the siege by firing back and killing him instantly. Officer Makowski succumbed to his wound the next morning at University of Michigan Hospital.

Corporal Makowski served the residents of Dearborn Heights for 11 years. Jason worked for four years in the Special Operations Division which included a fair share of dangerous situations working narcotics and vice. His father Frank had retired from the Dearborn

Heights Police Department as a Detective Lieutenant. Jason was recently elected to the position of Vice-President of the Dearborn Heights Police Officers Association because of the respect and confidence his colleagues had in his ability to represent their interests. "His major responsibilities were handling disciplines, and he was always prepared and professional when meeting with the administration," said DHPOA President Jeff Colon. "He was looking forward to attending the POAM Conference the following week in Grand Rapids, especially the seminar that dealt with issues of discipline."

Immediately following the tragedy, department protocol was followed and counselors were called in to meet with police officers and their spouses to encourage them to seek any kind of help necessary. These

Continued on page 18

Signed and Sealed

Agreements gain vital benefits for POAM members

Summaries and highlights of recently completed local contract negotiations and 312 arbitrations



Negotiated

Rockford POA

Duration: 7/1/2005 – 6/30/2008

Wage Increases:

2005	3%
2006	3%
2007	3%

- Court duty increased to time and ½
- Add ½ holiday for New Year's Eve.
- Added Wellness Program of \$350 annually if employee meets standards.
- Health Care co-pays as follows:
1st Year Single \$1.82/PP;
Double \$4.01/PP;
Family \$5.01/PP

2nd Year Single \$4.01/PP;
Double \$8.82/PP;
Family \$11.03/PP

3rd Year Single \$5.52/PP;
Double \$12.13/PP;
Family \$15.16/PP

Negotiating team consisted of President Dave Robinson and Vice-President Dave Jehnzen who were assisted by POAM Business Agent Tim Lewis.

Act 312 Award

St. Clair County DSA

Duration: 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2006

Wage Increases:

2004	2.5%
2005	2.5%
2006	3.5%

- BC/BS Community Blue PPO2 with 10/20 drug rider.
- Increase night shift premium to 75 cents per hour.
- \$500 annual bonus paid to members who use no more than three sick days.
- Change in promotional language to give credit for "law enforcement" seniority instead of County seniority.

Arbitrator was Tom Barnes.

Bargaining team consisted of Mark Dedenbach and Scott Braun who were assisted by POAM Business Agent Jim Tignanelli.

Negotiated

Farmington Command

Duration: 7/1/2005 - 12/31/2008

Wage Increases:

2005	1%
2006	2.75%
2007	3%
2008	3%

- Increase in court overtime and clothing allowance.
- Increase cash opt-out for health care from \$120 to \$200 per month, including retirees.
- Retiree health qualification change from 50 years of age to 25 years of service.
- Health care changed from HAPO to BCN at no cost to employees or BC-BS PPO1 where employees only pay increase over 5% annually.
- Optical insurance changed from a maximum reimbursement of \$200 annually to BC USP 12/12/12.
- Dental coverage changed from 75% of \$1,100 reimbursement to Blue Cross Traditional Plus Option 3.
- Pension improvement of 2.5% (65% max) for anyone retiring under this agreement.

Bargaining team consisted of John Coyle and Terry Purves who were assisted by POAM Business Agent Tom Griffin.

Negotiated

Genesee County DSA

Duration: 10/1/2005 – 12/31/2009

Wage Increases:

10/01/05	1.5%
04/01/06	1.5%
04/01/07	1.5%
10/01/07	1.5%
04/01/08	1.5%
10/01/08	2.0%
04/01/09	2.0%
12/31/09	2.5%

- Employees are now provided the option of cashing in accumulated vacation time, up to 200 hours per year, at the rate of 60% on the dollar.
- Effective March 1st 2006, the employee's birthday is eliminated as a holiday.
- Life insurance improved from \$40,000 to \$50,000.
- Cost of living improvement on pension.
- Educational reimbursement increased from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Negotiating team consisted of Rob Nuckolls, Leon Lloyd and Dave Lammon who were assisted by POAM Business Agent Gary Pushee.



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**More Signed and Sealeds
on page 35**



From the President's Desk

by Jim Tignanelli

POAM Events Well Attended

The months of May and June are very busy in the POAM office. As has been common the past few years, many new groups join due to July effective dates in their respective collective bargaining agreements. Among those coming on board in the past few months are Grand Valley State University Police, East Grand Rapids Public Safety, Belleville Police Officers, Hillsdale Police Officers, Grand Blanc Police Officers, Walled Lake Command and Rockford Police Officers. Welcome to the POAM!

Also occurring in May is our annual excursion to Washington DC for National Police Week. While there are many somber moments shared during this visit, we can also point to the friendships that are made and the camaraderie that is so particularly apparent when police officers get together. Literally hundreds of officers and deputies in "full dress" cannot help but make you proud to be a part of the week's events.

A few year's ago, we felt it would be helpful to provide an "oasis" of sorts for police officers and their families during the day and evening. Frequently, the officers find accommodations in Arlington or other areas some distance away. It makes it difficult to find a place to rest while in uniform so we thought we'd find "friendly" territory for not only POAM members but members who are represented by other labor organizations from Michigan and elsewhere. Each year the gathering grows in number and the good times, war stories, and memories of lost friends are shared by one and all. The group gathered at the Tune Inn on Pennsylvania SW this year and I cannot begin to tell you how much we appreciated the care and service that was provided to our guests by the Tune Inn staff this year. Hundreds

of officers arrived with their friends and families, and all were accompanied by the Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drums. The bag pipes and drums literally drew patrons from blocks away to the area to applaud and cheer for the presentation of our favorite songs.

Our Congressional Reception in the Mansfield Room at the U.S. Senate was attended by Senators Stabenow and Levin as well as Representatives Mike Rogers, Joe Schwartz, Pete Hoekstra and many others. The "official pipe and drum corp" of the POAM also provided the accompaniment for a combined honor guard from the Southfield and Livonia police departments as they presented our colors. It was a very humbling experience.

Detailed coverage of this year's convention is found throughout this edition of the LEJ but may I say just how enthused I was with the record number of attendees. The seminar, which included more than a dozen scenarios from our staff of lawyers, was presented in a unique format which provided for a great deal of interaction between the staff and our members. No seminar has been better received. The afternoon presentation was from NYPD Sgt. Joe Blozis. He shared with us his experience of September 11, 2001, and gave us an update of what has occurred in New York since. Joe has become a good friend and his presentation serves to remind us just how important the first line of homeland security, *YOU*, really is. Hard to believe there are some 1,300 fewer law enforcement officers in this state than there were when those murderers struck the World Trade Center five years ago. More than ever, we depend on you.

Be safe! □

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Vice-President's Viewpoint

by Dan Kuhn

Get in the Political Game!

After 18 years in law enforcement, I've finally concluded that the most important involvement a police organization's membership can have is the one between themselves and their elected officials. Even more than the relationship you have with your department administration, or the municipality for which you work, the most direct way to address issues concerning cops, and usually the most successful, is POLITICS! When all negotiations fail, look to your elected representatives for assistance. You might be amazed by the allies and friendships that can be forged, and the results that can be achieved. The best example of what I'm trying to say is that of the residency requirement that was changed in Lansing that allows us to live where we choose. For years, many of us negotiated until we were blue in the face, and were willing to concede almost anything in order to be allowed to make our homes where we wanted. Finally, in 1999 the Michigan House and Senate passed Public Act 212 and put an end to the residency requirement, thanks in great part to the relationships the POAM and many local law enforcement agencies had with their state politicians.

Just last year, the POAM, with the participation of local Saginaw law enforcement led to the changing of a state law that prohibited home rule communities from having dedicated public safety millages. Although, the millage failed the first time around, in May the residents of Saginaw passed a 6 mil tax which saved 26 of my co-workers from the unemployment line. The millage

could have never even been voted on unless the law, which was nicknamed "Saginaw's Law," was changed a year earlier in lame duck session in our capital. My sincere thanks and appreciation and that of the Saginaw City Police Department go out to Senator Mike Goshka, and then State Representative Jim Howell, who have been friends to law enforcement in Saginaw County for many years, and who had the commitment and courage to get "Saginaw's Law" passed. Those are just a couple of examples of the benefits that can be gained with the support and cooperation of elected officials, and with a little effort your union can develop these relationships too.

The best advice I can give you: Identify strong leaders, whether they are council persons, trustees, commissioners, or state representatives. Good leaders will usually succeed and eventually will move into higher office. The party affiliation is not the concern, making sure the candidate is pro-police is. Even if this means getting commitments in advance on issues that are important to law enforcement before you decide to support them in their election campaigns. More than anything, the candidate wants to tell people that the "cops" endorse him/her. Our endorsement is more important than anything including money, and if we believe in the person enough to have a fund raiser, walk in a parade, or do a little door to door, all the better. Although not a bad idea, you don't need a Political Action Committee to do any of that. And remember, the POAM and I are here to assist you. See you on the campaign trail! □

Public Safety Millage Passes in Saginaw

By Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

They had tried in the past, but now the Saginaw Police Officers Association Executive Board had reason to believe they could help pass a public safety millage in the City. After all, residents had just elected five new members to the City Council who ran under the One Saginaw slate with the top vote getter being current Saginaw Township Police Officer, Bill Federspiel. The police department was facing over 30 lay-offs with the fire department slated for 20.

This new group of city officials got started on the right foot by immediately contacting the City's unions. They asked for extensive involvement and input from the police and fire departments. The millage had clear language that provided a stabilized, dedicated stream of funding that must be spent exclusively for police and fire operations.

The YES Saginaw Committee was formed and consisted of a wide variety of interests. Members included civic leaders, politicians, neighborhood activists, business leaders, the NAACP and local church ministers. The committee met weekly with the heads of the Saginaw police and fire unions to discuss strategy and allocate resources. The City Council passed a resolution promising they will continue to spend 68% of the City budget on public safety as well as going on record by re-iterating that the millage will be spent exclusively for police and fire operations.

**"Officials
got started
on the right
foot by
immediately
contacting
the City's
unions."**

Rank and file police and fire employees were meeting with community groups, PTA's, civic organizations, neighborhood watch participants and any other citizens that were interested or asked for additional information on the millage. They were prepared with data on the exact cost of the millage, the impact on police and fire personnel, as well as critical incident response time if the millage failed. "It was important that we address these groups and respond to every bit of misinformation with the real facts" said Saginaw POA President Ruben Vasquez. "And our information had to be accurate and

consistent." Their message resonated with the citizens because it wasn't coming from a politician but rather a hard working neighbor who had the same concerns about the safety of their neighborhoods, schools and business district.

The YES Saginaw Committee also followed up on any negative City Council appearances by addressing the issues head on. Saginaw County Sheriff, Charlie Brown went on the record as stating the Department was in no way interested in taking over road patrols or any other law enforcement duty in the City. The Committee also did research comparing Saginaw's crime per capita and police staffing statistics to similar communities and the national average. Those were numbers that no reasonable person could argue with and provided overwhelming evidence of Saginaw's need for a dedicated public safety millage.

The Committee was very focused on the advertising and promotional budget to get their message out. Money was spent on yard signs, bumper stickers, billboards and radio advertising. However, they did hire a professional consultant with political experience to assist the Committee in the drafting and design of all promotional materials as well as garnering advice on other key ingredients of the campaign. Vasquez also enlisted the support of the POAM with a direct mail and phone solicitation campaign. But in the end, this victory was earned the old-fashioned way; by his members' hard work and a door-to-door campaign that included 50-60 police officers and firemen covering every Saginaw neighborhood the three Saturdays prior to the vote. "Our members got positive feedback and the citizens appreciated the opportunity to talk with a police officer in a relaxed setting," added Vasquez.

The result was an overwhelming victory, providing job security to Saginaw's public safety personnel and an opportunity for the city to mount a comeback. Similar victories have taken place in other POAM communities including Plymouth Township and Eastpointe. Millage renewals should not be taken for granted. Local POAM members and your Director of Member Services, Ed Jacques stand poised to help you flex your political muscle. Call the POAM office for more details. □



The Treasurer's Ledger

by William Birdseye

Bagpipes, Amazing Grace Touches Everyone

I have many friends and former colleagues that get a lump in their throat every time they hear bagpipes. I also know of many folks whose eyes well up when "Amazing Grace" is played. But the power of the pipers from the Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corps playing "Amazing Grace" is something that cannot be described unless you witness it first hand. During the POAM Police Reception at the Tune Inn in Washington D.C., people flocked from blocks away to the sidewalk to listen to the unique sound of the group. When these citizens realized this was a "cop event" in affiliation with Police Week, they came up to many of us and thanked us for our service. But this special rendition's impact would be far greater the next day.

The POAM Congressional Reception was hosted by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and she was gracious enough to reserve the Mansfield Room, which is directly adjacent to the United States Senate Floor. I believe one of the reasons was that she had to cast an important vote later in the day and wanted to be nearby so she could spend as much time as possible with our group. Security information was given on all our attendees and the Senate staff was notified that we planned on having bagpipers present. No objections were made and the event went on as scheduled.

Immediately after the Livonia and Southfield Honor Guard Teams presented colors, the cue was given to the bagpipers to begin their march down the corridor and into our hospitality room. Speeches were being given on the Senate floor re-

garding that important issue. As the pipers began their march down the hall and into our room, it became obvious to everyone that security had failed to calculate the decibel level of five pipers and one drummer. As we all stood at attention as the pipers continued to play "Amazing Grace," the Sergeant-At-Arms of the U.S. Senate came charging into the room. The power of "Amazing Grace" and the Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corps stopped him dead in his tracks.

We all knew why he was there. What we didn't know was that speeches on the issues concerning the Senate vote had to be stopped because of the overwhelming sound emanating from the pipers. His eyes were all lit up and he was sweating bullets but he couldn't make himself stop "Amazing Grace". Having a prominent U.S. Senator like Debbie Stabenow standing between Jim Tignanelli and me, obviously enjoying the ceremony may have contributed to the Sergeant-At-Arms reluctance to pull the plug on "Amazing Grace."

The most formidable thing wasn't that the POAM stopped the United States Government for six minutes, but rather, that peoples' respect for our profession allowed us to do so. What is impressive is that we have developed relationships with our United States Senators that allowed us to meet in such a dynamic venue. Never underestimate the power of bagpipes and "Amazing Grace." And don't ever forget that law enforcement's voice is respected in Lansing and Washington D.C.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Senator Stabenow for being such a wonderful host as well as our sincere apologies to Senator John Kerry for interrupting his speech. □

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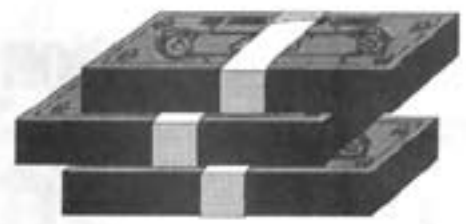
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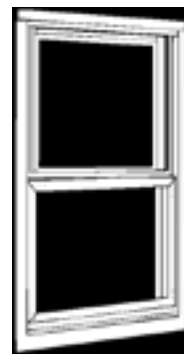


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Secretary's Notepad

by Marv Dudzinski

Jason's Death Stirs Emotion

When POAM Executive Board Members began their annual pilgrimage to Washington D.C. for the Police Week 2006 ceremony, they had no idea they would be forced to witness the inscribing of our good friend and Dearborn Heights Police Officer Jason Makowski the following year. Two weeks later, as we prepared to leave for the Annual Delegates Meeting in Grand Rapids we couldn't possibly prepare for the thought that Jason and the entire Dearborn Heights contingent wouldn't be attending. Only last year, the Department had lost Lieutenant Tony Tomburro to colon cancer.

I've been told that Jason occasionally stopped by the POAM office and was here just a couple of days before he was killed. No matter how many times you may have experienced it, the instant death of a family member or friend has tremendous emotional impact. It is especially damaging when the circumstances are similar to Jason's.

Even though we knew that law enforcement would be represented from many parts of the country and Canada, it was difficult for many of us that had convention responsibilities to not be able to attend the funeral. Jason's life and career were acknowledged often during our meetings and it was especially nice to have Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, who had attended Makowski's wake the day

before, speak highly of Jason as he presented one of POAM's Police Officer of the Year Awards.

POAM had already decided to donate its portion of the Thursday night 50/50 raffle to the Makowski Memorial Fund. Board Members were preparing to twist arms and threaten violence when peddling the raffle tickets. None of those strategies were necessary as the 50/50 ticket sales smashed all previous records. The winner of the drawing donated a significant chunk of his half to the pot and when Brad Bentley from the Monroe County Sheriffs Department issued a challenge to local associations to match his unit's donation, something very powerful happened in that room. People went deep into their wallets, impromptu Executive Board meetings were held on the spot and money promised to the Memorial Fund. Vendors chimed in with significant donations and within a few short minutes thousands of dollars were raised in memory of Jason Makowski.

It was a wonderful thing to witness, but hardly a surprise. Police officers know all too well that we can't control every situation that happens on the street but our healing process begins when we take care of our own. □



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ELITE GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS HELP LOCAL DEPARTMENTS, FAMILIES

By Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

After graduating from Detroit's Finney High School and spending six years in specialized training in the United States Navy, all Richard Vettraino wanted to do was become a Detroit Police Officer. He received his criminal justice degree from Wayne State University and promptly filed his application with the Detroit Police Department. The problem was, Detroit's hiring policy had changed dramatically and Vettraino was put on a waiting list with no end in sight.

For the next twenty years Rich worked in the private sector becoming a key member of the Hazardous Material Response Team. He became well versed in cleaning up chemical explosives, train wreck scenes and assisted privately held companies with environmental clean up issues. Vettraino also did work for the federal government and worked closely with local fire, police, city and county emergency management divisions when called upon. He also worked with the Michigan State Police for 4 years, assisting with underground storage tank environmental fraud investigations. Vettraino taught hazardous materials classes and confined space rescue. He also trained regularly with fire and police departments.

In 1997, when on the scene of a ten thousand gallon gasoline spill into a municipality's storm sewers and a command officer insisted on lighting flares on the scene, Rich becoming frustrated with the lack of expertise in his field and realized that a clear chain of command needed to be established when cleaning up hazardous materials. It was at this time that Vettraino formed Elite Trauma Clean-up, Inc., out of his house, with a bread truck that he converted into a response vehicle. This was the first company of its type in the state and Vettraino hired exclusively police officers and firemen to assist him. Previously, firefighters would traditionally hose down crime and accident scenes and be on their way while many families were forced to clean up a bloody crime or suicide scene themselves. People in the community already knew Rich's reputation and professionalism and trusted him to do the tough job that required an expert. Vettraino's reputation grew and through word of mouth, so did his business. In 1999, he moved into Elite Trauma Clean-Up's first building and in 2003 expanded his operations into his current location on Gratiot Avenue in Clinton Township.

While other part-timers were entering the field with their mops, buckets and disinfectant spray, Vettraino was investing in equipment that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. Rich had his equipment truck custom built at a cost of nearly \$90,000 with an additional \$75,000 worth of equipment inventoried inside. Elite's equipment truck is prepared for any type of biohazard catastrophe. Equipment includes but is not limited to poly-sealed suites, full face respirators, air tanks, disposable boots, gloves and bags, pumps, cutting tools with pneumatic power, blood elimination kits, generator, air compressor and power washer. Additionally the company has purchased a custom built, seventy thousand dollar disposal truck which transports bio-hazardous waste and material to eliminate any cross contamination possibilities.

The disposal truck also helped expand Vettraino's business to include medical waste removal and disposal from physician and dental offices, hospitals, tattoo parlors, funeral homes, fire departments and purged evidence waste from police departments. Vettraino hired Sherry LaFrance, five years ago, to oversee the Medical Waste Division and assist in the operations of the business. Because the Medical Waste Division has expanded, Sherry has become Vice President of Operations



Elite Trauma utilizes its 2,800 ft. garage to be the only company in its field that has an on-site bay specifically designed to take apart vehicles and remove bio-hazardous material.

and Heather Vettraino, Richard's daughter, has been brought on board as the Account Manager helping with operations as well.

Elite Trauma Clean-up, Inc. responds to numerous critical incident calls a month, sometimes two calls in a single day. "I currently employ 45 police officers and fire fighters from all over metropolitan Detroit and we always know what shift they are currently working with their department. That way someone is always available and nearby a scene when we get the call," said Vettraino. All after hour calls are immediately forwarded to Vettraino or LaFrance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Rich goes to every scene to supervise the clean up and the crew always arrives within 90 minutes of any call from the area. Elite Trauma Clean-Up's service is also available to any family or agency within the State of Michigan.

Most service calls arise out of self inflicted gun shots, knife wounds, natural death scenes where a body has remained there over an extended period of time, car, truck and train accidents, crime scenes and police car and jail cell sanitizing requests. In one instance Vettraino was called in by the FAA to decontaminate plane crash remains.

Vettraino and LaFrance have been serving on a special committee to pass legislation that sets standards for crime scene and trauma scene clean-up. The new law will benefit police agencies and their officers by forcing companies to dispose of all on scene materials as medical waste. The new regulations will also force companies to register and provide background information on employees to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), have biohazard (not janitorial) insurance and have separate units for decontamination equipment and disposal among other things. "Michigan is the only state that has no regulations regarding crime scene and trauma scene clean up disposal" said Vettraino. "I expect a House Bill will be introduced in the near future and these regulations will insure the safety of first responders, investigators and the public.

Vettraino started Elite Trauma Clean-Up, Inc. out of a genuine concern for families and their company motto is "Professional Service with Sincerity and Compassion." "The hardest part of this job is dealing with the family of victims or the colleagues of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty" says Vettraino. "We routinely provide counseling information, connect them with legitimate repair contractors and assist with insurance company bureaucracies."

Elite Trauma Clean-Up, Inc. is a regular exhibitor at the POAM convention and is also linked up to our website as a "Preferred Vendor". Rich enjoys the company of POAM members and employs a good number of them in his operation. The company donates to many deserving charities in the community and has always been generous in its financial support of police officers and their families. See his ad on the previous page. □



Rich Vettraino is flanked by his office manager Sherry La France [left] and daughter Heather [right] who assist in the operation of the business.

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By Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor



Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan gets all "A's" from POAM Legislative Director Kenneth E. Grabowski.

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan is POAM's "Jurist of the Year"

Police Officers Association of Michigan's Jurist Of The Year Award is designated for Judges who interpret law, administer justice, write opinions and conduct their business with the utmost professionalism. This year's award was also received by one of the nicest and most caring people you'll ever meet. Justice Maura Corrigan was present at the POAM delegates meeting to recognize our "Police Officers of the Year" and receive the honor of being a "POAM Jurist of the Year."

Maura Corrigan graduated from Marygrove College in 1969 and from the University of Detroit Law School in 1973. She next worked as a law clerk to Michigan Court of Appeals Judge John Gillis and as a Wayne County Prosecutor. In 1979, she became an Assistant United States Attorney, serving as Chief of Appeals and later Chief Assistant United

States Attorney. In 1992, Governor John Engler appointed her to the Michigan Court Appeals. She was twice elected to that court and was appointed as its Chief Judge from 1997-1998 until her election to the Supreme Court in 1998. She served two terms as Chief Justice from 2001-2004.

While serving as Chief Justice, Corrigan set in motion changes that have dramatically improved the court system's handling of children removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect. In 2002, when a teenage girl who had run away from her foster home was found dead, Justice Corrigan ordered all State Trial Courts to create a docket of missing foster children to expedite the process of finding them. Since then, the courts have located 75% of runaway foster children. In 2003, Corrigan started Michigan Adoption Day which has resulted in hundreds of children finding a permanent home and a family to love.

Justice Corrigan is a regular invited guest to the POAM Convention and always carves additional time out of her schedule to meet with individual members. Whether they are relaxing in the hospitality suite or attending a business function members are never surprised to have Justice Corrigan come up and say hello and share a conversation.

POAM Legislative Director Kenneth E. Grabowski presented a plaque to Corrigan commemorating her achievements in the judicial field. "She is a great Justice," said Grabowski, "and a wonderful example of the quality of our Supreme Court." □

Judge Brian Zahra Honored

Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Brian Zahra was also distinguished as a "POAM Jurist of the Year" at the organization's Annual Conference. Judge Zahra was cited for his concise and consistent interpretation of labor law as well as his outstanding commitment to public safety and law enforcement personnel across the state. Judge Zahra was present at the POAM Delegates Meeting to accept his award. "This means an awful lot to me," said Zahra. "Especially coming from the courageous men and women who make up the Police Officers Association of Michigan."

Zahra's parents were born in Malta and immigrated to the United States in the 1950s. Judge Zahra is a graduate of Dearborn Divine Child High School and holds a Bachelor of General Studies degree from Wayne State University. He financed his college education by opening a small health and beauty aid retail store in downtown Detroit. In 1982 he joined two partners to create a full service grocery outlet in downtown Detroit.

In 1984, Judge Zahra committed himself to the legal profession and in 1987 he earned a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Detroit Law School. At U of D Judge Zahra served as a member of the Law Review (1986-87) and as Articles Editor to the State Bar of Michigan's Corporation and Finance Business Law Journal (1986-87). Upon graduation from law school, Judge Zahra served as law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence P. Zatkoff, United States District Judge, before joining and becoming a partner in the Dickinson Wright law firm. Judge Zahra has taught evidence as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He has served on many bar and legislative committees, including the Domestic Violence Legislation Implementation Task Force (1995-97) and the advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute Domestic Violence Benchbook. Judge Zahra is a member of the Federalist Society and the Catholic Lawyers Society.

Judge Zahra was appointed to the Third Circuit Court by Governor John Engler on December 20, 1994. He won a six-year term in a contested election in 1996. Judge Zahra received widespread bipartisan support in his 1996 election. When endorsing him The Detroit Free Press found that Judge Zahra "deserved special attention as an outstanding jurist." The Detroit News also endorsed Judge Zahra, concluding that he "served honorably and with distinction on the court." Judge Zahra was rated "outstanding" by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and "exceptionally well qualified" by the Wolverine Bar Association. He has a repu-



Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Brian Zahra (center) is proud to receive recognition from the POAM's Legislative Director Kenneth E. Grabowski (left) and President Jim Tignanelli (right).

tation as a hard working and scholarly member of the 3rd Circuit Court." Judge Zahra ran unopposed for a six year term in the 2000 election.

In November 2004, Judge Zahra ran as a non-partisan candidate for the Michigan Supreme Court. Although unsuccessful in his bid for the Michigan Supreme Court, Judge Zahra received statewide support and recognition as an outstanding jurist, receiving support from prominent officials such as Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox and Oakland County Prosecutor Dave Gorcyca.

"Judge Zahra's track record of supporting law enforcement speaks for itself" commented Kenneth E. Grabowski, who presented Zahra with his award. "He has always made himself available to our members, which is evidenced by his regularly attending our Annual Conference." Judge Zahra is more than happy to attend the event when available. "I feel honored that the POAM Executive Board has invited me to read some of the Police Officer of the Year stories and am humbled by these officers' dedication and sincerity." □

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Rochester Police Chief Ted Glynn is the 2006 Horse's Ass

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

On Thursday, June 1, 2006, The Police Officers Association of Michigan, at its annual convention in Grand Rapids, named this year's recipient of the State's Worst Police Administrator. The award was given to Rochester Police Chief Theodore Glynn.

The distinction is given to the police administrator who consistently violates the officers' contract, has no leadership skills and is responsible for poor department morale.

"Chief Glynn was the unanimous choice of our statewide Executive Board because of his numerous and outrageous actions taken as a police executive. Some of them so outrageous, they have brought embarrassment to the hard working patrol and command officers in the Rochester Police Department," said POAM President, Jim Tignanelli. At Thursday night's reception Tignanelli highlighted the reasons Glynn was picked as POAM's Horses Ass.

"Chief Glynn evaluates police officers' performance solely on how many tickets they write and administers discipline if they do not meet his illegal quota. He refuses to participate with the area narcotics program or establish a much needed K-9 program. Forfeiture money is not used for the police department, but turned back to the general fund. Glynn forces the Honor Guard to take per-

sonal time for police funerals and writes up his officers for many petty things such as not folding prisoner blankets. Glynn was also investigated by the State of Michigan for accessing the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) for personal reasons. Unbelievably, the Chief ordered a sergeant to retrieve a flashlight from the home of an officer who was murdered off duty because it was purchased within a year of the officer's separation from the department. Chief Glynn has provided Rochester police officers with urine bags so they did not have to get out of their patrol vehicles."

When a vote of confidence in Chief Glynn's ability to lead the department was taken, 95% of patrol and command officers voted "No" and signed their names to the letter presented to City Council.

Tignanelli reminded the attendees that of the previous six recipients of the POAM Horse's Ass Award, five have been fired, resigned or retired under pressure. Now that Glynn's practices have been exposed he'll be forced to change his policies or be put out to pasture like previous winners. But POAM Executive Board Member, Kevin Loftis reiterated that "Our recipients are so arrogant and inflexible to change, that's why we named them the Horse's Ass in the first place." □



And the winner is... Tignanelli pumped the crowd as he led up to the big announcement.

Rod Sommerlot is State's Best Chief

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

The 2006 POAM Police Administrator of the Year Award was awarded at our Annual Delegates meeting to South Haven Chief of Police Rod Sommerlot.



South Haven Police Chief Rod Sommerlot (right) has earned the respect of his officers and the POAM. Business Agent Jim DeVries (left) presented the award.

Sommerlot spent over eighteen years in law enforcement as a patrol officer, road deputy and command officer before assuming his current position as South Haven's Chief of Police in 1991. While some police administrators experience amnesia after being promoted, Rod Sommerlot used his background to improve attitudes and efficiency in the South Haven Police Department.

Chief Sommerlot was instrumental in upgrading equipment and initiating effective training programs. Rod encourages input from all department employees while working collectively with patrol and command officers to fix problems and develop sound policies. He is not afraid to delegate responsibility because he trusts his troops and their ability to be innovative.

Perhaps Chief Sommerlot's most outstanding traits are his personal and communication skills. He served on his local association's negotiating team multiple times and understands labor relations. Rod is one Chief who does not take discipline or grievances personally. He believes both are a process necessary to ensure professionalism and high department morale. "Instilling discipline is definitely the hardest part of my job, remarks Sommerlot. It has to be administered evenly, progressively and appropriately for the actions that we're trying to correct." Sommerlot also subscribes to the theory that employee grievances are not an insult, but rather an opportunity to clarify a policy or fix a possible problem. "When new language is drafted into the officers' collective bargaining agreement, I like to sit in on the negotiations to determine what the intent of both sides were when they drafted the verbage. It may help resolve a grievance later on down the road."

The bottom line is that Chief Sommerlot treats his police officers like human beings and has earned their respect. POAM Business Agent, Jim DeVries represents the South Haven Patrol Officers and nominated and presented the Police Administrator of the Year Award to Sommerlot. He added, "Our members trust Chief Sommerlot because of his integrity and his sincere interest in their families and careers." □

NEW APPROACH TO ABANDONED VEHICLES HELPS COMMUNITIES

By Terri Lynn Land



One of the persistent problems Michigan's communities have faced over the years is removal of the thousands of abandoned vehicles that dot the landscape of our state. When I was seeking to become Secretary of State, one of my promises was to do something about the eyesore and hazard of junked cars. These vehicles pose risks of injuring curious children, attracting vandalism, dumping and other illegal activity and leaking fluids that may explode or harm the environment. Parked along highways, they can be lethal. They also detract from the quality of life in a neighborhood, projecting a negative image and lowering property values.

To address this difficult challenge, representatives from the Department of State, law enforcement, municipal organizations, the Michigan Towing Association and the Legislature have joined forces in changing the law and improving the process for disposing of the vehicles.

Under the changes my administration helped achieve, those who leave abandoned cars on highways or on others' property may now be fined between \$500 and \$2,500, whereas previously there was no fine. These offenders also face removal costs and other penalties. Repeat offenders can expect fines of between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

Before we closed loopholes in the law, someone could be fined \$500 for throwing a McDonald's wrap-

per out their car window but wouldn't have to pay a dime for discarding the entire vehicle at the side of the road! Not anymore.

Addressing the statewide problem of abandoned vehicles was crucial for law enforcement. Officers have fought a continuing battle to stop these vehicles from cluttering up yards, streets and highways. Too much of their valuable time was spent tagging and overseeing the towing of vehicles when it otherwise could have been focused on more urgent public safety matters.

Police agencies are now no longer required to tag vehicles they suspect are abandoned. They may designate an agent, such as a towing company, to oversee the tagging, removal and auctioning of the vehicles.

Responsibility for notifying owners their vehicle is being processed falls on the Department of State rather than police. Once owners receive notice, they have 20 days to claim the abandoned vehicle or to request a court hearing.

Officers still need to run a stolen vehicle check on discarded cars and to enter the information on the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) within 24 hours of taking the vehicle into custody, but no longer need to supervise the process of vehicle removal. That frees them up to spend more time on patrol.

Additionally, the changes in the law eliminate or reduce waiting periods for disposal of vehicles, speeding up the process. When cars are impounded by police, such as for blocking a parking space for individuals with disabilities, they may be declared abandoned within 24 hours, rather than 30 days. Vehicles towed from private property are now deemed abandoned immediately rather than after seven days.

Vehicle owners are wise to ensure that when selling a vehicle, their name is transferred off the title. The law presumes the last titled owner is responsible for abandoning a vehicle, which can expose the previous owner to fines and costs. To ensure this does not happen, the previous owner must accompany the new owner to a Secretary of State office to change the title or must keep a detailed bill of sale document.

Another helpful reform has been the creation of the Michigan Auto Lost & Found website, a searchable database that lists all abandoned vehicles reported by law enforcement agencies. The database is connected to the LEIN system and is updated within seconds of the entry of an abandoned vehicle's information by police. It is accessible at www.michigan.gov/sos.

In its first seven months of operation since October 2005, the Web site has received information on more than 53,000 abandoned vehicles in Michigan. The five counties in which law enforcement agencies reported the most were Wayne with 20,999 abandoned cars, Oakland with 5,262, Kalamazoo with 3,794, Macomb with 3,449 and Genesee with 3,381.

Users of the website can locate information about an abandoned vehicle by entering the vehicle identification or license plate number. If a car has been parked illegally and towed, the owner can find out where it's being held. If the car has been sold at auction or turned into scrap, the Lost & Found database will indicate this fact.

These significant changes to the way Michigan addresses the problem of abandoned vehicles are helping decrease blight and giving law enforcement officers more time to safeguard our communities from crime. That is good news for all of us. □



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By Frank Borelli
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Officer Discretion as a Public Relations Tool

I was recently paid a compliment by a citizen during the course of a conversation regarding statutory law in my home state. The citizen said, “Well, you sound like a peace officer; not a police officer.” I know officers who would have been offended, but I understood what the man meant and it was definitely a compliment. I had just made a statement about the proper use of officer discretion in the enforcement of misdemeanor law. I had said, “I believe sometimes not making an arrest, using the officer’s power of discretion, is a more effective enforcement tool simply because of the positive impact such judgment can have on the community served.” In other words, instead of making an arrest for every violation I observe simply because I can, I measure the pros and cons and take what I believe to be the proper corrective action. In some cases, that does mean arresting the subject, but in others it may mean arbitrating a neighbor dispute or giving a referral for assistance.

Some of my brother officers accuse me of being “too soft” and frequently I’m told I should have been a social worker. Let me give you an example. I received a call for a shoplifting, and the perpetrator was being held by the store owner. When I arrived, I found the store owner sitting on the suspect, holding the stolen property: a box lunch meal valued at \$2.69. On scene investigation revealed that the suspect was a 56-year-old honorably-discharged disabled veteran. He had no family and had recently been evicted from his rental residence. More recently, that morning, he had been released from the local hospital having been treated for injuries he received when he was robbed the night before. He had no previous arrest record and not a penny in his pockets. Does this sound like he’s having a fairly bad day?

His immediate problem was obvious: he was hungry. Beyond that, he was too prideful to accept “charity”. Sure, I could solve that problem. If I arrested him, and if he was held on bond, he would be fed by the Department of Corrections. If he was released on personal recognizance, then he’d be back on the street five or six hours later, that much hungrier than he’d been when he’d stolen the first time. Was a misdemeanor arrest going to solve this problem? The crime had been solved, but a problem still existed. Instead of arresting him, I made a couple phone calls and got him some assistance through the Department of Veteran Affairs and a local American Legion.

This is an extreme example, but I still caught criticism for it. “You don’t owe him anything,” I heard. “You just lost a stat,” I was told. “He’ll never learn any-

thing that way,” came from another officer. I won’t argue whether or not “we”, every American citizen, owe our service veterans anything. I think the answer is an obvious resounding, “YES”. I don’t think he’d learn anything in jail and I feel fairly certain that an arrest in this case would have negatively set him against all police for a long time.

As to the “lost stat”: Have we, the community of law enforcement officers, become so cold and hard hearted that we are more interested in a single misdemeanor arrest for our statistics than we are in helping those we serve? Make no mistake about it: whether we like it or not, those people who are not actively committing crimes are part of the population we are sworn to protect and serve.

I have heard a police officer’s job described in many ways: protect and serve; keep the peace; enforce the law. Never in my sixteen years of training and experience have I ever read or been told that my primary job function is to arrest at every opportunity for the purpose of making my resume or personnel folder look better. However, it seems to me that the strong focus on enforcement through arrest is becoming more prevalent in the law enforcement community, and it is happening alongside the nationwide growth of “Community Policing” which is supposed to be about solving problems.

I maintain that the judicious and sensible use of officer discretion will endear that officer to the community served, building the level of respect the officer receives, and improving the image of police officers everywhere. After all, our image is a matter of public perception, and the citizens carry their attitudes with them wherever they go. If they like the police in Maryland, they probably will in Texas or Montana; but if they don’t like the police at home, how will they feel about police abroad?

So, do your fellow officers a favor: while you enforce the law, exercise your discretion; help your citizens; serve your community; let compassion affect your judgment without allowing it to lower your awareness of officer safety issues. A little understanding goes a long way and has a way of coming back to you.

By the way, that disabled veteran? He’s back on his feet now, financially speaking, and he loves the police; not me, a single officer, but “the police”. Why? Because we affected a positive change in his life while offering assistance and respecting his pride. I’ll take that over a single misdemeanor arrest statistic every day of the week. □

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GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY POA		HOWELL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES	
Previous Affiliation	Police Officers Labor Council	Previous Affiliation	None
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The annual subscription rate for this plan will be \$29 per each POAM member and \$20 per each dependent.

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POAM Loyalty Award Given to Krizmanich and Wing

By Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

Serving on a local Executive Board calls for a lot of personal sacrifice. That's why the POAM Loyalty Award is one of the highest honors a member can receive. Both of this year's recipients are recognized for 15 years of dedicated, selfless work on behalf of their local associations.

Nick Krizmanich worked all of his 23 years in the Oak Park Public Safety Department as a patrol officer. Most of those years were served under Public Safety Director, Robert Siefert, the 2002 POAM's Horses Ass. That meant no promotion or special duty for Krizmanich unless he was willing to compromise his principles and sell out the group of employees that he promised to represent. "Many people were promoted to Sergeant within five years of their hire date and could reasonably expect to make Lieutenant by the ten year mark," said Krizmanich. "I trained nearly every single one of my command officers." The integrity of Krizmanich and the entire Executive Board during Siefert's reign of terror solidified the rank and file's commitment to the local association and created

a strong bond between current and recently retired officers. "We were not afraid to file grievances and call out the administration when they violated our contract, which was often," said Krizmanich. "We give a lot of credit to POAM and especially our Business Agent, Ken Grabowski for following through on every one of them and prevailing on the vast majority of the issues."

Besides being about the most likeable and easy going guy you'll ever meet, every member respected Nick's opinion and integrity. "The POAM Loyalty Award is something I'm extremely proud of. I always did the right thing for the group no matter what the price and this award will always be a visible reminder of those difficult, yet rewarding years," boasted Krizmanich.

Nick is recently retired and enjoying spending a lot more time with his two teenage boys and five year old daughter. His wife Holly was recently promoted to Sergeant in the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department. The family enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and recently purchased a cabin on 170 acres of prime hunting land near Glennie, Michigan. Nick says he's a lucky guy, but so are the people who were the beneficiaries of his leadership in their local union.

Southfield Police Officer Keith Wing is also recently retired after 23 years of service, the majority of them in the Auto Theft and Tactical Operations Unit. Keith loved working the street and was also a member of the department's Motor Unit.

During his 15 years on the Southfield Police Officers Association Executive Board Keith could always be counted on for straight answers no matter what the situation. He knew the collective bargaining agreement and the Department's operating procedures inside and out. He was the shift steward that every member sought out if they had questions or a problem



Nick Krizmanich (center) passed up promotion to always do the right thing for members. He is surrounded by Business Agent Ken Grabowski (left) and President Jim Tignanelli (right).



Loyalty Award winner Keith Wing worked closely with Business Agent Ken Grabowski (left) and Southfield POA President Mark Zacks.

in their working conditions. His knowledge and experience also garnered tremendous respect from his command officers to whom he never sugar coated a thing. Keith deserved respect and he got it.

Keith Wing's bravery was acknowledged on the job when he received POAM's highest honor as its Police Officer of the Year. Keith was involved in two critical incidents as a police officer and used that experience to counsel other members. "He guarded the Association's check book with his life" said POA President, Mark Zacks. "We never worried about a single penny, every dollar was always accounted for."

Wing's father is a retired Detroit Homicide Detective and he looks forward to spending more time with his two teenagers. Wing is a certified master mechanic which helped him become such an effective member of the auto theft unit. "I like wrenching and re-habbing cars and I'll have a lot more time to pursue that passion," said Keith. Keith also plans on doing a lot more riding on his Harley-Davidson, but hopefully not into the sunset. □



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HEAVY HEARTS

Continued from page 1

professionals also informed friends and colleagues on the range of emotions that can be expected and the appropriate way to deal with them. Dearborn Heights Police Chief Michael Gust knew that each person would react and deal with the situation differently, and allowed the counselors and officers to decide their own healing process, including time off and other considerations. Debbie Beak, wife of Dearborn Heights Police Officer Marty Beak, appreciated being included in grief support. "Spouses have emotional issues, relationships and fears that are unique to the profession our loved one has chosen. Additionally, we can monitor and contribute to our partner's recovery and well being" said Debbie.



The department's critical incident policy also called for a liaison and advocate between the family and department. That person was the Patrol Officers Union President, Jeff Colon. "Having a single person in charge of communicating and helping make arrangements with the family is a good policy. Decisions during a time like this are difficult for the family, and the last thing they need is to be inundated with people and suggestions," said Jeff. The responsibilities were many including lunch for approximately 2,000 people at the Burton Manor following the funeral. Although Jeff worked closely with Chief also Gust, the Chief encouraged the rank and file officers to participate in decisions to memorialize Jason's life. Committees will be planning fundraisers in the future to permanently acknowledge Makowski's sacrifice.

Funeral arrangements for an event of this magnitude are a huge job with countless details to be considered. Dearborn Heights Command Staff met at least two hours for five straight days to make sure these details were handled and every accommodation made. "We couldn't have done it without the help of the Dearborn, Taylor and Livonia Police Departments, amongst others," said Jeff Colon. Livonia provided its Honor Guard, Taylor handled all the traffic from the funeral home as well as securing the UAW hall next door and providing free meals to mourners. The Dearborn Police Department handled Dearborn Heights runs for two



days and organized the procession route, parking and staging area. "Dearborn Heights Officers could now mourn Jason's death without all of those additional responsibilities," remarked Colon.

Nearly 2,000 people filled Divine Child Catholic Church for the funeral. The procession took one-half hour from beginning to end. Police officers from almost every state in the Midwest and many parts of Canada were there to pay their respects on behalf of their departments. One of the most heartwarming events during the procession from the church to the cemetery was when thousands of people lined the streets to say a final good-bye to Makowski. Schools along the route allowed students to stand road side to pay their respects. It was very touching to see young people standing at attention with their hands over their heart or holding a salute through the entire motorcade. Business people stopped commerce and shared the sidewalk with other citizens holding up flags, well wishes for the family and signs displaying Jason's badge number. "It was a great tribute to Jason and I'm sure his family appreciated it," added Colon.

In the end, because of the support of city government officials, Mayor Paletko, Chief Gust, the Police Officers Association and local departments from the region, the funeral was handled professionally; giving Jason's family and his life the dignity it deserved. Shortly afterward the Detroit Free Press offered free space to the department to acknowledge Corporal Makowski's contributions. The department took advantage of the opportunity to also thank everyone, especially the Dearborn, Taylor and Livonia Police Departments for their unbelievable support.

In the wake of a critical incident such as this, Chief Gust has met with command staff and conducted a tactical review. More meetings are planned and there may or may not be changes in policy and or procedure. "Every scenario is different and this was not your typical barricaded gunman situation" said the Chief. "This situation was a learning experience and we will conduct a complete evaluation on every facet of the operation." Chief Gust hinted that some range tactics and training scenarios might be added or modified. The department regularly sends officers

to Street Survival and Active Shooter Response Training. "In today's society, officers may be reluctant to fire" said Jeff Colon. "Besides civil litigation and criminal charges against the officer, there are many factors to consider including the safety of citizens in the immediate area."

All officers and dispatchers who played an active role in the incident were honored and some awarded a Medal of Valor at a City Council meeting on June 27, 2006. Chief Gust hopes the ceremony will advance the department's healing process a small step. "My administration is committed to helping our employees through this ordeal in the upcoming months," said Gust. "We'll be sensitive to people's needs and work closely with our unions to provide the kind of support that any individual needs."



Makowski will be remembered as a brave and dedicated police officer. Sergeant Rick Suchey added that "Every officer knew that they could count on Jason in any situation. His presence will be missed, but his death reminds us how important we all are to each other."

Corporal Jason Makowski is the second officer to die in the line of duty in Dearborn Heights. He is survived by his mother and leaves behind a three-year old son and many loved ones. The Officer Jason Makowski Fund has been established and donations can be made through the Community Bank of Dearborn. The money will be ear marked for the family and his son's education. □

POLICE WEEK

2006

Washington, DC

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

POAM's annual trek to Washington D.C. ended in the United States Senate Building. U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow was influential enough to arrange POAM's U.S. Congressional Reception in the Mansfield Room on Tuesday, May 15th. Senator Stabenow's Office worked closely with POAM Lobbyist Dennis McGrann to set up a venue that will be hard to match, unless our next one is in the White House. Security was tight, but the privilege of attending such an event in this setting was appreciated by many of your POAM Executive Board members.

Senator Stabenow graciously welcomed our group and pledged her continued support of our issues. Senator Carl Levin also showed up to enjoy some time with attendees and ask about new issues important to POAM. Many of our elected Congressman also dropped in to say hello, grab a bite and spend some time with constituents.

A combined Honor Guard Team from Livonia and Southfield presented colors and the Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corps entertained the guests with a rousing rendition of "Amazing Grace".

As promised, your POAM Executive Board drove home your point about Homeland Security and leaving the distribution of money to local and state governments. We also touched on the fact that Michigan employs 1,300 fewer police officers today than we did on September 11, 2001. Our legislators are aware of Michigan's two busiest ports of entry in the nation and the number of layoffs in those surrounding communities and counties.

On Monday, May 15th POAM hosted its Third Annual Police Reception at the Tune Inn Bar and Restaurant next to Judiciary Square. It was a packed house with many law enforcement officers still in town after Saturday night's candlelight vigil and President Bush's speech honoring our fallen heroes early Monday afternoon. POAM, with the help of our corporate sponsor, Target Corporation, opened the tab for any police officer to have a sandwich and a beverage of their choice. POAM members were joined by officers from Rhode Island, New York and other parts of the country.

The Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corps showed up and the party eventually spilled onto the D.C. sidewalk. The staff were more than accommodating as they probably experienced their busiest Monday in history. Honor Guard Teams from Indiana and other states who were on duty that day appreciated the break and POAM's hospitality. As usual, names, numbers and invitations were exchanged in an attempt to reciprocate the favor.

"Its unusual for a police union to sponsor such a great event," said one Grand Rapids, Michigan police officer. "I'm glad my buddies from Walker P.D., who just joined POAM, invited me to come along." The function carried on well into the night and was a nice epilog for the calendar of events during Police Week. Information about the gathering is always published prior to the event in the Spring *Law Enforcement Journal*. □



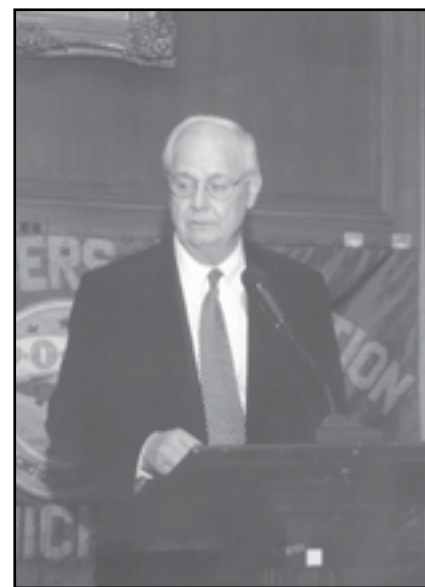
Senator Stanbenow welcomed everyone to the U.S. Senate and was thanked by Kenneth E. Grabowski for hosting the event.



Kenneth E. Grabowski (right) listened attentively as Congressman Mike Rogers pledged his continuing support of public safety.



The Tune Inn was the place to be on Monday.



Congressman Joe Schwartz related a personal story about Battle Creek Police Officer Laverne Brann who was killed in the line of duty in 2005.



Senator Carl Levin (left) and Congressman Peter Hoekstra (right) discuss issues with Kenneth E. Grabowski (center).



Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (center) is a good friend and regular at POAM functions.

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POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR 2006

SOUTHFIELD POLICE OFFICER RAFID MAYA

When two children and their mother decided to spend a quiet summer evening blowing up balloons outside their Southfield home, they had no idea how quickly their innocent endeavor would dissolve into sheer terror.

It was about 7:30 p.m. last July 17. The large rottweiler, for whom they were dogsitting, watched intently as they inflated each balloon in their fenced backyard. Suddenly, with no warning, the visiting dog charged at them.

With adrenalin and instinct overpowering her fear, the mother managed to shepherd her two children safely into the house, all the time acting as a shield between them and the attacking dog. But somehow, as the door closed behind the two children, the mother found herself outside the house — without protection and alone with the violent dog.

Fortunately for the woman, a cool-headed neighbor quickly sized up the situation and called 911. Still on the line with the dispatcher, the neighbor positioned herself just out of harm's way by the besieged woman's fence, continually assuring her that help was on the way.

Terrified and exhausted, the mother fell to the ground, but the vigilant neighbor — fearing the dog might kill the woman by attacking her now extremely vulnerable throat, head or face — yelled at her to sit

up and keep fighting the dog until the police arrived.

Only minutes later — although it seemed like hours to both the victim and the neighbor — Southfield Police Officer Rafid Maya pulled up. Charging from his police car, he forced open the secured backyard gate. By this time, the rottweiler was aggressively mauling the mother's ankle and foot.

Officer Maya drew his weapon but realized how difficult it would be to shoot the dog without injuring the woman. Disregarding his own safety, he moved toward the vicious animal and carefully began firing, eventually working his way between the victim and dog — directly into the line of attack.

Although the vicious and growling dog repeatedly charged him, Officer Maya never wavered in his resolve to protect the helpless woman. He fired a full six full rounds before the dog stopped attacking him and retreated to the back of the yard, where it eventually died.

Life support treated the severely injured mother on the scene before taking her to the hospital, where she underwent extensive surgery for wounds on several parts of her body.

Although Officer Maya credited the quick-acting neighbor for saving the mother's life by encouraging her to keep fighting and stay upright until help arrived, there is little doubt that the victim would not have sur-



Southfield Police Officer Rafid Maya (left) was privileged to hear Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maria Corrigan tell his story.

vived without Officer Maya's heroic intervention.

To thank Southfield Police Officer Rafid Maya for his selfless bravery in risking his own life to save a mother from a horrific death, the Police Officers Association of Michigan awards him our highest honor, the 2006 Police Officer of the Year Award. □

IONIA COUNTY SGT. TRAVIS GRIBBLE AND DEPUTY BRENT DENNY

A shoe shed at midnight proved a lucky stroke for Cinderella. But a pair of shoes left behind at midnight created a far graver outcome for two Ionia County sheriff's deputies last year.

It was just about midnight, May 3, 2005, when Ionia County Sgt. Travis Gribble and Deputy Brent Denny headed out to an old farmhouse on the west side of Ionia County to arrest a man who had failed to appear on an operating-while-impaired warrant from a neighboring agency.

The officers knocked on the door for some time before the shoeless suspect appeared and stepped out onto the porch. When the officers told him he'd have to go with them, the man asked if he could first grab his shoes from the house. The officers agreed but said they'd have to go inside with him.

As soon as they stepped into the house, two potentially lethal threats — a man, who later proved to be the suspect's father, and a pit bull, who was becoming increasingly aggressive — presented themselves.

Sgt. Gribble ordered the suspect to secure the dog. As Gribble's attention was momentarily diverted watching the suspect lock the agitated dog into a bathroom to the officers' right, Deputy Denny spotted a gun in the hands of the older man, who approached them on the left.

Immediately Deputy Denny warned his partner. "Gun!" he shouted. "Gun!"

Ducking back against the door frame in the small

entryway, both officers identified themselves as sheriff's deputies. Peering around the corner, Sgt. Gribble noticed the father had turned away from them but was still holding the gun.

"Sheriff's Department! Drop your weapon!" ordered Gribble. Instead, the father turned around and pointed his weapon directly at them.

Again the officers ordered him to drop his weapon, but the undeterred man remained defiant, with Gribble and Denny directly in his gun site.

Fearing for his partner's life as well as his own safety, Sgt. Gribble fired four shots. One of them struck the father, who was later pronounced dead at the scene. But the two officers, the man they'd come to arrest and the father's wife, who was in a bedroom at the time, were uninjured.

Ironically, the man they had originally come to arrest had ultimately presented no safety threat to the deputies. Nor had the menacing pit bull. But an unexpected twist of events had turned the call into anything but a "routine" run.

Ionia County Sgt. Travis Gribble and Deputy Brent Denny responded rapidly and decisively to a deadly force threat. By doing so, they protected themselves and possibly others in the house. For this, the Police Officers Association of Michigan presents them with its highest recognition, the 2006 Police Officer of the Year Award. □



Ionia County Deputy Brent Denny (left) and Sgt. Travis Gribble (right).

DEARBORN POLICE OFFICERS GUERINO CERRONI, MICHAEL HAYES AND MICHAEL MCNAMARA

No matter how harrowing, high-speed chases in the movies almost always end with a win for the “good” guys. But in real-life police work, no such guarantees exist.

When Dearborn Police Officers Guerino Cerroni, Michael Hayes and Michael McNamara experienced their own harrowing, high-speed pursuit through some of Dearborn’s busiest streets, it was their own steely courage — and not Hollywood special effects — that took a suspected cop killer off the streets and put him behind bars.

It all began on the midnight shift, May 5, 2005, when an alert civilian responded to a report about a 2003 Ford Thunderbird driven by man suspected of murdering a Battle Creek police detective just hours earlier.

Within minutes of receiving that information, Officer McNamara spotted the car, called for back-up, activated his lights and made the stop. Still alone — and knowing he was facing a man who most likely would have no qualms about killing yet another police officer — he approached warily and ordered the suspect to show his hands. As he did so, six back-up officers in six cars arrived — just in time to see the suspect floor his accelerator and take off.

With sirens wailing after him, the suspect lost control of his car as he sped over some railroad tracks. The car crashed, but the chase was far from over.

A thick cloud of dust poured from the crash site, obscuring the car and the suspect from the officers’ sight. When the dust cleared, Officer McNamara and one of his back-up officers spotted the suspect, who had taken advantage of the dust to get a head start on his pursuers.

As the officers tried to catch up, the suspect sprint-



Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard (second from left) told the story of Dearborn Police Officers Michael McNamara, Guerino Cerroni and Michael Hayes’ heroics.

ed toward a corner donut shop, where he carjacked a Ford Contour from an unsuspecting customer and speed off.

Officer Hayes and Officer Cerroni pursued the newly stolen vehicle, which was racing up to 100 miles per hour, endangering everyone on the road. Other officers, including Officer McNamara, joined the chase.

When the suspect unexpectedly slowed down, Officer Hayes immediately seized what he knew might be his only chance to stop this escaped killer: With little time to deliberate, he intentionally rammed his vehicle into the suspect’s car, spinning it out and pushing it up onto the nearby lawn. Officer Cerroni followed suit — also deliberately colliding into the suspect’s car, cutting off any chance for the suspect to escape.

Officers Hayes and Cerroni took the struggling

suspect from the car and handcuffed him as other officers arrived on the scene. “I don’t know why I shot him,” the suspect told Officer McNamara and a fellow officer when they moved him to the police car. Then the suspect added, “Sir, did the officer die?”

These three officers showed not only Hollywood valor but true, real-life heroism in arresting a fugitive, who had proven himself an ongoing threat to law enforcement officers and to the greater community.

The Police Officers Association of Michigan thanks Dearborn Police Officers Guerino Cerroni, Michael Hayes and Michael McNamara for their courageous actions and recognizes their accomplishments by presenting them with our highest honor, the 2006 Police Officer of the Year Award. □

MACOMB COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPUTY PATRICK CLANCY

Gunfire has become a deadly New Year’s Eve tradition, but when Macomb County Sheriff’s Deputy Patrick Clancy answered a complaint about shots fired last Dec. 31, he had no way to know he was soon to be the target.

Responding to the call, Deputy Clancy spotted two males, one dressed totally in gray and one in black, standing in an open parking space near a townhouse complex.

As the officer drove up, the man in gray pointed an assault rifle in a hands-free carrying sling at the deputy’s fully marked patrol car. Suddenly, gray smoke spewed from the gun and shots resounded as the man fired several rounds directly at the deputy and his car.

Still in his car, Deputy Clancy sped toward the men. The man in gray flipped his rifle to the man in black, and both men raced through the door of a nearby townhouse.

Jumping from his car, Deputy Clancy followed them into the townhouse, where he spotted the man in gray attempting to climb the stairs to the second floor.

Deputy Clancy ordered the fleeing suspect to stop and raise his hands. The suspect did stop. But he refused to raise his hands. Without hesitating, knowing that the second man — armed with a lethal assault rifle — could well be watching, Clancy tackled the man in gray to the ground, handcuffed him and called for back-up.

Alone, not knowing what he’d find and ever aware of his handcuffed attacker on the steps, Deputy Clancy made a bold solo search to clear the townhouse, where he found a female relative of the handcuffed suspect, six children — and a second rifle with a bayonet attached to the barrel.

Back-up quickly arrived to secure the handcuffed man, leaving Deputy Clancy and another deputy free to finish a more thorough search of the residence, where the woman told them the man in black had escaped through a sliding patio doorwall.

Acting on her information, the two deputies exited through the doorwall. Immediately they spotted the assault rifle with the white sling that the arrested suspect had used to fire on Deputy Clancy. Near it, in the mud, sat a pair of white, high-top tennis shoes.

At his point, a Roseville K-9 officer arrived and tracked the escaped suspect to a nearby townhouse, where they found three bare footprints on the sidewalk leading to the door. Unfortunately, the second suspect was nowhere within the residence. He remains a fugitive, although his identity is now known.

Demonstrating heroism matched only in the movies, with no regard for his own life, Macomb County Sheriff’s Deputy Patrick Clancy single-handedly pursued and captured a man who had no qualms about firing an assault rifle at a uniformed police officer in a marked vehicle. Officer Clancy’s valiant actions not only saved his own life but possibly the lives of a wom-



Macomb County Deputy Patrick Clancy received his award from Michigan’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Attorney General Mike Cox.

an and six children in the townhouse where the man was heading to pick up a second rifle. For his selfless bravery, the Police Officers Association of Michigan presents Deputy Patrick Clancy with its supreme honor, the 2006 Police Officer of the Year Award. □

HOWELL POLICE OFFICERS DONALD BANFIELD, CLYDE SMITH AND RANDY MURDOCK

Most people who learn CPR and emergency first aid never expect to use them. But three Howell police officers took their lessons seriously — and managed to save two lives with their cool and efficient recall.

The first incident occurred last December 20 when Officers Donald Banfield and Clyde Smith responded to a report that a car stopped on Grand River held a seemingly unconscious woman.

Officer Banfield, who arrived first, found the car against the curb, facing the wrong way with a woman in her early 60s slumped over the wheel. As Officer Smith joined him, Banfield pounded on the driver's window, hoping to rouse the woman.

When the woman remained unresponsive, Banfield walked around to the passenger side. Using his baton, he broke the window and unlocked the door. Immediately, the officers realized the woman was not only unconscious, she also had no detectible pulse.

Quickly pulling her from the car, both officers began administering CPR, which they continued until the fire department arrived with a defibrillator. All of their efforts paid off in reviving the woman, who lived to tell the tale of two police officers who helped save her life.

First aid training again played a key role for Officer Banfield, this time fewer than two months later on February 18 when he partnered with Officer Randy Murdock. Reporting for work that day, neither officer dreamed he would soon not only deliver a baby — but also save the infant boy's life.

It was about 2:45 a.m. Saturday. Officer Banfield, just wrapping up another medical call, and Officer Murdock, about to go home for the night, responded to a 911 call from the frantic husband of a woman about to deliver a baby in their apartment.

Anticipating a routine delivery where they'd easily "catch" the baby and calm the mom, the two were en route when 911 called with an update: The baby's head was already emerging!



Judge Brian Zahra (left) presented to Howell Police Officers (left to right) Randy Murdock, Clyde Smith and Donald Banfield.

Charging up the steps and into the apartment, the two found the father still on the phone with 911, the mother lying on the bed and the baby's head nearly full visible. Officer Banfield began to comfort the mother as Officer Murdock, the father of four, focused on the baby.

But one look at the baby told Officer Murdock that trouble lay ahead: The umbilical cord was tangled around the baby's neck.

Gently, Officer Murdock worked the cord, cautiously loosening it while taking care not to injure the newborn's delicate neck. His efforts successful, he then eased the cord from the neck, and the baby boy's shoulders emerged — right into his hands.

Thinking the worst was over, Officer Murdock rested the baby on his side, so he could breathe. But the infant remained still, with no sign of a breath. Maintaining their cool despite what was going through their heads, Officer Banfield continued to reassure the

mother while Officer Murdock tapped his fingers on the baby's feet. Suddenly, in a matter of seconds that seemed like hours, the infant's welcome scream filled the room.

The officers cleared the baby's mouth and nose, wrapped him in a blanket and awaited the ambulance, which soon arrived. Mother and baby were both fine — and, as a bonus, Officer Banfield got an unexpected sneak preview of wonders yet to come when his first baby would be born only 3 ½ months later!

For their professionalism and quick actions in implementing effective first aid techniques, these three officers counteracted potentially devastating medical traumas to save innocent lives. The Police Officers Association of Michigan proudly honors Howell Police Officers Donald Banfield, Clyde Smith and Randy Murdock with the 2006 Police Officer of the Year Award. □



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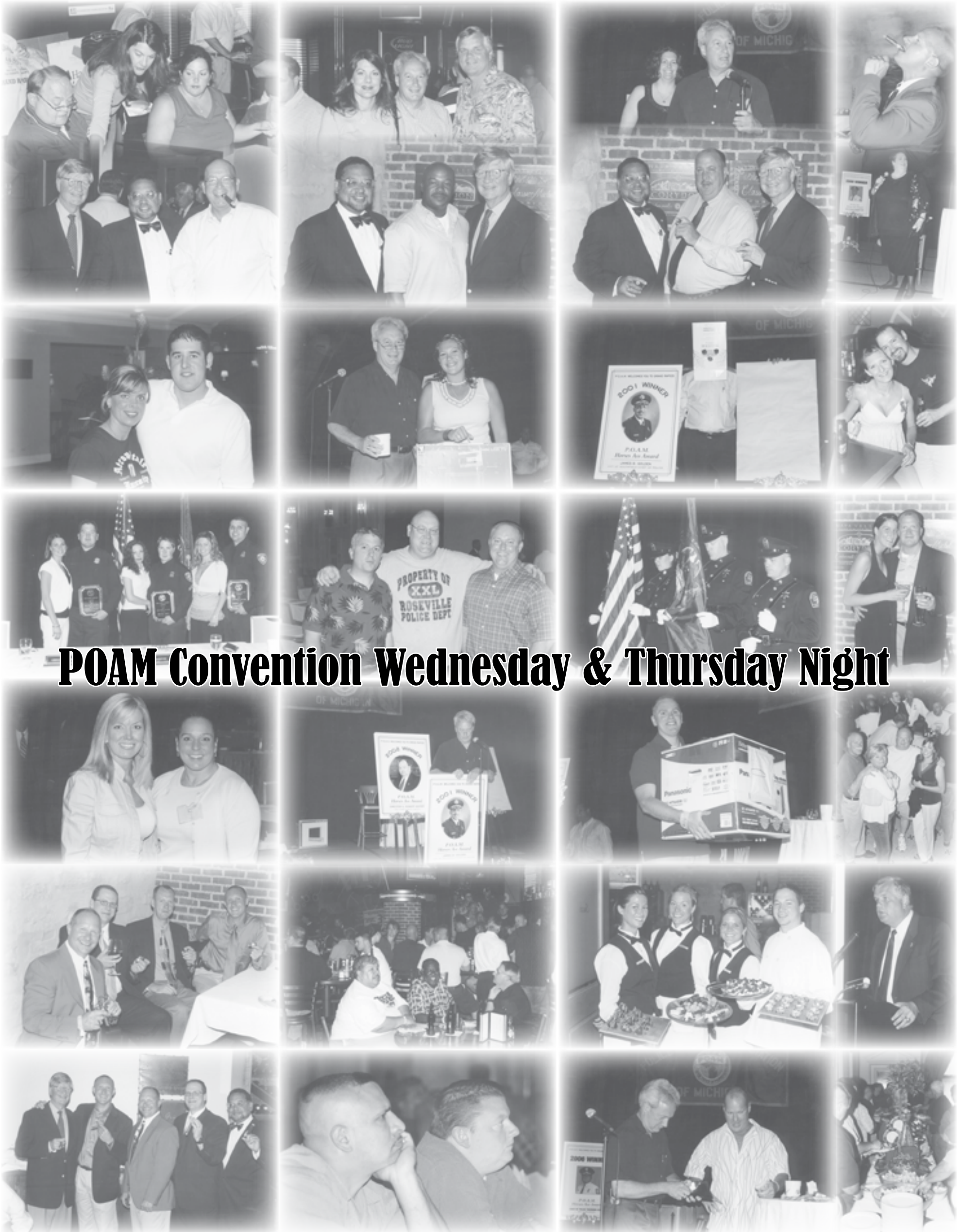
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POAM Convention Wednesday & Thursday Night

POAM CONVENTION SEMINAR

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

POAM General Counsel Frank Guido knew there wasn't enough time in a day, let alone in a month, to educate members on the details of the legal issues POAM attorneys consistently confront. But local union leaders needed to know the what proper on-call procedures and protocol was in the event of critical incidents.

Guido put together a notebook with ten different scenarios with concrete directions and the applicable officers rights. The issues included but were not limited to: deadly force, Prosecutors Investigative Supena, drug and alcohol testing, multi-jurisdiction task force investigations, and Weingarten, Miranda and Garrity rights. The information was further reinforced by a power point presentation.

"We wanted to remind all members that there is no 'simple' critical incident, and they always need to contact their union representative," said Frank. "I wanted to educate our union representatives on what their responsibilities were and remind them that the POAM legal team is available to counsel them through every step."

Guido acted as the moderator but left most of the legal advice to his Assistant General Counsels, Martha M. Champine, Douglas Gutscher and George Mertz who elaborated on each scenario, answering all questions about legal procedures in its aftermath. "I don't expect everyone to memorize all this material," said Guido. "That's why we put the information in a hard cover binder. In most cases, calling the POAM office or our after-hours emergency number is the best way to make sure you're getting good advice. But sometimes, decisions have to be made on the spot and I want those to be informed ones."

Members' response to the seminar was very positive. "I've served a long time on our local Executive Board and worked closely with Gary Pushee over the years," said Canton Township POA President, Dave Boljesic. "This seminar clarified some issues and gave me a hard copy to pass on to our group's next leader." Many of POAM's newest members communicated how impressed they were with the POAM legal staff and how the seminar validated their recent switch to our organization. As always, the seminar hand out materials are available by calling Ed Jacques at the POAM office. Information about the fall seminar will be disseminated this summer and the scheduled topic will be health care.



POAM Assistant Lead Counsels (left to right) George Mertz, Martha Champine and Douglas Gutscher advised members on on-call procedures and more.

Sergeant Joe Blozis from the New York City Police Department took up most of the afternoon with his slide show on the 9-11 tragedy. The presentation was emotional and consisted of many photographs and stories that had never been seen or told before.

Many of you might remember that Sergeant Blozis made a similar presentation at our convention in 2003. The POAM office received many calls asking to have Joe come back and let us know how the Department and the affected families are doing three years later.

Blozis was there on that day. He experienced the tragedy of losing many life long friends and colleagues and dealing with the emotional struggles that followed. No matter how many times we see pictures or hear stories, having Sergeant Joe Blozis give us a first hand account of that day and the months that followed will stick in the mind of every member who attended. "Don't worry Joe; POAM will never forget." □



Sgt. Joe Blozis from the New York City Police Department presented a stirring portrayal of events and heroes on 9-11.



Attendance and interest were high for this one-of-a-kind seminar.

ASA Seeking Input from Crime Victims and Crime Victim-Serving Professionals Surveys to Assist in Data Collection

Research indicates that individuals with disabilities experience crime at higher rates than individuals without disabilities, yet virtually no data exist on the experiences of individuals with autism. The Autism Society of America, its Howard County (Maryland) Chapter and L.E.A.N. on Us, Inc., are currently developing a training curriculum and materials for crime victim-serving professionals, individuals with autism spectrum disorders, and families and caregivers.

To ensure that the final products meet the needs of these target audiences, we are seeking your input. The following two surveys -- one for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their caregivers, and one for crime victim-serving professionals (police, paramedics, counselors, etc.) -- have been designed to gather information about crime and individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Please fill out the appropriate survey and forward this message to others.

Survey for Individuals with Autism and Families & Caregivers:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=581552000509>

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OAK PARK ADMINISTRATION TAKES IT ON THE CHIN.... AGAIN

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

The City of Oak Park and the POAM were parties to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) which was in effect July 1, 1997 until June 30, 2001. The CBA had a provision that read as follows:

The following work schedule shall be in effect for the term of this agreement, however, it can not be modified unless mutually agreed to by both the Employer and the Union, or as a result of bargaining on a subsequent contract to this agreement, or as ordered by a 312 Arbitrator.

There will be a minimum of seven Officers working per shift unless an Officer is assigned to dispatch duties then there will be a minimum of eight (8) assigned to operations.

While negotiating a subsequent contract on January 22, 2002 the City notified Union President, Kevin Loftis that "the City of Oak Park will no longer recognize the manning provisions of the expired contract." On May 7, 2002, then Deputy Director, Robert Bauer notified all supervisors that they were permitted to allow shift strength to be six officers, within their discretion. The Union grieved that decision, claiming that the City violated the CBA by implementing a policy of allowing the Operations Division to work with less than the contractual requirement of a minimum of seven officers per shift. When the City was unable to admit and correct its mistake, the POAM submitted the grievance to arbitration.

In the Opinion and Award issued on October 14, 2003, Arbitrator Donald Sugerman granted the grievance finding that the City had violated the CBA by unilaterally receding Section 8-1. He ordered that the City restore that provision and return Operations Division shifts to a minimum of seven officers (eight if an officer is assigned to dispatch). On February 6, 2004, the City refused and appealed the Arbitrator's decision to Oakland County Circuit Court where POAM also filed a counter motion to enforce the Award. The City's claim was that contract negotiations had come to an impasse and it had the right to modify a permissive subject

of bargaining.

Citing case law in a previous victory against the County of Manistee, POAM reminded the judge that courts play only a limited roll in viewing arbitrators decisions and may vacate an award only under narrowly defined circumstances. POAM General Counsel, Frank Guido and Assistant Counsel, Douglas Gutscher noted that the Arbitrator simply kept in effect the terms of the contract until it is modified by one of the contractually-recognized methods, including compulsory arbitration. They maintained that the Arbitrator's award simply applies and interprets the existing contract terms. Contract language overrides any argument on whether this is a permissive or mandatory subject of bargaining.

Oakland County Circuit Judge, Steven N. Andrews upheld the Arbitrator's decision and Supplemental Opinion that provided the method by which officers would be compensated when minimum staffing was not maintained at the levels set forth in the expired contract.

The Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed the Circuit Court ruling, including the retroactive payment of compensation to the affected officers.

Now retired, Oak Park PSOA President, Kevin Loftis began calculating the damages and reviewing records to see what officers were eligible for overtime on road patrol when the violations took place. At the time of this publication it appears that the City's cost will be approximately \$165,000 with final compensation to the 35 patrol officers to be an average of almost \$5,000 apiece!

Loftis credits POAM attorneys Pete Cravens, Frank Guido and Douglas Gutscher for their expertise, professionalism and patience through this entire ordeal. "This grievance originated when we had dozens of others currently open," said Loftis. "Having a hard working Business Agent like Ken Grabowski and POAM's in-house staff of attorneys is why the Oak Park Police Officers Association is so proud and vocal about our union affiliation." □

POAM PREVAILS FOR MYSTERY MEMBER

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

Duane Haggerty was initially employed by Sanilac County as a full time police officer in 1958. He left and returned to employment with the County several times and was working full time when, on April 23, 1979, he injured his back in a work-related accident. He returned to work a jail coordinator but again injured his back. Haggerty last worked as an active employee on March 24, 1979 and has received worker's compensation benefits since March 1979.

In 2003, Sanilac hired a new County Executive who promptly ordered an audit of its benefit program and participants. They discovered that Duane Haggerty was receiving medical benefits from the County but had not received income or W-2 forms since 1979 and has not received a clothing allowance, holiday pay, Christmas bonus or longevity pay since March 1979. He was not paid his pension contributions or his accrued vacation time and was never given an official notice of termination of employment. The County immediately fired off a letter notifying Mr. Haggerty that his health insurance would be canceled immediately.

Sanilac County Deputy Sheriffs' Association President, Brad Roff got the call. Brad wanted to help but this was uncharted territory. He had never heard of Duane Haggerty before and realized that Haggerty had not been required to pay union dues in nearly 25 years. Roff immediately connected Haggerty with POAM President and Business Agent, Jim Tignanelli. When Tignanelli called the employer, the administration claimed that Haggerty was not in the collective bargaining unit and therefore POAM could not represent his interests. Tignanelli had already researched the contract and found an article that verified that while an employee is on workman's compensation the employer will continue to pay medical insurance. That language was in place in 1979 when Haggerty sustained his injury and the same language was in the current contract. That meant that Haggerty was and is still employee of Sanilac County and there was nothing in the contract that limited the amount of time an employee could receive workman's compensation benefits. The County disagreed and POAM filed its grievance.

In the arbitration, Sanilac County again reiterated that POAM had no right to represent Haggerty, but, Duane had fallen through their cracks and they were not looking for him to re-imburse the County for previous medical payments because the County was at fault for continuing them. They claim that Mr. Haggerty had al-

ready been the beneficiary of a significant windfall. Arbitrator Mario Chiesa ruled Duane was an employee and affirmed POAM's contentions in the grievance. He also ordered Sanilac County to reimburse Haggerty \$11,000 in out-of-pocket expenses he incurred during his lapse in coverage. The County reinstated Haggerty's medical coverage as it appealed Chiesa's decision to Circuit Court, where POAM prevailed.

Once again, Sanilac County attempted to vacate the Award by taking its case to the State of Michigan Court of Appeals. On April 18, 2006 in an unpublished decision, the Court upheld the Arbitrator's decision and authority. POAM Attorney, Martha Champine, who represented Haggerty in Circuit Court commented, "Sanilac County had a clear legal obligation to abide by the arbitrator's decision. There is plenty of case law on the books, some of it from previous POAM cases, that establishes the limitations on challenging an Arbitrator's Award. I believe that's why the Court of Appeals didn't request oral arguments on this case. It was a cut and dry issue."

This is certainly another case of POAM going "above and beyond the call of duty" to represent one of its members. In this particular case the member had not paid one penny of dues to POAM but was technically still an employee. In the past, POAM has been accused by other labor organizations of "frivolously" defending our members rights. "If fighting these kind of battles is frivolous, then we're guilty as charged," said POAM President Jim Tignanelli. □

**If you're not a POAM member,
ask yourself this question,
"Would *my* union file and
prevail on this grievance?"**



By JIM DeVRIES, MCOLES Board Member



There are two important issues currently on our radar that involve MCOLES. The first has to do with the declining level of priority assigned to public safety by our political leaders. This has become painfully evident when we examine the number of law enforcement positions in Michigan today.

MCOLES now tracks information regarding the employment of Michigan's law enforcement officers. Through this information, we have been able to determine that the number of law enforcement positions in this state has declined significantly since September 11, 2001. There were 23,150 law enforcement positions in Michigan as of that date. By May 31, 2006, MCOLES records indicated there were 21,666 law enforcement positions in Michigan.

Often, we are told that public safety has reduced priority because crime is down, yet we are now beginning to see that trend reverse. Preliminary FBI figures show increases in violent crime in the majority of Michigan cities with populations over 100,000. These increases are greatest among those cities with declining numbers of law enforcement officers.

I am especially hopeful that the added attention the

Commission has been able to generate around public safety will help our political leaders from both sides of the aisle to refocus their attention and take action to reverse this trend.

I am also hopeful that funding reform for MCOLES would be part and parcel of a re-energized public safety initiative in state government. Over 75 % of the dollars that pass through the MCOLES checkbook go out to local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Those dollars were at risk during last year's funding challenges. Securing an adequate and stabilized funding source, and subsequent removal of MCOLES from the state's general fund roller coaster, would benefit local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, statewide.

The other matter I would like to address is the inaccessibility of privileges afforded law enforcement retirees under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (LEOSA aka HR 218). This issue has generated a great deal of political attention. Several state legislators have expressed interest in enacting corrective legislation; however, the proposals advanced thus far do not settle all of the issues blocking retiree access

to LEOSA privileges.

Persistent liability questions remain for local law enforcement agencies, and the problem of who shall issue retiree identification is not resolved. What is more, proposed legislative solutions inadvertently threaten to compromise MCOLES ability to set in-service standards.

MCOLES efforts in this area were slowed as a result of the 2005 funding challenge; however the project was re-energized early this year. A comprehensive MCOLES solution is now taking shape. The Commission has requested presentation of a proposed in-service firearm standard for commission action at its September meeting. Meetings of advisory and subject-matter-expert panels associated with this project are planned throughout the summer. An accompanying legislative initiative, discussed above, will run concurrent with standard development during the summer, and I expect that we will have the entire matter resolved no later than the end of this year. □

State Representative Rick Jones and Washtenaw County Commissioner Mark Ouimet Acclaimed for Their Commitment to Law Enforcement

By: Ed Jacques, LEJ Editor

As was reported in a previous *Law Enforcement Journal*, "Saving Road Patrols" Winter 2005, many rural Washtenaw County communities are demanding and willing to pay the Sheriff's Department a fair amount to continue the necessary road patrols in their townships and villages. Their best friend and most vocal advocate has consistently been Washtenaw County Commissioner Mark Ouimet. "Road patrols should be a core service provided to all County taxpayers, argues Ouimet. "Assessing the cost of those services needs to be a fair and accountable process. The County cannot be allowed to expand those costs in order to fund other programs" added Ouimet.

Washtenaw County Deputy Sheriffs Association President, Harry Valentine, nominated Ouimet for POAM's Commissioner Of The Year Award with the blessing of Legislative Kenneth E. Grabowski, who also serves as the group's Business Agent. "Mark has always voted to support law enforcement" said Valentine. "Mark worked closely with our local association on the SOS (Save Our Sheriff) campaign to let other Commissioners know that our Association and the citizens are going to

hold them accountable."

Ouimet was presented with his Award by Grabowski at the POAM Delegates Meeting in Grand Rapids. "Mark is a good friend who deserves this Award and a victory in his upcoming election," said Ken.

State Representative Rick Jones was acknowledged as POAM's Legislator Of The Year. Rick was on hand to receive his plaque and commented that "This Award is very special because it comes from an organization that does an exceptional job representing law enforcement officers across our state."

Jones spent 33 years in law enforcement, working his way through the ranks to eventually be elected as the Eaton County Sheriff. State Representative Jones has sponsored numerous bills on behalf of the law enforcement community. He is a strong advocate of maintaining and strengthening Garrity Rights and binding arbitration privileges for first responders. "Rick Jones' track record speaks for itself," said Grabowski. "This was an easy call." Representative Jones was recently profiled in the Winter 2005 *Law Enforcement Journal*. □



Washtenaw County Commissioner Mark Ouimet (center) has stood by his local deputies through thick and thin.



State Representative Rick Jones (center) is the perfect advocate for law enforcement in Lansing.

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POAM HOSTS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION IN LANSING



By Kenneth E. Grabowski, POAM Legislative Director
Reprinted from previous LEJ

The start of the fall Michigan Legislative session was highlighted with a Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) reception for all state senators and representatives.

On October 11, 2005, in the City of Lansing, over 60 state representatives, state senators and staff members for other elected officials were in attendance and had the opportunity to meet with officers and Executive Board members from POAM. During this gathering, POAM representatives stressed to the elected officials the importance of providing proper funding to law enforcement, the issue of State Police posts, and the importance of maintaining compulsory arbitration, Public Act 312.

POAM pointed out that since the attack of 9-11 the federal government has been doling out millions of dollars for various law enforcement issues. While the federal government has been hiring law enforcement officers at a quick pace, the level of funding provided to local law enforcement officers has been relatively

unseen by our membership. POAM stressed that the majority of departments in Michigan are now experiencing severe cutbacks and layoffs. While our departments are experiencing cutbacks, new and expanded duties are being handled by Federal authorities, while providing no assistance to local law enforcement. The federal way, in our opinion, is not the right way. The use of federal officers cannot and should not replace the use of local officers. Federal law enforcement employees do not have the knowledge or expertise that a local law enforcement officer has. If you look at most major crimes; they are solved by street cops performing local duties.

The issue of binding arbitration and its historical impact for police officers was also addressed. The importance of the ability of police officers to have a neutral arbitrator resolve disputes that cannot be resolved between the parties, has successfully worked in this State. Public Act 312 is settled law that has served the public faithfully and has provided a fair, workable and practical method of maintaining the public safety of our citizens by eliminating any type of work stoppage

or similar actions.

Additionally, POAM stressed to our elected officials that they need to look closely at the issue of State Police posts. Keeping State Police posts open should not be a priority, but, funding law enforcement should be. Using tax dollars to provide State Police protection to local units of government does not make economic sense. Once you get out of most metropolitan areas, a local community, whether it be city, village, township or county, can provide the same law enforcement provided by the State Police at a far better economic rate. Using State dollars to fund police services to communities who refuse to provide or pay for police protection, is an improper use of taxpayer dollars. The legislators need to consider the economic benefit of removing the State Police from general law enforcement and allowing those funds to flow to local communities.

The following article addresses many of the issues that were discussed with the legislators at the reception. □

County Police Can Patrol Highways for Less

By Jack McHugh for the Mackinac Center For Public Policy

The next time you see a Michigan State Police trooper ticketing speeders, ask yourself this question: Why is a routine traffic safety enforcement action being performed by a state trooper, when the same job could be done just as well for far less money by a county sheriff's deputy?

This is the sort of question the Granholm administration should be asking as it looks for ways to trim Michigan's looming budget deficit. As with many other budget items, the answer to this particular question boils down to "that's how we've always done it."

Yet Michigan could save around \$65 million (based on 2004 budget numbers) each year by handing over highway traffic safety enforcement to county sheriffs - without reducing by a single officer the amount of road patrol activity, or its quality.

In 2002, according to a Senate Fiscal Committee, it cost Michigan taxpayers some \$90,000 to keep a state trooper on the payroll for a year. This is not the "take-home" pay of officers, but the total compensation cost incurred by their employer, including benefits and the state's share of mandated taxes and fees. By contrast, county sheriff deputies cost taxpayers less than \$70,000 a year in most places - often much less.

To be sure, the Michigan State Police provide many law enforcement services, that local and county agencies cannot. Among these are forensic science and lab services, criminal databases, special operations, including canine and underwater units, bomb squads, and more. The State Police also perform multi-jurisdictional an large-scale criminal investigations. Because it services the entire state and so enjoys economic of scale, it is logical for the department to continue providing these services as a backup to local police.

However, it is not logical to divert expensive State Police resources to functions local agencies are eminently capable of performing for much less money, such as routine traffic safety enforcement.

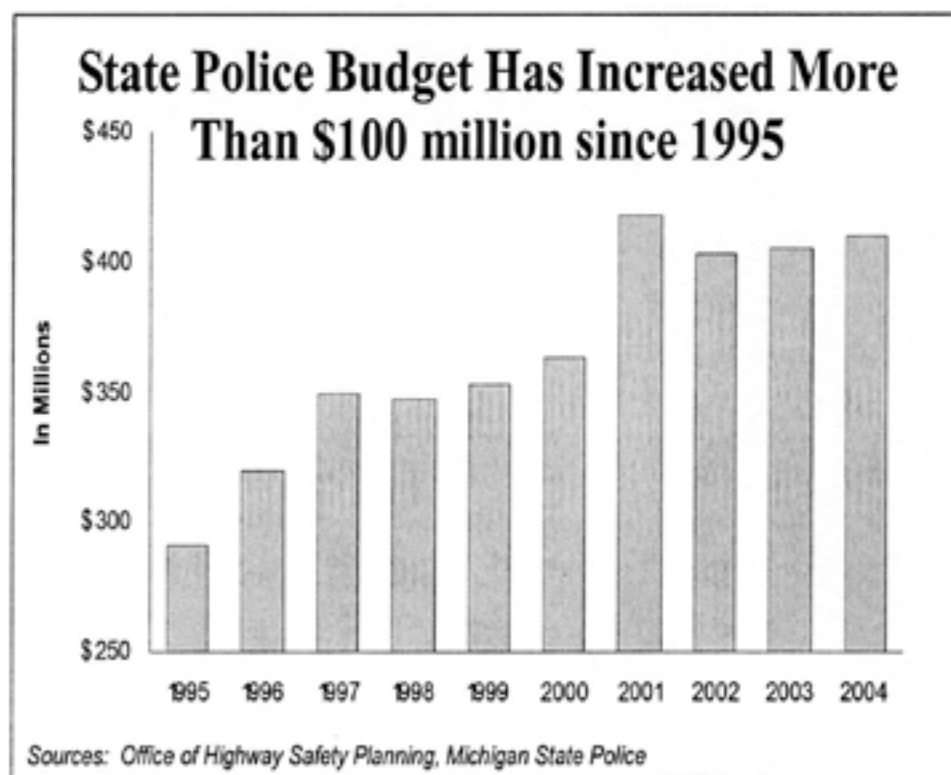
Sheriff deputies and municipal police in Michigan are fully competent to take over this function. In fact, one of the functions performed by the State Police is to set standards and certify law enforcement training programs for all local peace officers. Some \$11 million is spent each year to do so, and to provide in-service training for local police. There's no reason why this training could not include traffic safety enforcement.

So how do we begin saving taxpayers \$65 million a year? The "uniformed services" line item in the state budget accounts for 40 percent of the annual \$410 million State Police budget. The lion's share of this money pays for road patrols. If that function were transferred to the counties, other overhead expenses could be cut and the entire department downsized. In a March 2003 Mackinac Center

analysis, the estimated total reduction could come to around \$195 million.

The average cost statewide to employ a county sheriff deputy is approximately 77 percent (or less) of the cost of employing a state trooper. Therefore, the state could give grants to county sheriff departments equivalent to 77 percent of the amount it currently spends for road patrols, or \$128 million. This would allow sheriff's departments to hire more deputies, and also to boost their overhead to support expanded operations. The grants should have strings attached: Sheriffs should be required to provide the same amount of major highway road patrols as are currently provided by the State Police.

To maintain State Police trooper levels and other functions despite revenue shortfalls, Governor Granholm is proposing a \$12 increase in drivers license renewal fees, and new fees on the property insurance bills of homeowners. These "revenue enhancements" can provide the state more cash, but they may not be necessary if the state just spent the money it has more wisely. Allowing local law enforcement departments to perform routine traffic safety patrols on major highways is a better solution for Michigan motorists and taxpayers. □



LETTERS



Rachael Dzbanski

Scholarship Winners

Dear President Tignanelli,

Words cannot express the depth of gratitude I feel about your contribution towards my education. Your assistance will help provide an opportunity of a lifetime. The education I will be receiving abroad in France is priceless to me. I commend you for taking the time out to consider and award me a scholarship. This is greatly appreciated, and I won't forget your help. Thank you again.

P.S I would like to give special thanks to Officer Dan Kuhn who informed about the financial assistance available from your organization. I really appreciated everyone's help and courtesy.

Ta'Nay Williams

Thank you POAM!

Dear Mr. James Tignanelli,

Thank you very much for the scholarship. The money will be put to good use for tuition, room and board, books and other necessary funds to further my education. I will keep in touch with how I am doing at Northern Michigan University. I'm really looking forward to having a great time next year by making new friends and continuing my education.

On behalf of my entire family, thanks again for the help.

Rachael Dzbanski

Millage Approved

Saginaw Police Officers Association

612 Federal Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48607



Affiliated with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAAM)



Ed Jacques
POAAM
27056 Joy Road
Redford, MI 48230

Dear Mr. Jacques,

In February 2006 the union board from the Saginaw Police Officers Association (SPOA) traveled to Redford to meet with members of the POAAM Executive Board. Of major concern was a recent announcement that the city of Saginaw was once again suffering from major budget problems. These problems were so severe, in fact, that nearly 50 police officers and firefighters would be laid off if new funding sources were not secured.

As your staff was already aware, these cuts would effectively cripple law enforcement efforts in Saginaw (population: 58,000), which currently ranks as one of the most violent cities in the United States, per capita. In the first four months of 2006 alone, the Saginaw Police Department (SPD) responded to more than 40 shootings and more than 200 calls for service effect, wait for hours, and calls for shots fired literally number in the dozens on warm summer days. It is not unusual for only six or seven officers to patrol Saginaw on any given shift.

The only hope for the survival of the SPD and its officers was the passage of a May 2nd Public Safety millage, which would secure funds to maintain and enhance police and fire staffing levels. Members of the SPOA, as well as the local firefighters union, began an aggressive informational campaign to help voters see the need for passage of this millage. Without hesitation the POAAM Executive Board jumped into the fight on our behalf and offered any and all services at your disposal.

After months of informational meetings, mass meetings, door-to-door campaigning, and a media blitz that included newspaper, radio, television, billboards and more, our officers of the SPD waited anxiously for the May 2nd voting results. We are happy to say the public safety millage was approved by a wide margin, and every precinct in the city of Saginaw passed the initiative.

The approval of this millage not only saved 26 police officers from the unemployment line, but also breathed new life into a department desperately in need of a boost in morale. In fact, the Saginaw Police Department is currently compiling a hiring list, and the next hire will be the first new officer at the SPD in more than seven years!

On behalf of the membership of the SPOA, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude for the effort put forth by yourself and the other members of the POAAM Executive Board. This assistance is a fine example of your organization looking out for Michigan's police officers during times of need.

Sincerely,

Ruben Vasquez
Ruben Vasquez
President, SPOA

Scott Bickel
Scott Bickel
Vice-President, SPOA

Michael East
Michael East
Secretary, SPOA

Randy Mudd
Randy Mudd
Treasurer, SPOA

Douglas Winkley
Douglas Winkley
Sgt. At Arms, SPOA

L.E.A.N. On Us

Dear Mr. Jacques,

We are sending a request that you include the following release in your next Law Enforcement Journal, if possible. As officers with over twenty years in the field, we saw there was a need for support and to increase knowledge of disabilities for law enforcement. We formed the organization L.E.A.N. On Us to help many nurses and are doing what we can to provide additional education for first responders in many areas.

We have also been lucky enough to be awarded, along with the August Society of America and the Howard County Chapter of the ANA, a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime. This grant is a networking grant that will allow us to develop materials for first responders specifically for them to assist victims of crime that may be affected by Autism.

We would like to ask for your support in this endeavor. We are conducting a survey and need the participation of officers from across the country. We'd like to see that you publish this short media release to request that your readers participate in the survey. We are also attaching a photo and please feel free to use that as well as the information from our website at www.leanonline.org.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to send a reply to this email or give us a call at (581) 743-3866.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew and Carolyn Gammie, MD
L.E.A.N. On Us
POAAM Members, Shelby Township PD

Editor's Note: Glad to help. See page 25.

Jurist of the Year

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
JUSTICE

June 6, 2006

CARILLAC PLACE, SUITE 8-500
3034 WEST GRAND BOULEVARD
DETROIT, MI 48202-6034
(313) 972-3232

Mr. Kenneth E. Grabowski
Legislative Director
Police Officers Association of Michigan
27056 Joy Road
Redford, MI 48239-1949

Dear Mr. Grabowski:

Thanks again for choosing me as POAM's Jurist of the Year. I enjoyed being a part of this year's convention and sharing some time with the remarkable men and women who make up your organization.

And thank you for your hospitality for dinner at the 1813 restaurant. I enjoyed myself once again.

All the best,

Maura D. Corrigan

Maura D. Corrigan
Justice

LETTERS, cont.

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Sheriff's Office. Together we are
building community.

Sincerely,
Cathy Adams

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DeVos for Governor



June 14, 2006

Mr. Dan Kuhn
27056 Joy Road
Redford, MI 48239

Dear Dan:

Thank you for speaking with me and sharing your time and insight. As I continue to travel the state I'm daily reminded that Michigan has remarkable people and potential. We have tremendous natural beauty, hard working people and wonderful families.

These resources and blessings demand the very best from leadership. We all want a place where our children and grandchildren stay and raise their families.

Coming together, we can return this state to national leadership. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to take meaningful steps towards a better Michigan.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 517-679-0191 or email me at dick@devosforgovernor.com if I can be of assistance.

Warm Regards,

Dick DeVos

P.S.

A great way to stay informed about the campaign issues and to lend a hand is by visiting my website at: www.devosforgovernor.com.

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Affiliated with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM)



George MacL
Assistant General Counsel
POAM
27056 Joy Road
Redford, MI 48239

Dear George:

In April of 2006, two officers from the Saginaw Police Department were involved in an unfortunate officer-involved shooting. Responding to a report of a man with a gun, one officer, after engaging the suspect, was nearly shot with a handgun. The other officer eventually shot the armed suspect. This was certainly a trying time for both of these law enforcement professionals.

Contact was immediately made with POAM for guidance regarding this matter. Your response to this situation was swift and thorough, as you remained in contact with both of the officers throughout their ordeal. Your patience and concern helped these officers more than you will ever know, and everyone at the SPD in grateful for your efforts.

Both of the officers have returned to full duty status and are doing well. The suspect in this incident remains jailed awaiting trial.

Again, please accept our thanks and appreciation for being available and for getting involved when we needed you. It is comforting to know the competent and concerned professionals at POAM are ready and waiting when called upon.

Sincerely,

Ruben Vasquez
President, SPOA

Congressional Thanks



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

BART STUPAK
MICHIGAN FIRST

June 26, 2006

Mr Kenneth Grabowski
Legislative Director
Police Officers Association of Michigan
27056 Joy Road
Redford, Michigan 48239

Dear Mr. Grabowski:

I would like to personally thank you for the Police Officers Association of Michigan commemorative plaque and pen set. I appreciate having this gift in my collection.

In addition, I extend my sincerest appreciation to all of the members of Police Officers Association of Michigan who were able to visit Washington, D.C. to recognize the officers who gave their lives in the line of duty and were memorialized on the National Law Enforcement Memorial this year. The officers who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the safety and security of their communities deserve our deepest gratitude and respect, and I am pleased to know Michigan's police force has been honored.

Again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. Please feel free to contact my office if I, or a member of my staff, may be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE:

What POAM Members Need to Know

Before Putting on Their Leathers and Helmets

Motorcycle Insurance

Choosing the right insurance policy is like choosing the right bike. It has to fit your needs and lifestyle, but also must be within your budget. Although most states require you to carry a minimum amount of liability coverage, other types of coverage are usually optional. It's very important to understand your options when deciding what's best for you. Coverage options include:

Liability

Liability insurance covers bodily injury and property damage that you may cause to other people involved in an accident. It doesn't cover you or your motorcycle. In Michigan liability coverage includes Guest Passenger Liability, which provides protection in the event that a passenger is injured on the motorcycle.

Collision

Collision insurance covers damage to your motorcycle if you are involved in an accident. Your insurance company pays for damages caused when you collide with another vehicle or object, minus your deductible. Collision insurance usually covers the book value of the motorcycle before the loss occurred.

Comprehensive

Comprehensive coverage pays for damages caused by an event other than a collision, such as fire, theft or vandalism. However, just like collision coverage, your insurance company will pay for damages, minus your deductible, at the book value of the motorcycle.

Most comprehensive and collision coverages will only cover the factory standard parts. If you add additional accessories such as chrome parts, custom paint, trailers or sidecars, you need to look into obtaining additional equipment coverage.

Tips for the Cost-conscious Rider

- ✓ Complete a motorcycle training course, such as is offered by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). You could save as much as 15 percent on your premiums.
- ✓ Maintain a good driving record with no violations.
- ✓ Ask for multi-bike discounts if you own more than one cycle, organization discounts if you're a member of a motorcycle association, and mature rider discounts for experienced riders.
- ✓ Keep in mind that the type, style (such as a sports bike vs. a cruiser) and age of the motorcycle, as well as the number of miles you drive a year and where you store your bike may also affect how much your premium costs.

Uninsured Motorist

Uninsured motorist coverage pays for medical treatment, lost wages and other damages if a driver without insurance hits you. If your uninsured motorist coverage includes property damage, your cycle also is covered under the same circumstances.

Underinsured Motorist

Underinsured motorist coverage is similar to uninsured motorist coverage, except it applies when the other party has lower coverage limits than you do and damages exceed the other party's limits.

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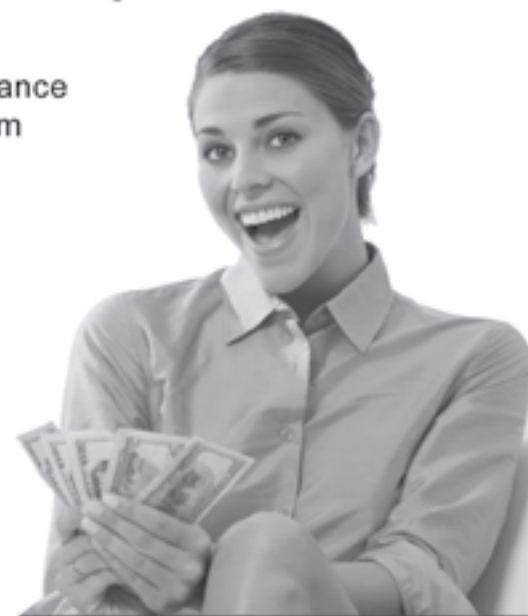
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The Federal Perspective

By Dennis McGrann, POAM Lobbyist, Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Congress is currently enmeshed in the annual process of considering and approving legislation to fund federal programs for the next fiscal year. POAM is staying involved in the Congressional process to represent the priorities of Michigan law enforcement and advocate for fair funding for local criminal justice programs. Several considerations, including a short legislative calendar and the fall elections, cause many to anticipate that all the funding bills may not be complete until late in the year.

On Tuesday, May 16th, POAM again hosted "Michigan Police Night," one of the highlights of the "National Law Enforcement Memorial Week." Senator Debbie Stabenow sponsored this year's event, held in the U.S. Capitol just off the Senate chamber, in recognition of the service and sacrifices of Michigan's law enforcement professionals. Special commemoration was given to the Michigan police officers added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial earlier in the week – officers Dale Francis Bernock, Scot Andrew Beyerstedt, Lavern Steven Brann, Benjamin Lewis Carpenter, Michael Allen Scarbrough, Owen David Fisher, Paul Lee Mickel, William A. Daniels. The Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipes and Drums started the evening by escorting the colors into the room and playing several selections, causing much excitement with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. Several Members of the Michigan delegation took time out of their busy schedules to attend, including Senator Carl Levin, Congressman Vernon Ehlers (CD3-Grand Rapids), Congressman Peter Hoekstra (CD2-Holland), Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (CD11-Livonia), Congressman Michael Rogers (CD8-Lansing), and Congressman Joe Schwarz (CD7-Jackson). Key justice and law enforcement staff members from many of the other Michigan offices also attended the event.

The Michigan delegation has also been active in promoting legislation and supporting law enforcement funding programs. Once again displaying his commitment to law enforcement, Congressman Bart Stupak (CD1-Alpena) continues to build support for his bill to extend federal health benefits to the families of officers killed in the line of duty. In a letter to his House colleagues seeking additional supporters, Congressman Stupak decried the reality that, "[a] number of the surviving spouses and dependents of police officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty find themselves without health care. When a public safety officer is killed in the performance of duty, without being enrolled in the health care program offered by their employer, there is usually no opportunity for the surviving spouse or dependents to enroll."

Congressman Dale Kildee (CD5-Flint) announced on May 17th that public safety departments in the 5th District have been awarded over \$109,000 in funding from the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, including video surveillance and chemical/biological detection equipment.

Congressman Fred Upton (CD6-Kalamazoo) also announced significant funding for law enforcement purposes, including \$600,000 for methamphetamine lab clean-up in Kalamazoo County, and over \$100,000 for mobile video and communications equipment for multiple police departments.

On the funding front for local law enforcement programs, the House Appropriations Committee approved its FY2007 Department of Justice (DOJ) spending bill (H.R. 5672) on June 20th. The committee included \$22.1 billion in funding for Justice programs, \$724 million above the amount provided for FY2006 and

\$1.0 billion higher than requested in the FY2007 budget proposal released by the Administration in February. The bill includes \$2.6 billion in appropriations for assistance to state and local law enforcement crime-fighting initiatives, more than twice the \$1.1 billion requested in the budget proposal but \$163 million below this year's funding.

Several federal programs which provide support for Michigan law enforcement initiatives are funded in the bill, including \$571 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office, an increase of \$98 million from current funding. Within the COPS office, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program received \$20 million (a \$9.6 million reduction from FY2006), the "Methamphetamine Hot Spots" program was provided \$99 million (\$36 million over current funding), and Law Enforcement Technology programs received \$100 million (\$38 million below current.) The bill also included \$558 million, \$50 million less than comparable FY2006 funding, for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne-JAG) Program, which supports anti-drug task forces and other law enforcement efforts.

The House began consideration of the DOJ funding bill on June 27th and was in the process of debating proposed amendments as this article was being finalized. At press time, the House had approved \$77 million in additional funding for the Byrne-JAG program, \$25 million additional for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), and \$12 million in more for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. This added funding raises all of these programs over the levels provided for FY2006. Additional amendments increasing amounts for COPS programs and Byrne-JAG were also expected to be offered. These increases are significant winds for Michigan and all local law enforcement.

On June 6th, the House approved the bill funding the Department of Homeland Security for FY2007 (H.R. 5441). The bill includes \$3.4 billion in total funding for state and local first-responders, a minor increase from the amount provided in FY2006. Funding in the bill for "state and local programs" including the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHS-GP), urban area and transit security, and firefighter grant programs, was increased by \$48 million to \$2.5

billion. The draft of the Senate appropriations bill approved by subcommittee on June 27th includes a slightly lower amount of first-responder funding. Amendments providing additional funding may be offered during the markup hearing before the full Appropriations Committee and debate on the floor of the Senate, likely to occur in July or September.

Several sources have indicated that most of the FY2007 appropriations bills will likely not be passed before September 30th, the end of the current fiscal year. Congress is expected to not be in session for most of October to allow members time to campaign prior to the elections on November 7th. Congressional leadership has indicated that work on appropriations and other issues may continue until late in December.

As the Second session of the 109th Congress moves forward, POAM will continue to work fervently with Congress on behalf of Michigan's law enforcement officers. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me in Washington, DC at (202) 544-9840. □



Dennis McGrann

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Signed and Sealed

Agreements gain vital benefits for POAM members

Summaries and highlights of recently completed local contract negotiations and 312 arbitrations



Negotiated Burton Command

Duration: 7/1/2004 – 6/30/2008

Wage Increases:

1st year	2.5%
2nd year	2.5%
3rd year	2.5%
4th year	2.5%

- BC/BS PPO2 with 15/30 drug rider.
- SVS optical plus a \$100 voucher for non covered items.
- Tuition reimbursement up to \$1500 annually per individual.
- \$1.10 per hour premium for detective assignment.

Bargaining team consisted of Todd Sorensen, Tom Osterholzer and Tom Needham who were assisted by POAM Business Agent Jim Tignanelli.

Negotiated St. Joseph County 911

Duration: 1/1/2005 – 12/31/2008

Wage Increases:

2005	1.5%
2006	1.5%
2007	2%
2008	2%

Bringing top wage to \$18.50 per hour

- Increase in disability insurance weekly benefit to \$500 in 2006 and \$600 in 2008.
- Jury duty paid for all days including Federal Court.
- Pension multiplier increased from 1.8% to 2%.
- Health care premiums share increased to 7% in 2005, 10% in 2006 and 12% in 2007.
- Drug rider is 10/40 and wellness coverage increased to \$500 per year.

Bargaining team consisted of Lois Devlon who was assisted by POAM Business Agent Tom Griffin.

Negotiated Newaygo County 911

Duration: 1/1/2006 – 12/31/2008

Wage Increases:

1st year	1%
2nd year	2%
3rd year	3%

- Time and one half for all holidays worked on a holiday instead of 8 hours (currently work 12 hour shifts).
- Additional bereavement time.
- No change in health care coverage and no employee contribution.

Bargaining team consisted of Phil Smalligan who was assisted by POAM Business Agent Jim DeVries.

Negotiated Leelanau County COA Correction and Road Patrol

Duration: 1/1/2005 – 12/31/2007

Wage Increases:

2005	Corrections top pay to \$44,836; Road Patrol top pay to \$47,144
2006	Increase based on CPI but not less than 2% or more than 3.5%
2007	Increase based on CPI but not less than 2% or more than 3.5%

- Added two additional vacation days after 15 years.
- Short term disability at 60% for 26 weeks.
- Long term disability at 60% for five years.
- Increased payoff of annual unused sick leave each year of the contract.
- Health care is PPO1 with a 10/20 drug card. Employee premium sharing between \$5.00 - \$65.00 per month.
- Employer will now pay 10% of retirees' premium.
- Employer will now pay up to \$5,000 of funeral expense for in line of duty death.

Road Patrol negotiating team consisted of Jerry Rousch and James Kimmel; Corrections negotiating team consisted of William White and both groups were assisted by POAM Business Agent Pat Spidell.

Act 312 Award Huron County DSA

Duration: 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2009

Wage Increases:

2005	\$300 signing bonus
2006	1.5%
2007	2%
2008	1.75%
2009	1.75%

- BC/BS Community Blue PPO premium paid entirely by the County with employees able to choose the following: Plan 2 10/40 drug rider or Plan 3 with 10/20 drug rider.
- \$400 per month to opt out of health care coverage.

Arbitrator was Tom Barnes.

Bargaining team consisted of Jeff Wiechert and Ward Carter who were assisted by POAM Business Agent Jim Tignanelli.

Negotiated Marshall Command

Duration: 7/1/2005 – 6/30/2008

Wage Increases:

1st year	3.25%
2nd year	3.25%
3rd year	3.25% Bringing top wage to \$51,615

- Increase compensatory bank to 48 hours.
- Health care opt out increased to \$125 per month (single), \$200 (two person) and \$250 (family).
- Increase optical allowance from \$250 to \$300 annually.
- Pension multiplier increased from 2.5% to 3% (employee pays 5.71%).
- Health care cost for employees increased to 10% of annual premium beginning 7/1/06.
- Continued health care coverage for dependants after age 19 changed from 50% of premium to 100% after 2/1/08.

Bargaining team consisted of Rebecca Ivey who was assisted by POAM Business Agent Tom Griffin.

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**P.O.'s
of the
YEAR**

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**POAM
Wins Big
in Court of
Appeals**

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PURCHASING or REFINANCING

To my colleagues in law enforcement, my name is Joe Bunting and I am a police officer in Michigan. I am assisting my wife, Jennifer, an FIMC Loan Representative, to educate my fellow officers and their families and friends on how to purchase a mortgage without paying all the extra and unnecessary fees. Whether you are going through FIMC or not, allow FIMC to educate you on the correct fees to pay before you commit to a mortgage. The FIMC philosophy is to educate clients on every aspect of the mortgage process.

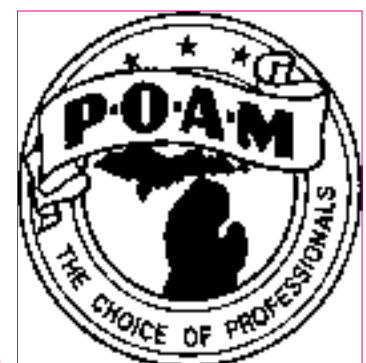
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