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CODE THREE

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

SPRING 2022

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Another memorable Police Officer's Ball culminates with
unprecedented Officer of the Year recognition



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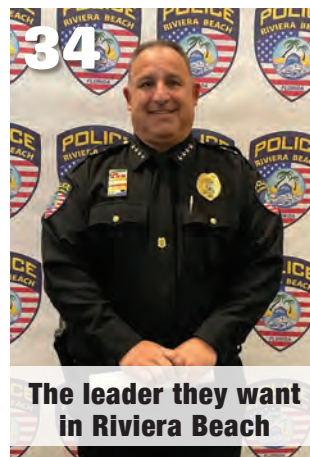
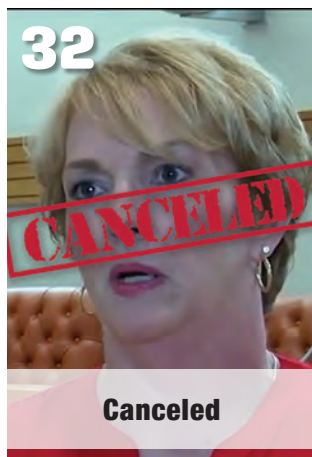


All The Best

The 14th Annual PBCPBA Police Officer's Ball culminated with honoring members as the 2021 Officers of the Year and runners-up. Boynton Beach Sergeant Evan Esteves and Officer Jessi Festa (above) were recognized for their life-saving response to a domestic incident. This year's awards also included a salute to an officer working to help the homeless, as well as a K-9 officer and his partner capturing a murder suspect who had fled the scene of the crime.

Full coverage of the Police Officer's Ball and Officer of the Year award winners begins on page 18

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a Ball, and then some



JOHN
KAZANJIAN
PBCPBA
PRESIDENT

We had more than 500 people attend our Police Officer's Ball in March at Trump National. The most we've ever had. We even had to turn some people away.

And the next morning – I mean I'm talking just a few hours of sleep later – we had a full load at the golf outing. We filled every foursome for the Kaitlin A Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament.

The money we have raised from these events over the years has fueled our scholarship fund, which has reached more than \$5 million and counting in what we've been able to give out to children of members pursuing higher education.

Sometimes you think, "When is it going to end? When will the support run out?"

It never does.

This is the 19th anniversary of the golf tournament, and we have no intention of stopping any time soon. We look back at that phenomenal weekend, and we are so fortunate to have had such success. There are many people to thank, and too many people to thank.

I'm just so happy it keeps going and going. I hope it never ends.

We've never done the back-to-back with the Ball on a Sunday and the golf tournament on a Monday. But even with that, it was a total success for both.

People supported us. We raised a lot of money. We had a great time. The awards went well. We had Larry Johnson's Essence of Motown perform at the Ball, and they were a hit.

And we accomplished what we came for: to recognize the members who go above and beyond every year. They need to get recognized. And you know what, that's a staple in our organization, that we want to pick the people out who have gone above and beyond and recognize them in front of the whole community.

This year, it was harder than ever to pick out one response to honor as Officer of the Year. We had officers breaking down doors to save victims and pursuits and chases as well. Nobody does it better than PBCPBA members. But it's the social work too, that we do, like our member from Boynton Beach we recognized who helped out all the homeless people.

Our members really cover the whole spectrum of what law

enforcement is supposed to do. And whether you're doing it in corrections or even as a civilian, we try and recognize that.

We already have the dates locked down for next year. The golf tournament will be Feb. 13. Then on April 22, we're going to do the Police Officer's Ball. And we will bring back the clambake the night before the Ball. We're going to do Trump National again for the Ball and the golf tournament.

With the Ball and golf outing behind us, we now turn our attention to elections. We have started our screening to endorse candidates running for state and federal offices in the August primary.

We're taking a different route with the politicians. If they don't speak on our behalf, we'll go with their opponents. And that's what we've decided to do with the school board and some county races and also some state races.

There are some politicians out there who were very vocal about not supporting us. They wanted to defund us and take our qualified immunity. Except for a couple of Republicans who came to our aid, not one person called me. I reached out to a few of them, and I heard crickets.

That's the way the wind was blowing, and they didn't want to get caught up in it. Because they thought if they got caught up supporting police, they wouldn't get reelected. And listen, I know who those people are, and they're not going to get our endorsement.

You've to be careful of the career politicians. Some of them will say the right words. However, depending on the environment or which way the wind's blowing, they'll turn on you in a minute. But there's some that have your back, and they'll always have your back.

That's why our members have to be active in local politics. They need to know who supports them, and they need to let us know. If you don't get active in local politics, and if you don't take a stand against some of these politicians out who don't support you, you're not going to get anywhere, especially with your career.

But we're not going to let that happen, and that's why we're taking the route we're taking with our endorsements.

As always, stay safe.

Kaz

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Several of our members have incorrect information on file with the PBA office. Please check with your fellow officers to see if they receive the magazine and if not, please email angela@pbcpcb.org to update your information.



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Collective bargaining 101



KATIE
MENDOZA

Collective bargaining for employee benefits can be a short or long process, depending on the employer involved and the different information that may arise during the process. No matter where you are negotiating, below are some helpful tips to keep in mind.

What does it mean to bargain in good faith?

Employers have a continuing duty to bargain in good faith with employee organizations like the PBA. The employing agency must negotiate its bargaining unit members' wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment (often called "mandatory subjects of bargaining") with the PBA. After an agreement is reached, the terms are set forth in a contract called a collective bargaining agreement (CBA), which must be ratified by the bargaining unit and legislative body.

During these negotiations, the employer should keep the status quo of all such mandatory subjects of bargaining. Absent a very clear waiver, the employer should always give notice to the PBA if mandatory subjects of bargaining may be changed or affected by management decisions. A unilateral change in a condition of employment under negotiation is a violation of the duty to bargain in good faith and may constitute an unfair labor practice (see section 447.501, Florida Statutes).

When do you bargain?

CBAs often expire every three years. Some contracts do include "re-openers" where certain topics (most often wages) are negotiated every year. The employer and the PBA begin to bargain for a successor agreement before the CBA's expiration date. If bargaining continues past the prior agreement's expiration date, that expired agreement still should govern until a new agreement is reached (the "status quo" must be maintained). Again, unilateral changes or alterations to material terms of the expired CBA would be prohibited.

At any time during or after bargaining of the full CBA, if a public employer implements a policy according to its management rights that affects the bargaining unit members' terms and conditions of employment, then the employer should provide notice to the union of such proposed change. The PBA then can identify how that change "impacts" the bargaining unit and can request "impact bargaining." Absent a clear and unmistakable waiver, the parties must meet to negotiate the proposed modifications. Even with cases involving financial urgency, unilateral changes to the CBA are permitted only after the parties have completed impasse resolution proceedings.

Who can come to bargaining sessions?

The public employer and the bargaining agent may choose the members of their bargaining teams. A party cannot refuse to bargain simply because it does not like someone on the other side's team. Bargaining sessions should be open to the public (they are subject to the Sunshine Law) and are often recorded, but members of the public may not be allowed to give public comment and should not disrupt the meetings.

Some "hiccups" that may arise

Sometimes, one or both sides may request or desire an actuarial report (such as with pension studies) or a budget analysis (in response to constraints claimed by the employer). These processes may temporarily prolong the bargaining process, but they may ensure transparency and/or a full understanding of the fiscal climate. Also, the municipality or employer's bargaining team may desire a "shade meeting" with its attorney or commission.

What happens if you can't reach an agreement?

When a public employer and the bargaining agent have reached a deadlock on one or more mandatory subjects to be included in the CBA, they may reach an "impasse" (which can be declared by either party). The duty to negotiate in good faith does not end after the declaration of an impasse, and the parties can meet again to bargain.

After declaration of an impasse, the parties can ask for the appointment of a mediator to help resolve their disagreements. Alternatively, a special magistrate can be appointed to settle the issues, but the magistrate's decision is only recommended. The parties may waive the appointment of a special magistrate. In such cases, the parties will proceed directly to the subject legislative body, which decides the issues.

Bargaining always differs based on the membership's priorities and the specific circumstances at play. No matter what, preparation and open communication facilitate the process, and we are here to answer any questions or concerns that may arise.

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Petitions for bargaining unit representation (Part 1)



LARRY
FAGAN
TEN THIRTY
THREE

I have been asked periodically what is the process by which PBA can represent a bargaining Unit. There is a legal process by which the PBA can become your bargaining agent to negotiate your collective bargaining agreement.

First, "showing of interest cards" need to be signed by each member of the proposed bargaining unit:

According to the Florida Administrative Code, 60CC-1.001, Showing of Interest:

1. A "showing of interest" shall consist of original statements in the form of petitions or individual signature cards. Such statements shall be signed and personally dated by the employees and must expressly authorize the petitioning employee organization to represent such employees for the purpose of collective bargaining or shall state that the employees no longer desire to be represented by the certified bargaining agent. The term "signed" as used herein includes any symbol executed or adopted by an employee with present intention to authenticate; provided, however, that statements signed with an "x" must be witnessed.

2. The signed statements shall be filed with the Commission only and will not be returned after filing. The sufficiency of the offered showing of interest shall be determined administratively. (see Fla. Admin. Code)

The "Commission" here is the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC), the governing body in Florida for public employees' collective bargaining (bargaining with your agencies for the terms and conditions of your employment).

These "showing of interest cards" will need to be attached to a "Petition for Representation" that PBA will draft and file with PERC. The timing to file a representation petition with PERC is important.

ant. That is, PERC will need to evaluate who (what ranks) will be in the bargaining unit, together, separately, or not at all, according to whether the agency (employer) objects to our request.

Some factors that PERC will use to determine the appropriateness of bargaining units are pursuant to the Florida Administrative Code and can be found in 60CC-1.002, Additional Unit Appropriateness Factors:

In addition to the specific unit appropriateness factors set forth in Section 447.307(4), Florida Statutes, the Commission may also consider the following factors when defining an appropriate bargaining unit:

1. the fragmentation of bargaining units;
2. the possible conflict of interest between employees in the proposed unit; and
3. the reasonable expectancy of continued employment of employees in the proposed unit.

(see Fla. Admin. CODE).

The ultimate goal is to appropriately separate management interests from labor interests and separate the ranks accordingly — without legal conflict.

Regarding points 1 and 3 above, PERC considers whether the ranks have participated in bargaining before, whether they share confidential information with management, and whether the desired rank has disciplined and/or evaluated their subordinates in the past, in properly separating ranks for appropriate bargaining unit placement. This all gets determined by a hearing, and then an order by the hearing officer is sent to PERC for ratification. It then will be sent to the PERC Elections Division if we prevail.

In the next issue, we will examine the PERC elections process and what the term "formation" means to a bargaining unit.

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Lou PenqueX
Kevin Igo.....X
Greg AllenX
Larry FaganX
Brennan KeelerX
Katie MendozaX

Boynton Beach

Cory Herny.....EXCUSED
Rayner DeLosRios.....X
Jermaine JonesX
Gladys CannonX
Brian McDeavitt, Appt'd AltX
Mark Sohn, Appt'd Alt.....X
Nasim Davis, Appt'dX
Aramis Grigorian, Appt'dX
Patrick Malley, Appt'd.....ABSENT

Delray Beach

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Edward McCabe.....EXCUSED
Vincent GrayX
Aaron SiegelX
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FAU

William HernandezX
Miguel Cardona, Alt.....EXCUSED

Gulf Stream

Randall WilsonX

Highland Beach

Jeffrey Miller, Appt'dEXCUSED
Jeff Kaplan, Interim Appt'dABSENT

Juno Beach

John Kenny, Appt'dX

Jupiter

Scott KimbarkEXCUSED
Jonathan Gentile.....X
Salvatore MattinoABSENT
Paul Gundlach, Alt.....X
Jason Alexandre, Alt.....X

Jupiter Island

Matthew Potsko, Appt'dEXCUSED

Lake Clarke Shores

Antonio Gerena.....X
Michael Zarzycki, Appt'd AltX

Lantana

Shawn JohnsonX
Troy Schaaf, Alt.X
Linda Mikkelson, Appt'dX

Manalapan

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Christopher Alvarado, Appt'd Alt.....X

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Alexander LopezEXCUSED
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Marlow "Butch" AltonenX
Kevin LinardosX
William Gale, Alt.EXCUSED
John Kazanjian, II, Alt.....ABSENT
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Cory Gray, Appt'd.....X
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Anthony Johnson, Appt'dX
Matt DeJoy, Appt'dX
Chris Caris, Appt'dEXCUSED
Ryan Mugridge, Appt'dX
Jason LaForte, Appt'd.....X
Adolf Alexandre, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
Gary Chan, Appt'd.....X
Jackie Garrett, Appt'd.....X
Nathaniel Krause, Appt'dX
Cesar Tejada, Appt'dX

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Heriberto AvilesX
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Tequesta McKinney James, Appt'd Alt...X
Kayai Graham, Appt'd.....X
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Sean Grant, Appt'd Alt.ABSENT
John Gee, Appt'dX
Kristopher Kubiak, Appt'd.....X

Riviera Beach

Jeremy Summers.....X
Nir Mordechay.....X
Michael Brown.....X
Kenneth Jones, Alt.X

Stuart

David Duran, Appt'd.....X
Christopher Ruediger,
Appt'd Alt.....EXCUSED

Tequesta

Raymond Korkowski.....X
Matthew Muniz, Alt.X

West Palm Beach

Dennis Hardiman.....EXCUSED
Michael Ferrera.....X
Charles BranchX
James LouisABSENT
Christopher NebbelingX
John Rebholz, Alt.X

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Welcome, New PBCPBA Members

FEBRUARY 2022

NAME	AGENCY
JACQUELINE MONTERREY	DELRAY BEACH
JOSE GARCIA JR.	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RONNELL ROSS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MARCH 2022

NAME	AGENCY
ALEXIS ANDERSON	BOYNTON BEACH
LUIS BETANCOURT	BOYNTON BEACH
BAILEY BLOOM	BOYNTON BEACH
SAMANTHA BURKE	BOYNTON BEACH
THOMAS COPPINI	BOYNTON BEACH
OMAR DUBE	BOYNTON BEACH
CHERYL FOLEY	JUPITER ISLAND
CHRISTINA HATTER	JUPITER ISLAND
JENNIFER WILSON	JUPITER ISLAND
DIBIN GEORGE	MANALAPAN
EDDY ETIENNE	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEREMY TOUSSAINT	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PAUL BROWN	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PATRICK GAINES	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
GABRIO BADOLATI	PALM BEACH
SUSAN CUTRONI	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOAN DUNN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ELIZABETH ORTEGA	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MICHAEL RE	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARISA SAN ANTONIO	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
KATHERINE VIERA	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARGARITA ZAMBRANO	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANGELZCA ADAMS	PALM BEACH GARDENS
CHARLES DOWERS JR.	RIVIERA BEACH

APRIL 2022

NAME	AGENCY
TIFFANY LOWER	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
VICTOR SANCHEZ	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COURTNEY ST. HILAIRE	OCEAN RIDGE
ASHLEIGH STEINWEG	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
ANTHONY BARRERAS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WESLEY BRADY	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CHRISTINA DOOPAN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DYES TERVIL	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
STACEY WALLACE	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BIANCA WILLIAMS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRYAN FIELDS	PALM BEACH GARDENS
GREGORY RIDEAU	WEST PALM BEACH

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News from your reps

Reports from Palm Beach County and Martin County units

Boynton Beach member gets a big lift from LEAF

On April 22, Boynton Beach reps Cory Herny and Brian McDeavitt accompanied member Nate Winland to the Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation (LEAF) fundraising golf tournament at Trump National in Jupiter to express their thanks. Winland was the recipient of a donation from LEAF, a nonprofit organization in Palm Beach County that provides financial assistance to law enforcement officers seriously injured in the line of duty or who have suffered a catastrophic event.

On Thanksgiving night in 2021, Officer Winland responded to a disturbance at Duffy's Sports Bar. The suspect had left the scene already when Winland arrived. He located the suspect and proceeded to arrest him. The suspect resisted, and the ensuing scuffle spilled out into the roadway.

Officer Winland was able to get the handcuffs on the suspect after a brief struggle. During that struggle, his body cam had fallen off. He reached down to grab his body cam, and for some reason an oncoming car didn't see them in the road.

The car hit them at approximately 40 miles per hour. They both almost went through the windshield, and the impact snapped Officer Winland's arm completely in half. He also broke his back and suffered other fractures.

A few weeks later, Herny reached out to LEAF and explained the story.

"They basically gave him a check without any hesitation," Herny shared. "He was in a tough place at that time, and it brought him out of that hole during his recovery. When I presented him with a check, he was in tears because he needed the support at that moment."

LEAF Executive Director Kellie Nehrenz invited Winland, Herny and McDeavitt to the annual golf tournament so they could express their thanks. Herny offered an explanation of what happened, and then Winland expressed how grateful he is for the support.

"For them to be able to help him made the world of a difference," Herny added. "He's continuously grateful, and he expressed that to the room when he spoke."

Winland is still out recovering. He is dealing with nerve damage that is keeping him from making a completely closed fist. He is doing better, but the recovery will be a lengthy process.

LEAF is still with Winland as he recovers. According to Herny, Nehrenz continues to check on Winland.

"Kellie is amazing. She still texts to ask, 'Hey, how's he doing?'"



From left, Boynton Beach Rep Cory Herny, LEAF Executive Director Kellie Nehrenz, Boynton Beach Officer Nate Winland, Winland's partner, Kissimmee PD Sergeant Lisette Mercado and Boynton Beach Rep Brian McDeavitt at the LEAF golf outing.

Henry continued. "She checks in to make sure we are all OK and if there is anything more we need. They really are amazing."

Martin County Sheriff's Office gearing up for contract negotiation

Submitted by Kenneth "Tater" Youngblood

Everything seems to be status quo in Martin County. We have definitely seen the turnaround from all the COVID restrictions, and things are getting back to normal with everyone's social lives.

Our current contract ends on Sept. 30, and we are hoping for a smooth negotiation on our next contract. We had our first negotiation meeting on March 24, and we are now waiting for a response.

All of our members are definitely feeling the strain of the high inflation throughout the country. Martin County has a tremendous amount of new construction going on, including apartment housing, new residential homes, new commercial buildings, several new restaurants and several new assisted living.

With all the new growth, our members have noticed an uptick in calls for service and have been professional as always in dealing with the added workload.

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MEMBER INFO UPDATE



PBA WEBSITE



PBA APP

Candidates understand the power of the PBA vote

The first wave of political candidates visited the Palm Beach County PBA in April to seek endorsements for the Aug. 23 primary election. They made it a point to get in early because they have seen how valuable a nod from the PBA can be.

"The PBA is a brand," PBCPBA President John Kazanjian stated with regard to the union's endorsement perspective. "It's a special brand where people respect us. And people listen to us, who we support. We can take out a candidate in an election. We've done it before."

Those who have come in for screenings with the PBA committee and earned the endorsement already have proven to be unconditional supporters of law enforcement. That's especially significant with Palm Beach County School Board candidates Jeff Browning and Edwin Ferguson.

The PBA believes there is a lot of work to be done with the School Board Police, whose members have a starting pay of

nearly \$10,000 less than the sheriff's office. And with the 1 percent salary increase members have been offered, the PBA has its sights set on getting candidates elected who will treat members fairly. Enter Browning and Ferguson.

There has been considerable success with the Palm Beach County Commission, and the endorsement of Michelle McGovern will add to that. Likewise with the endorsements of Dr. Saulis Banionis and Andy Thompson for state representative.

"Ever since I've taken over here, I have learned that the only way to get anything done is through politics," Kaz added. "If you don't get active in politics, and I know our members have heard it before, you're going to be at their whim. Then you're begging for raises or better benefits, and it's all up to them. That's why you've got to scare them and say, 'Hey, we are a group, and we can help you get elected.'"

Palm Beach County PBA Political Endorsements

Here are candidates endorsed for the Aug. 23 Primary Election

Name	Office	Location
Saulis Banionis	State Representative	District 86/93
Jeff Browning	Palm Beach County School Board	District 6
Edwin Ferguson	Palm Beach County School Board	District 7
Andy Thompson	State Representative	District 91
Michelle McGovern	Palm Beach County Commission	District 6



Andy Thompson (standing) is a candidate for state representative in District 91.



Edwin Ferguson, center, is a candidate for Palm Beach County School District 7.



Jeff Browning, center, is a candidate for Palm Beach County School District 6.



Michelle McGovern (at head of table) is a candidate for Palm Beach County Commission District 6.



Dr. Saulis Banionis, center, is a candidate for state representative in District 86/93.

Getting out the vote in Municipal Elections

Members put their boots on the ground to get out the vote for PBCPBA-endorsed candidates in the March 8 municipal elections. Here is a look at how their efforts helped some of the winners.



Angela Cruz elected Boynton Beach City Commissioner in District 1.



Ty Penserga elected Boynton Beach Mayor.



John McGovern elected to Wellington Village Council.



Tanya Siskind elected to Wellington Village Council.



Judy Dugo elected to City of Greenacres City Council District III.

DROP In

Pro-law-enforcement session culminates with extension of deferred retirement program

One of the most pro-law-enforcement legislative sessions in recent memory ended with what PBA members certainly will consider much more than a drop in the bucket.

At the top of the list of legislation the Florida House and Senate created to benefit police and corrections was the legislature passing a bill to extend Florida's Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) from five years to eight. On July 1, members in DROP and those who enter DROP after that have the ability to extend from five years to eight years. Members currently in DROP will have to write a letter and request permission through their employer to extend for that 36 months.

Anybody else entering DROP after July 1 can request the full eight years. And then that provision will last until July 1, 2028, when the extension expires. But there figures to be ample opportunity over the next six years to continue that expansion and probably add other classes of special risk into the DROP.

"The eight-year DROP was one of the highlights of the session," Florida PBA Executive Director Matt Puckett commented. "Because of the shortage of law enforcement right now in this state across the board, the legislature thought that it could be a way to resolve the drain of veteran officers."

The session didn't see a single bill that could be considered hostile heard in a committee. Whispers of defunding or devaluing police and corrections officers have fallen on deaf ears. That seems to be the culmination of the PBA helping pro-law-enforcement legislators get elected.

"In the last two decades, it's probably one of the best sessions that law enforcement has had," Puckett declared. "You saw historic pay raises for state law enforcement and state corrections. It's hard to argue with the way this session turned out. It was very incredibly pro-law-enforcement."

And there are some very heartening explanations about why the session generated so much support for the police.

"You have a very pro-law-enforcement legislature and a very pro-law-enforcement cabinet," Puckett continued. "The handful of folks that don't support law enforcement are powerless. They were certainly powerless under this tenure of [Senate President] Wilton Simpson and [Speaker of the House] Chris Sprowls. None of the bad ideas got a hearing, got any consideration at all. Not even what we would call a mercy hearing. None of those things even existed. In the past two decades, it's probably one of the best sessions that law enforcement has had."

Beyond the eight-year DROP and pay increases, the session resulted in a constitutional amendment proposal that will create the homestead exemption of \$50,000 extended to law enforcement correctional officers.

And in case you missed it, here is some other news that came out of the 2022 session:

HB 689 expands on the time limitation for workers' compensation coverage of PTSD for first responders. Currently, an officer has 90 days from the date of the event or manifestation of the disorder (whichever is later) to provide the employer with a notice of injury or death. However, an officer will have 52 weeks

from the date of the event to file a workers' compensation claim.

The legislation provides that the time for notice of injury or death associated with a claim of PTSD is 90 days from the qualifying event that supports the claim or the diagnosis, rather than the manifestation, of the disorder (whichever is later). The bill also provides that the PTSD workers' compensation claim is prohibited if not properly noticed within one year of the qualifying event or the diagnosis of the disorder (whichever is later).

The legislation also adds correctional officers into Florida's first responders' PTSD workers' compensation coverage. The changes to the law will take effect on July 1.

And then there is HB 3, which creates the following:

- A Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program to provide one-time bonus payments to newly employed law enforcement officers in Florida.
- A Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to cover tuition, fees and up to \$1,000 of eligible education expenses for trainees enrolled in a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program.
- A reimbursement program to pay for up to \$1,000 of equivalency training costs for certified law enforcement officers who relocate to Florida or members of the special operations forces who become full-time law enforcement officers.
- Exemption for veterans and applicants with an associate degree or higher from taking the basic skills test as a prerequisite to entering a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program.
- Requiring that law enforcement officers receive training in health and wellness principles as part of their initial certification training and continued employment training.
- Allowing law enforcement officers or former law enforcement officers to receive postsecondary credit at Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for training and experience acquired while serving.
- Encouraging each district school board to establish public safety telecommunication training programs and law enforcement explorer programs in public schools; and
- Designating May 1 of each year as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

The session turned out to be a powerful statement about how support for law enforcement has not only come back in the post-Floyd era but is flourishing. It seems as though Florida legislators are rallying to protect the police.

"They did not want to put law enforcement in a situation where someone could bash them," Puckett submitted. "I never heard anybody talk about defunding at all. So that's a good thing. Even on the side of the political spectrum where defund came from, you didn't hear any of that talk. I think that issue in the state of Florida has been beaten down. I suspect we probably won't deal with that for a considerable time to come."

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On The Ball

This year's event is an amazing celebration of the PBA and its members



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY BILLY GRAY

The 14th annual Palm Beach County Police Officer's Ball had already reached a fever pitch after the PBSO Law Enforcement Honor Guard & Pipes and Drum Corps presented colors and performed an opening serenade. Then, Grace DeLoe, the cousin of a certain PBCPBA president, added to the festivities by sending up a rousing rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," as she has the past couple of Balls.

Another traditional part of the program features President John Kazanjian reporting how the Ball and other PBCPBA fundraising events offset the cost of higher education for members' children and provide aid to members and their families in the event of a catastrophe. Kaz has a knack for putting this devotion into proper perspective.

"We've been doing this charity since 2004, and we have raised close to \$5 million," Kaz submitted. "But listen, we've only got like \$300,000 in the bank because we give it all out."

This year, however, Kaz did not have to talk about the benefits the PBA has generated. He had the opportunity to show the nearly 500 people who attended this year's Ball on March 20 at Trump National in Jupiter.

During the pre-dinner cocktail hour, Kaz heard about how Florida Highway Patrol Officer Toni Schuck was battling extreme injuries suffered during a horrific crash on March 6. In a supreme heroic act, Schuck maneuvered her car to head



Grace DeLoe once again performed the National Anthem.

off a drunk driver that had veered around barricades and was heading for a mass of runners participating in the Armed Forces Skyway 10K Race on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

The driver smashed into Trooper Schuck's car. And the 26-year veteran was still in the hospital recovering.

As word spread, Kaz initiated a fundraising effort on the spot for the trooper. He quickly had \$2,500 pledged.

When Kaz announced to the crowd about what was transpiring, the fundraising took on a life of its own. Florida PBA Senior Vice President Mick McHale, who is also president of the National Association of Police Organizations, came to the podium to praise the donations and inspire more support.



The Combined Honor Guard & Pipes and Drums officially started the Ball.

Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw stepped up with a \$2,500 pledge. Leaders from other PBA chapters and chapters in Florida added contributions in denominations of \$500, \$1,000 and more. Soon there was enough support for Bill Smith, president of the Florida Highway Patrol PBA chapter, to bring a donation of thousands of dollars to Schuck.

And such support seemed to confirm the mission of the night.

"Tonight, we recognize the exceptional men and women who serve our communities and are part of this PBA family," Kaz related. "Everyone in this room is gathered to celebrate law enforcement at a time when the stakes couldn't be any higher."

Of course, the celebration culminated with the presentation of the PBCPBA Officer of the Year award and first, second and

third runners-up. Read all about those exceptional men and women beginning on 20 and continuing through page 25.

The celebration would not have been complete without a few choice comments from one of the PBA's best friends and most loyal supporters. Johnny Bench, the baseball Hall-of-Fame catcher, 14-time all-star and two-time National League MVP, provided a little warmup with another round of quips.

Like this one:

"I turned 74 in December. And at my birthday party, I asked a lady, 'Do I look 74?' And she said, 'No, but you used to.'"

Or this one:

"A lady woke up in a hospital bed. She looked down at the end of the bed and there was God. She asked, 'God, is it my time?' He said, 'No, no. You have another 30 years.' She felt so good when she got out of the hospital, she went to her plastic surgeon. She got everything done – her chest, her tummy tucked, her hair. She walked



A performance by Larry Johnson's Essence of Motown culminated the evening.

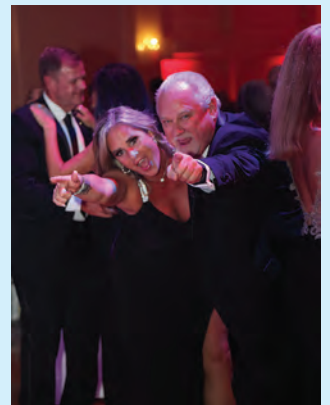
down the street, got hit by a cab and died. She got to Heaven, she said 'God, you said I would live the 30 years.' He said, 'I didn't recognize you.'"

As has been the case at the big PBCPBA events, there is always a surprise waiting.

This year, it was live entertainment from Larry Johnson's Essence of Motown. The group kept the fun going long into the night.

And it truly was, as Kaz had said, a night to celebrate.

Take me out to the Ball



Getting Home Safe

Boynton Beach officers receive heartfelt praise for their award-winning response that saved a woman's life — and their own

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Descriptions of the astounding above-and-beyond responses and acts of protecting and serving by members filled the ballroom at Trump National in Jupiter with oohs, ahhs and deafening cheers and applause. The reaction even drowned out master of ceremonies Allan Ortman as he presented the finalists for the Officer of the Year award at the 14th annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball on March 20.

OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Sergeant Evan Esteves

Officer Jessi Festa

Boynton Beach Police Department

A K-9 officer and his partner tracked down a suspect who had killed a woman and was hiding under a boat. ...

A nine-hour manhunt resulted in the apprehension

of a man suspected of attempted murder in Miami Beach...

An officer gave hope to so many members of the homeless community in his town with relentless service...

Above and beyond such actions, Boynton Beach Sergeant Evan Esteves and Officer Jessi Festa had no idea that their heroic response to a domestic violence call would measure up to all the superlative law enforcing being honored on this night. They had come to the Ball to celebrate the greatness of their profession in Palm Beach and Martin counties, and the details of all the responses seemed to envelop them in emotion.

"My heart felt like it was going to explode, just watching everybody, all the very competent responses that had happened," Esteves related. "I didn't know where our incident would land. But during it, I felt like my heart was going to pop out of my chest."

Call it a heart-stopping moment for Esteves and Festa when Ortman called their names as 2021 PBCPBA Officers of the Year. As they accepted the plaques and medals recognizing their achievement, the Boynton Beach duo represented how the excellence in law enforcement here continues to transcend the charts.

"I think we were all very excited," Festa declared. "Between my job and the people that I work with, and not only my own department but within the entire county, I just felt proud, you know. I work with a great group of people."

At approximately 10 p.m. on May 11, 2021, Esteves and Festa responded to a domestic disturbance in the Via Lugano Community Complex. A man had broken into his ex-girlfriend's apartment and was actively battering her.

Esteves was the sergeant supervising patrol that night and made the determination for Festa to handle the call. But hearing how it was coming out, he knew she might need some backup.

"I had a bad feeling about it," Esteves shared. "So I just de-



Boynton Beach Sergeant Evan Esteves and Officer Jessi Festa were honored as the 2021 PBCPBA Officers of the Year.

cided to go myself as well."

When they arrived, the girlfriend's sister, who had made the 911 call, informed the officers that the ex-boyfriend wouldn't allow her out of the house.

"So when we walked up the stairs, we hear the screaming and the crying from inside," Festa added. "And then as soon as I knocked on the door, the girlfriend ran out crying. And I could see that her clothes were torn, and she was screaming that he had a knife."

Actually, the man, later identified as 27-year-old Christian Castro of Clifton, New Jersey, was armed with a hammer and a knife. The victim had been able to break away and run outside.

The suspect followed.

Festa, who has been on with Boynton Beach for four years, said that they issued multiple commands to the suspect to drop the knife. He refused to drop the knife despite several additional warnings. The suspect then charged at both officers and the victim with the knife.

You can imagine what must have gone through the officers' minds in that split second.

"I'm not going to let him attack me. I'm not going to let him attack Officer Festa," revealed Esteves, who has been with Boynton for 10 years and served four years with PBSO before that.

Festa added, "At the end of the day, we're the ones that are going to go home to our families."

Esteves and Festa were forced to fire their weapons and end the threat. Their brave actions saved the victim's life.

Before becoming a sergeant, Esteves worked as a training officer. Festa was one of his trainees. They had drilled on incidents like this, which is why he was so confident in her ability to handle the response and ensure they would both get home safe.

"She's level-headed, she's able to deal with things, and she had it on lock when she went in," Esteves commented. "You know, when he came to attack us, we had to do what we had to do."

Festa said that Esteves' vast knowledge provided the lead that made this response successful. She noted that they were

in lockstep as they walked up the stairs, and that's what paid off in the long run.

And the incident has been career-changing for Festa.

"It makes me view my calls in a much different way, in a much different light," she explained. "I'm much more aware of certain things now that I wasn't before, as much. And I think that that just makes everybody, myself and other officers, safe."

Earning Officer of the Year recognition also showcased the exemplary policing taking place in Boynton Beach. Fellow member Brian Goldfuss was honored as first runner-up for Officer of the Year. Of the 12 Officer of the Month honors awarded in 2021, Boynton earned three. Only PBSO earned more.

But here's the type of response that seems to come naturally to this department. A few years ago, Esteves responded to a call with another trainee. A 91-year-old woman had her wallet stolen while shopping at Publix.

The trainee – Officer Janelle Jumelles – helped the woman pay for her groceries. Esteves added to that by purchasing a \$60 Publix gift card for the woman. Talk about a heroic response.

"It's a medium-sized department, but we're really focused on how we use our training," Esteves submitted. "And I think that's one of the reasons why me and Jessi were able to come out alive."

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illness**

Solid Goldfuss

Helping the homeless has been rewarding for Boynton Beach Officer Brian Goldfuss

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Boynton Beach Officer Brian Goldfuss was surprised to receive a plaque in the mail from the PBA that recognized his years of work with the homeless population. He never expected it.

Due to a family commitment, Goldfuss was unable to attend the 14th annual PBCPBA Police Officer's Ball on March 20, where he was recognized as the first runner-up for the 2021 Officer of the Year award. Nevertheless, his presence was felt, with the PBA recognizing Goldfuss in honor of the outstanding work members do in service to the community.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR FIRST RUNNER-UP

Officer Brian Goldfuss
Boynton Beach
Police Department

"Being recognized is not something I've looked for," Goldfuss related. "I do what I do within the community and the homeless outreach with the hope of an end result of actually changing somebody's life. I'm proud of the work that I do, and that I'll continue to do even probably beyond my law enforcement career."

Goldfuss is a vital member of the Boynton Beach PD homeless outreach team. He first became involved several years ago when he was asked to attend a homeless outreach training in Broward.

Although Goldfuss agreed so he could present important information to officers in his department, he was not prepared for the sight of homeless individuals living on the streets.

"When I went down to Broward, I was directly exposed to the homeless population down there and the outreach team and what they do," Goldfuss explained. "It definitely opened my eyes to how things have worked up here at our agency."

Since the training, Goldfuss has focused on gaining trust and being present



Brian Goldfuss with his daughter.

for the homeless population in the Boynton Beach community. So when he was later asked to work as a homeless liaison for road patrol, he readily agreed.

For the past three years, Goldfuss has advocated for homeless individuals to secure housing and has worked to build meaningful relationships, which sometimes take years to form. He has partnered with various outreach organizations and has seen significant success.

In January 2021, Goldfuss secured housing for Robert "Bo" Crafton, who was wheelchair-bound after being struck by a vehicle. Crafton now has his own apartment.

Goldfuss is currently working with a homeless individual with whom he has spent two years connecting, and he is hoping to secure housing for him soon.

Although it is an ongoing process, Goldfuss has seen firsthand how having a presence among the homeless population can make a difference.

"There are days where I'll pull up in my patrol car where they may be hanging out, and you can see the unsure look



In January 2021, Boynton Beach Officer Brian Goldfuss helped secure housing for Robert "Bo" Crafton, a homeless man who was in a car accident that left him paralyzed.

on their face," Goldfuss explained. "And then all of a sudden, they see me get out, and their face is changed. They smile, they're relieved or they're happy. That's probably one of the best things that I get to experience."

Goldfuss is a testament to the relationships that law enforcement officers can have in their communities. And he feels it is important to highlight this side of law enforcement that many people may not see.

"I'm not the only one that goes out there and serves the community in these ways," Goldfuss remarked. "I'm just one part of it. We're not just there to arrest people and write tickets. There's a deeper connection to the community that our law enforcement officers have."

Goldfuss is a huge advocate for more officers taking up this challenge.

"I think it's definitely a good community policing aspect," Goldfuss added. "I find that it's important to actually create a long-term fix to the issue. You're not only helping these people change their lives, but you're helping the community."

Valco's Valor

Murder suspect can't hide from Palm Beach Gardens K-9 officer and his partner

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Like a proud papa, Palm Beach Gardens K-9 Officer Brian Tiyaloglu held up his phone, showing video of his partner, Valco, tracking and finding a murder suspect. And forcing him to surrender.

Tiyaloglu and Valco had just been honored as second runner-up for PBCPBA 2021 Officer of the Year. Standing outside the ballroom at Trump National in Jupiter, Tiyaloglu wanted to give the credit where it was due.

Since that Sept. 11, 2020, day, Valco has retired. Valco now lives with Tiyaloglu and gets to play with his son most days. So this was an opportunity for Tiyaloglu to celebrate how Valco got his man.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR SECOND RUNNER-UP

Officer Brian Tiyaloglu and K-9 Valco
Palm Beach Gardens
Police Department

"That's the ultimate goal. This is what we train for," Tiyaloglu detailed. "We train every week. Scenarios that we would come upon on real life, and this was one of them. That's his end goal. His reward is apprehending that person."

On that day in 2020, Palm Beach Gardens officers were dispatched to an armed robbery with reports of shots fired at the Chevron gas station on Florida Boulevard and Alternate A1A. A woman who had stopped on her way home from work to grab a drink had been hit. Fire rescue responded, but the innocent bystander did not survive.

With the help of PBSO and Jupiter SWAT, Palm Beach Gardens SWAT discovered that the suspects had run toward a nearby residence. One of the suspects fled the residence and hid at a neighboring property under a boat. PBSO discovered that the suspect had thrown a handgun on top of the roof.

As part of Palm Beach Gardens SWAT, Tiyaloglu and Valco were dispatched to start tracking. When a suspect flees on foot, SWAT dogs like Valco become the best asset in pursuit.

"We knew where the endpoint was and



From left, PBCPBA President John Kazanjian, Palm Beach Gardens K-9 Officer Brian Tiyaloglu, PBCPBA Sergeant-at-Arms Greg Allen, a Palm Beach Gardens member, and PBCPBA Vice President Rick McAfee.

where he was last seen," Tiyaloglu recalled. "I know his cues. He was ready to go. He was ready to work, and he always was. He was able to let me know where that person was."

Tiyaloglu, who worked patrol for his first two years on before becoming a K-9 officer nearly six years ago, scrolled to his video of Valco responding. If you didn't know better viewing the footage, you would swear it was set to fast forward. The dog made a beeline toward the johnboat — a small motorboat — that the suspect had been hiding under.

"I gave him commands to come out or my dog would be released," Tiyaloglu continued. "He didn't listen. We gave him multiple commands, and he didn't want to come out."

It could have escalated into a much more dangerous situation had Valco not been there.

"Your adrenaline is pumping at the time," Tiyaloglu added. "You're thinking, 'Does this person have a firearm?' You're going in there, and you want to make the community safer. Ultimately, that's what the goal is, especially with a dog. We're able to use him, and everyone was safe and happy."

The biggest reward for Tiyaloglu was bringing closure for a family that lost



a loved one on this day. In a year of so many superlative responses earning PBCPBA recognition, Tiyaloglu and Valco easily could have been worthy of Officer of the Year recognition.

"Just to be honored as a finalist is enough for me," he confirmed. "This incident hit the community hard. I was so glad for the family to get that apprehension and be able to locate that person for them."

Valco's reward is now living life as a retiree. Although he is still in service to some degree.

"He has a new job now, which he loves," Tiyaloglu commented. "Protecting my wife and son."

Dogged Determination

PBSO K-9 officers follow the trail to corner attempted murder suspects

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

Standing together on the patio at Trump National at Jupiter more than an hour after the PBCPBA Police Officer's Ball had reached its pinnacle, PBSO Corporal Pete Tapia and Deputy Ryan Soriano finally had a moment to enjoy what they had accomplished in October 2021. Or perhaps it was a moment to recognize how one K-9 officer who helped train and mentor another K-9 officer combined to sniff out a couple of bad guys on the run.

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR
THIRD RUNNERS-UP**
Deputy Sheriff Ryan Soriano
Corporal Pete Tapia
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Tapia and Soriano exemplified intuition, patience and teamwork over the course of nine hours in October, when the pair keyed on a vehicle that eventually

led to the capture of two men suspected of attempted murder.

It started when Tapia, a 25-year veteran who has been a K-9 officer for 19 years, got a hit on his license plate reader for a vehicle associated with a felony. He immediately dug in to learn more.

"I noticed the registered owner was wanted for an attempted murder in Miami, and the warrant had literally been put in the night before," Tapia recalled.

Tapia started making calls to his captain, the PBSO TAC unit and the U.S. Marshals as he tried to track down the vehicle. A source helped identify where the vehicle might be located, and a solid lead developed that the suspect worked in Riviera Beach. Additional intel revealed that another employee there was also wanted in the shooting.

"I was obviously determined to find this car and find this guy," Tapia said.

By chance, Tapia, who was part of a team that earned 2009 Officer the Year honors, crossed paths with Soriano and asked for help tracking down the shooting suspects.

"No questions asked ... I'm in," said Soriano of his willingness to assist Tapia.

Based on the suspects' photos and information that they were in a white company van, the officers had a general idea of where to look. Soriano spotted a van and a man he believed matched their information, but he wasn't immediately sure.

"I happened to be driving. I look over [and] see this guy eye-balling me. I look at him, and right away, he looks away," explained Soriano, who has spent five of his nine years with PBSO as a K-9 officer. "I got lucky, because Pete drives right past this guy [and] says, 'Yeah, without a doubt. That's him.'"

With one suspect identified, they made the call to pull the van over. Neither man hesitated with the decision.

"We're confident in each other," Soriano confirmed. "We're going to go ahead and take the car."

After initially trying to flee, the suspect drove his vehicle onto a street that hit a dead end. Soriano and Tapia prevented any



PBSO Corporal Pete Tapia, left, and Deputy Ryan Soriano are honored as Officer of the Year third runners-up.

way out.

The driver, identified as the initial shooting suspect, was arrested without incident. The passenger started off uncooperative, which had Tapia and Soriano ready to deploy their dogs. Just the sight of the K-9s led the man to surrender, which is when he was confirmed as the other shooting suspect.

"We introduced [Soriano's dog] Retu, and then he says, 'OK, I'm out of this game,'" Soriano explained.

Although Soriano and Tapia were the ones receiving the honor as Officer of the Year third runners-up, they both pointed to the bigger effort — the time and people who made the case a success.

"It was all teamwork, but it took nine and a half hours from start to finish," Tapia noted. "I was pushing it because I'm relentless. These guys cannot be out there, especially in our county. I despise criminals. There was just no way I was going to give up until they were in custody."

Tapia's leadership in the moment and overall career support earned Soriano's praise.

"Pete put me in such a good career direction as far as being a deputy and a K-9 handler, so when he says, 'I need your help,' I don't even question it, I'm in," Soriano explained. "He's done a lot of great work. When I came out of school, Pete was my mentor, and here I am, still with him all these years later."



Fore the Love

Members and friends of the PBCPBA celebrate the tradition that attracts them to the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Scholarship Golf Tournament

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY BILLY GRAY

Watching the convoy of carts pass the banner of the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Scholarship Golf Tournament provided cause to smile. The same smile, perhaps, that Kaitlin wears on that banner.

On this always-emotional day, the 2022 golf and fundraising extravaganza certainly began with a feel-good moment. The 144 friends – brothers and sisters, really – who were there at Trump National Golf Club to play in the 19th annual edition on March 21 had come to perpetuate a tradition unlike any other.

So many friends keep coming back year after year. So many have been coming since the first one 19 years ago. So many of them have the passion like Greg Key.

Key went through the academy with John Kazanjian. He saw Kaz go through the tragic loss of Kaitlin, and he wants to support that legacy of doing something to always remember her.

“The tradition is the love that every single golfer that’s been coming here for 19 years has for Kaz and his family,” declared Key, who was on the job in West Palm Beach for 30-plus years and retired in 2016. “It’s a beautiful day. We’re

amongst friends, people I have known for 30 years or better, and it’s just an awesome opportunity to show commitment to the man and his family.”

The tradition extends far and wide. It attracts friends like Al Kivi, who came from Fairfax, Virginia to play this year. Kivi knew PBCPBA Vice President Rick McAfee when they were in the Marine Corps together. Kivi was the best man at Mac’s wedding.



Mac had been asking Kivi to come for many years. Sure, life sometimes gets in the way. But Kivi had no idea what he was missing.

“Oh my God, it’s wonderful,” he complimented. “Seeing everything is fantastic. He can really be proud of all these

people.”

What you see out there on the course during the Scholarship Golf Tournament is nothing short of unforgettable. And it’s not just watching Kaz try and blast out of the bunker surrounding the green on the first hole.

You see the essence of the tradition that flows through friends like Gary Chapin, who is now retired after serving 33 years between the Greenacres Police Department and PBSO. There’s a reason he tries to come every year. Well, a few of them.

“Well, of course, it’s all about Kaz and his family and our leader in the PBA,” Chapin detailed. “And it’s like a reunion here, too. You get to see everybody you work with – the people you work with now, and the people you used to work with. That’s why I look forward to it every year.”

As far and wide as the PBA extends, the golf tournament has become a reunion for those members who don’t get to see each other throughout the rest of the year. Ironically, deputies, detectives and such from the sheriff’s office who don’t get to see each other on a regular basis because of where they work also come here to catch up.



The PBSO Honor Guard posts colors to start the day.



Florida PBA Senior Vice President Mick McHale eyes a putt, rolls it and then reacts after sinking it.

But the bonding, according to PBSO Detective Bob Creswell, is over raising money to help members' children pursue their higher education. Creswell indicated that the motivation to raise money also stems from the opportunity to give as much to Kaz as members feel he gives to them.

"You have to keep giving, you know," confirmed Creswell, who has been on for 30 years. "We get a lot, so we have to keep giving back. It helps us all out. It's not easy being out there as a law enforcement officer with some of things you see and do. So it helps us deal with a lot of the issues by giving back."

Giving large, not to mention his love for the PBA, has compelled retired Jupiter Police Officer Dave Schultz to become part of the tradition. He shared how he loves to follow which members' kids are receiving college scholarships.

And he marveled at how the Scholarship Golf Tournament finds ways to keep on keeping on with reasons to give.

"It just seems like every year they find a new way to make it better," noted Schultz, who retired after spending 20 plus years with Jupiter as a motor officer. "You really get a sense of what we make possible by being here."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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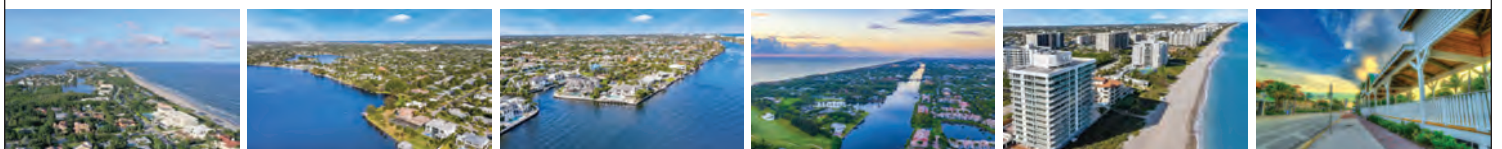
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The tradition grows because of experiences like PBSO Deputy Keith Viti had this year. PBSO President Mike Kennedy convinced Viti to give it a try this year for the first time after recently taking up playing golf.

Viti had heard about the event. But it was nothing like seeing it. The love for Kaitlin really hit home for Viti because he has a couple of older daughters. And so he was overwhelmed to be contributing to carrying on for her memory.

"I think it's just a combination of something you want to do in your life, the morals you believe in and wanting to carry that on through society," Viti explained. "The atmosphere is awesome. It's a beautiful day, and you're with a bunch of sisters and brothers having some fun. And it's for a good cause."

Summing up the tradition probably should come from somebody who has participated in every Scholarship Golf Tournament. A bit of a 19th hole, if you will.

The honor goes to Craig Caris, who was on with PBSO for 35 years and retired in 2016. So tee it up, Craig.

"Yes, it helps a lot of kids and does a lot of things through the PBA," Caris articulated. "But what a great time. None of us are really great golfers, but we get to come out here to a place you wouldn't usually play. You get to have a few beers. And we're all out here giving Kaz and his family a shoulder to lean on."



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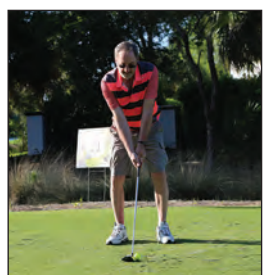
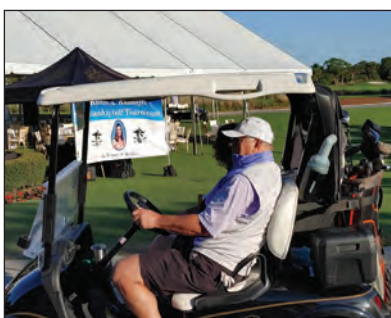
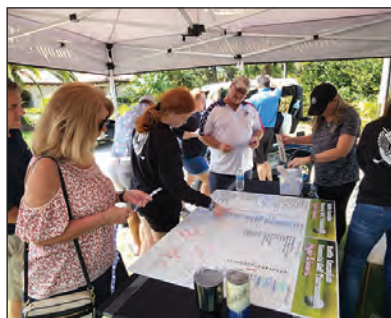
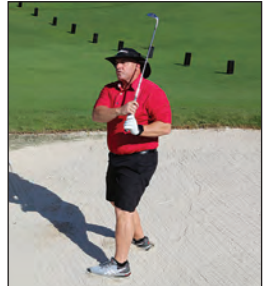
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Fore Fun

A shoutout to all who participated and made the 19th annual Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Scholarship Golf Tournament a great success

Photos by Billy Gray



Grill Masters

The Grill Team continues to serve up a delicious spread at PBCPBA events

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

■ PHOTOS BY BILLY GRAY

Smoke billowed from the grill where retired PBSO Sergeant Ray Griffith and his team prepared their famous baby back ribs. They were a special touch for PBCPBA members at the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Golf Tournament at Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter on March 21.

Long before the sun came up, the PBCPBA Grill Team arrived at 4:45 a.m. Even after getting home at midnight the night before from the annual Police Officers Ball, the Grill Team was bringing the sense of camaraderie and brotherhood to PBA members and supporters as the true bread and butter of these events.

"It's the feeling that you're making a difference in the community, because I know we are," Griffith remarked. "It's the love of camaraderie, and it's a great cause. We love doing it."

The grill masters, who were wearing red and blue aprons with "Florida Grillers" and "Palm Beach County Bar-b-Que Unit" printed across them, each found their stations in between the holes at the Trump National golf course.

The first course they served up included cupcake eggs with ham and cheese melted inside, freshly baked biscuits with gravy and crispy golden hash browns. During the afternoon, they served juicy burgers, hotdogs, thick New York strips, cheesy potatoes, green beans and corn.

And Griffith's team grilled those well-loved baby back ribs that melt in your mouth.

"Food brings people together," Griffith said. "I get more compliments over those ribs [than anything else]. We cooked like 82 slabs of ribs today, and I expect to have none left over."

Griffith and his team have become a staple in the PBCPBA. They grill for every PBA event, including the Angel Run, the golf outing and cigar nights, bringing flavorful connections to members. It's another aspect of what makes the PBA so inviting.

"We've been doing this for so long, it's just that it's a great feeling to be able to help out the kids the way we do and people that need it," Griffith reflected. "The camaraderie, I think, is what keeps us all together."

The grill team includes 10 members who are from different agencies and units

within the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, including a commander of the bomb squad, a colonel from the jail system and the major of homeland security.

But when they are working together, rank doesn't matter. They're all family, which is something that Lindsey Griffith, Ray's daughter, knows well.

Lindsey has been behind the grill since the age of seven, helping her father at various PBA events, just as she was this year. She was also a Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Scholarship recipient and is now a criminal intelligence analyst for PBSO.

Lindsey continued to



Marty of the PBCPBA Grill Team smiled as he prepared flavorful baby NY strips PBA members at the Golf Tournament.



The PBCPBA Grill Team attends every PBA event to offer delicious comfort food.



Retired PBSO Sergeant Ray Griffith served up juicy New York strips for PBA members.




PBCPBA Grill Team members prepared a hearty menu of burgers, hotdogs, chicken and more.

carry on the tradition as she stood alongside her father at the golf tournament to serve ribs to members.

"They're all family now," Lindsey said. "I tell my friends, 'I have probably 20 dads.' All these men out here are my dads. It's family."

The grill team spent the day grilling food and serving members. But the day was also spent reflecting on Kaitlin, the angel they all have felt by their side. And the PBA knows that when the smoke from the grill clears, the Grill Team will always be there to provide the secret ingredient that adds so much to its fundraising events.

"I've known Kaz for a long time," Griffith added. "We've had our heartaches, but our friendship is great. And he knows we'll do it as long as he wants to."



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Outta Here

PBA's political presence fuels termination of Boynton Beach City Manager who was making the job difficult for police officers

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Leading up to the March 8 municipal elections, it was hard to find a street corner in Boynton Beach where police officers were not engaged in some form of campaigning. Or a block where they weren't doing something to get out the vote for PBCPBA-endorsed candidates.

Boynton Beach City Commissioner Angela Cruz certainly saw the power of the PBA endorsement and voting bloc. She stood with the officers on some of those corners. Perhaps you saw that photo on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter before Cruz was successfully elected to the commission this year.

Many candidates have done the same the past several years as Boynton Beach Reps Cory Herny, Dan Dugger and Brian McDeavitt have led members in upping their political presence.

"Listen, they gathered the troops, went out there, were knocking on doors, hanging their signs and doing their thing," PBCPBA President John Kazanjian praised. "They established a relationship with the commissioners. It's an example of what I have been saying for how long: Everything starts with politics."

So when PBA members finally had enough of Boynton Beach City Manager Lori LaVerriere not being fair with them, they flexed their political muscle. Four of the five commissioners who have had the PBA's support and endorsement — and have had members' backs — voted to terminate LaVerriere on April 20.

This 80 percent supermajority was needed to execute the termination. And PBA members have developed the superpowers to show that when a city executive, elected official or department leader repeatedly tries to fuss with them, well, there's only so much spit they will take.

"We got involved in politics, and we knew how to count to four and she didn't" Kaz quipped. "We've supported the four commis-

sioners all along, and I think they saw the writing on the wall. They realized, 'Let's cut our losses with this manager and move on.'"

"Mean-spirited" and "barrier" are words that kept coming up to describe LaVerriere's dealings with Boynton Beach police officers. Kaz added that the PBA had been having problems with her for more than 10 years.

Boynton Beach Mayor Ty Penserga, who also was endorsed by the PBCPBA in his victorious campaign in March, conveyed that it was a difficult decision to terminate LaVerriere. But apparently, it had to be done.

"I think we have come to the point in our history where change is required," Penserga confirmed after the April 20 meeting when the vote was taken. "In order for us to move forward, the time has come to make a change. I think everybody will benefit from this change."

Ironically, days before the vote to terminate was taken, Boynton Beach Police Chief Michael Gregory announced he was resigning effective April 22. Kaz reported that with LaVerriere's hesitancy to offer police officers a reasonable salary increase, talk of a proposal to merge the department with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office had begun. A proposal was even in the works.

Herny added that he does not like to have to play the political game. But he certainly won't argue with the benefits of being politically active.

And as a result, there appears to be smooth sailing ahead for Boynton Beach members now that the city manager has departed.

"Now we can move forward with open roads, without any barriers, and just hope for the best," Herny commented. "We don't need any favors. We just want fair people to make things right. We just need people to do their job in a responsible and fair way."

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One of their own

Riviera Beach members feel a boost from Joshua Lewis being named interim chief

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

At 5:32 p.m. on April 2, a text message from a Riviera Beach PBA member pinged *Code Three Magazine*, reporting about the change in command at the top of the department. Chief Nathan Osgood's well-documented transgressions had forced him to resign.

But the text message did not dwell on Osgood. Rather, the culmination of the communique reported that under Interim Chief Joshua Lewis, agency morale had already increased. The sender went on to write:

"As a 25-year veteran of the police department, Joshua Lewis's appointment to interim chief has redefined the vision of the agency. As we approach the upcoming contract negotiations, we look forward to sustaining this momentum with the new chief."

At that time, Lewis had been leading the department for all of one day. Since then, reports of the Lewis influence have only confirmed how much morale has been boosted.

According to one city employee who is not even a sworn officer, "Our officers just seem a lot happier, more content, more at ease doing their jobs. So there's a lot of smiling faces now."

Why wouldn't there be? Members look at Chief Lewis and realize he is one of them. He is still a PBCPBA member.

Lewis has risen up through the ranks, from coming on in road patrol and then barely a year later being moved into the community-oriented policing unit. He worked in narcotics, was assigned to a DEA task force, was promoted from sergeant to captain and led some of the city's most complex investigations. As a captain, he ran the detective bureau and when he became a major, he ran special operations that included community policing, marine patrol, the K-9 beach unit, nuisance abatement, the honor guard and the police explorers.

So he must have an awfully big hat rack. But members can be sure that the last thing they need to worry about with Lewis is getting a big head.

"My interview process, in my mind, is every day when I come to work," Lewis submitted. "By working my way up from the bottom, I think I have taken the best route possible to get the most credibility for the police department."

If Riviera Beach is looking for credibility, transparency and the utmost integrity, well, Lewis is your man. He believes in leading by example, that accountability starts at the top and that every day should begin with taking the time to shake hands with officers and ask them how things are going.



He wants to go out to lunch with them. And he'll want to pick up the tab.

"At the end of the day, the relationships are what matter," Lewis emphasized. "Taking care of your people means everything. People are your most important asset, and if you take care of them, they are going to come to work happy and they're going to produce."

Having grown up in law enforcement in Riviera Beach, Lewis has become a stakeholder in the community. Becoming interim chief has only fueled his drive to keep the department on the move to become one of the premier agencies in the state.

The biggest step in that direction, he believes, is providing the best resources and adopting the best practices in the industry. Another big step includes the department going through an accreditation process for the first time ever, which means developing the standards for policies and procedures that are the best in the profession.

Members know how high Lewis's standards have become. When he was a sergeant running vice, he got wind that Riviera Beach Rep Nir Mordechay, who had just been hired, wanted to join the unit.

One day, Mordechay was working on a report, and he asked Lewis to review it. Seven iterations later, Mordechay had cleaned up 18 or 19 mistakes. Lewis asked him to do it one more time just to be sure.

After that, other officers started coming to Lewis to review their reports. That's the type of infectious impact he has on his officers.

"I think the best way I can say it is that I don't want to be doing things just because somebody's watching you," Chief Lewis stated. "You do it because it's the right thing to do. That's why credibility, transparency and integrity are things I won't compromise on. It's not something I'm just saying. I've always tried to act upon it."



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A Dog's Way Home

Jupiter officer rescues German shepherd after she was shot

■ BY JENNIFER BERNSTEIN

Jupiter Officer Craig Yochum had ended his tour and checked his news app on the way out of work. A story flashed about a German shepherd named Empress who had been shot in the face.

Reading on, he learned that Big Dog Ranch Rescue had taken the 1 1/2-year-old dog in after the shooting and that she would need a new home. Yochum immediately responded to help save Empress.

He knew Empress would fit in at home with his German shepherd of the same age, Kaiser. Kaiser means “emperor” in German, and the coincidence seemed like the stars were aligning. It would be perfect to rescue an Empress for his “Emperor.”

“I was like, ‘Oh man, it kind of seems like it was meant to be,’ and I just kind of hoped and hoped that I was a good fit for her,” Yochum commented. “Being in law enforcement, it’s always hard for us to go to calls like that with people that own dogs. So it was kind of the culmination of all of those things. I was like, ‘Man, I’d really, really like to try to get her,’ and what better home to go to than a police officer, where I can keep her safe.”

Before Yochum went to bed that night, he filled out the application for Big Dog Ranch. He could not stop thinking about the poor dog who had been shot in the face.

All he knew was that she had managed to escape in the middle of the night from a screened-in porch of a house that was not in the best of neighborhoods. The bullet went into her skull, down the left side of her mandible, and broke it. Fortunately, it missed her spine, but the bullet remains lodged behind her head, in her thoracic cavity.

Yochum was intent on rescuing Empress. He had never adopted from Big Dog Ranch before but had reached out to a few people who had and let them know how serious he was about Empress. He asked them to reach out to any contacts they had at the ranch and put in a good word.

“And actually, [Palm Beach County] Sheriff [Ric] Bradshaw reached out on my behalf as well,” Yochum noted.

Having the support of his fellow officers must have aided in Yochum being paired with Empress, because pretty soon she had found her forever home with Yochum.

“When I first met her, she was a little timid,” he recalled. “Her ears were back, and she was panting. You could tell she was sort of uncomfortable. But from within the first week of me actually bringing her home, I could see that her demeanor had changed. She’s walking around much happier, and her ears are rarely back.”

Yochum can’t help but spoil Empress after everything she’s been through. “She jumps up on the bed to sleep with me and Kaiser,” says Yochum. “And she loves bones. My other dog is more fond of toys, but she has about 30 bones laying around the house. She just switches from one to the other and chews on them all day long.”

Yochum is a huge proponent of rescuing dogs and says that just the other day he was speaking with a fellow officer about adopting from Big Dog Ranch.

“Big Dog Ranch was awesome as far as the application process, communication, and the owner over there is super nice,” Yochum added. “If somebody wants a dog, dogs are super, super loyal and just great companions. It’s definitely nice when you’ve had a harder day, especially doing what we do, to come home and the dogs see you. It’s definitely rewarding coming home and having them get super excited and knowing that they love you back.”



Jupiter Police Officer Craig Yochum with Empress, a German shepherd he adopted after she had been shot.



Officer Craig Yochum with Lauree Simmons, president and founder of Big Dog Ranch Rescue, and Empress.



Empress (left) joined Kaiser in living with Jupiter Officer Craig Yochum.

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Where there's smoke, there's another great PBCPBA cigar social

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Members flooded into the Palm Beach County PBA Hall on April 22 for a relaxing cigar social. Music filled the hall and the lobby, where members gathered to enjoy freshly rolled cigars, have a beverage of choice and feel the support of their union.

Cigar socials have become a signature event for the PBCPBA to allow members a chance to unwind from the stress of the job and bond with their fellow brothers and sisters. And the PBCPBA Hall has become the haven where members can do that.

"It's just us," PBA President John Kazanjian remarked. "That's it. All the members from the different agencies get together. And they get to mingle and rub elbows, talk it up, see what's going on in different agencies."

It was the picture of camaraderie outside the hall, where members enjoyed tasty cigars from the roller sponsored by CrossCountry Mortgage. As an added attraction, members and their family members engaged in some fierce cornhole competition.

"If [members] haven't seen [each other] in a long time, they get to catch up on things," Kaz remarked. "And I know we don't like talking shop, but a lot of them talk shop."

Inside the hall, members entered to win raffle prizes, such as a golf club and a beach umbrella, which were donated from local businesses. There was even a silent auction with paintings from the Park West Gallery.

The evening, a perfect time, not just to enjoy a good buffet and cigars, but to remind each other what family is. Sponsors included Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics, CrossCountry Mortgage, the Law Offices of R.E. "Rick" King III, Morse and Morse LLC, Keller, Melchiorre & Walsh, PLLC and The Law Offices of Flynn P. Bertisch, P.A.

And at the end of the day, when the smoke cleared, the picture of brotherhood lingered.

"It was a home run," added Kazanjian, who is already planning the next cigar social, which might be some time in late summer or early fall.





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- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates and demographically diverse public

Must meet all Florida Department Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements

Must meet all PBSO requirements in the online assessment

21 years of age

High school graduate or GED

Able to perform essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodations

Possess a valid driver's license

Deputy Sheriff Corrections – Florida Certified

Full-Time
Starting Salary: \$59,892

- Monitors and surveils inmates
- Prepares legal documentation and reports
- Processes fingerprints with pictures to ensure inmate identification
- Executes emergency plans
- Resolves disputes and performs necessary restraint techniques

High School Diploma or Equivalent

Must meet all Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements

Must meet all PBSO requirements specified in online assessment

Must be 21 years of age and possess a valid driver's license

Shift work may include evenings, nights, weekends and holidays

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Happy Dance

Boynton Beach members step in as volunteer dads at father-daughter dance

Boynton Beach Sergeant Widy Jean smiled as his “daughter” took him by the hand and asked him to dance. It was a moment at the 3rd Annual Father Daughter Dinner and Dance, held on March 12 at the Hilton in West Palm Beach, that reminded him how officers can make an impact in the lives of children who don’t have fathers.

Only a day before, Jean had received a call that two volunteers were needed for the KOP Mentoring Network’s father-daughter dance. Jean immediately reached out to Officer Terrence Parramore, someone he knew would welcome the opportunity.

Parramore was excited to escort one of the 9-year-old girls to the dance, because he knew he could make a difference in her life.

“In the fact I had a chance to make an impact on some girl’s life who didn’t really have much or have a father to attend with her or a father figure going into it, I was pumped,” Parramore related.

At first, Jean and Parramore sensed the girls’ apprehension and nerves. So they helped break the ice by asking questions. Parramore learned that his “daughter” had lost her father last year to COVID.

But by the end of the evening, they were all dancing and laughing together like good friends.

“This was a way for me to reconnect with my community and reconnect with my purpose in law enforcement,” Jean explained. “It was one of the most gratifying things I’ve ever done in my career. I absolutely loved every second of it.”

Parramore spent the night talking with his “daughter” to open a line of communication, which was hard at first because he was in uniform.

“I’m not sure of her interaction with police and stuff like that. So I tried to kind of take that image away and just let her get to know me,” Parramore reflected. “And by the end of the night, she had



broken down that barrier. She had a good time.”

Jean and Parramore were grateful for the opportunity to step into the role of father figure for a night for two young girls who did not have that influence in their lives. For them, it reinforced one of their goals of being in law enforcement, to help their community in a positive way.



“It was very important that this girl could say, ‘Hey, I’ll remember this for a lifetime,’” Parramore remarked. “She’ll remember that, and she’ll say, ‘Hey, my opinion of the police is maybe a little different now that I have this night and I was able to get to know the officer.’”

Finding a Way Home

PBSO members help a homeless student who dreams of becoming a correctional officer

When PBSO Corporal Adrian “Candy” Maldonado heard that a student at the Palm Beach State College Criminal Justice Academy was experiencing homelessness and struggling with food insecurity, he took up the challenge of assisting her in finding a safe place to live.

In early March, the trainers at the Corrections Basic Recruit Training program noticed one of their students, Pamela Odom, was not performing well at firearm qualifications. They asked her what was going on.

Odom revealed that she had been sleeping in her car for three weeks and hadn’t eaten for three days because she was trying to save up for a place to live.

As a field training officer, Maldonado frequently works with homeless individuals to find them housing. But this time was different. A fellow law enforcement student, who was on the way to becoming a corrections officer, needed help. And that struck a chord within Maldonado.

“I definitely wanted to go an extra mile for her, especially being part of the law enforcement community,” Maldonado explained. “With our experience and our training, it’s become a specialty for us, being an advocate for these people. We just wanted to help her as much as we could.”

Maldonado and his partner, Jim Mackey, received a call from the trainers at the academy and were asked to help Odom. They met her at the college campus and listened to her story.

At first, they paid for five nights at a hotel, but when PBSO heard of the situation, they booked an additional week for Odom.

When Odom found a potential apartment in late March, she still didn’t have enough funds to pay for the first month’s rent. Maldonado reached out to the Sheriff’s Office Foundation,



which offered to help.

Odom was overwhelmed by the PBSO and its support.

“She was just in tears crying, just very emotional,” Maldonado said. “For the last several months, she’s just been dealing with one thing after the next. And finally, here’s this stranger, of all people. But at the end of the day, she is family.”

Odom is now living in an apartment in Boynton Beach and has built a friendship with Maldonado and the other PBSO officers, who frequently check in to see how she is doing.

It was a fulfilling moment for Maldonado.

“I tell people, I’ve been doing this job for 20 years and it’s probably been the most rewarding job,” Maldonado added. “You’re truly impacting and helping people’s lives.”

PBSO’s LGBTQ liaisons show the pride

On March 28, PBSO’s LGBTQ liaisons participated in the Pride Parade in Lake Worth Beach during Palm Beach Pride 2022. The group, which was formed two years ago, includes six officers and three civilians led by PBSO Captain Beth Krivda.

As the first big event since the start of COVID, the Pride Parade was a significant way for the PBSO liaisons to show support and introduce themselves to the LGBTQ community.

“We spoke with many residents, and many of the gay persons in Palm Beach County were unaware that there was even a liaison unit,” Krivda explained. “So it was a good introduction for a lot of people, to let them know that we’re out there to help them and bridge the gap.”

The liaisons partner with Compass, an LGBTQ organization in Lake Worth Beach, to sponsor events and attend business meetings that are held throughout the area.

Krivda and the other liaisons have also participated in events like the SMART bike ride from Miami to Key West and stationed a booth with resources during Pride Fest at Bryant Park.

Krivda looks forward to continuing to build relationships within the LGBTQ community.

“It was a lot of fun,” Krivda said. “Everyone is very, very welcoming in Lake Worth Beach. And we can’t wait to do it [again] next year.”



Coming Full Circle

Stuart officer reflects on hosting events in the community where he grew up

As a longtime resident of Stuart, Officer Darius Holmes was excited to see a strong level of support for the community on Feb. 19 at the Stuart PD Black Heritage Festival, which was held in honor of Black History Month.

Music blared over the loudspeakers at the Civic Center, laughter filled the court where a three-on-three basketball tournament was being held and special guest NFL player Justin Simmons, who plays for the Denver Broncos, made an appearance in support of the Stuart PD.

It was a day of bringing members of the community together.

"It's always nice to have Simmons and other people who grew up here like myself to have gone on to be successful in their professional careers," Holmes remarked. "And then have them come back and show their support to the community."

Holmes and other Stuart officers served hamburgers and hot dogs to the more than 200 residents who attended, with help from a 6-year-old named Alonzo, who loves police officers.



Six-year-old Alonzo, who loves police officers, helped Stuart Officer Darius Holmes serve food at the Black Heritage Festival on Feb. 19.

"I think he was more excited about just being there and helping out," Holmes explained. "He was my little helper. He helped us out a lot."

The Black Heritage Festival was a full-circle moment for Holmes. He remembered attending community events



NFL Denver Broncos player Justin Simmons made a surprise appearance in support of the Stuart community and Stuart PD.

growing up, and now as an officer, he is hosting those events and watching children like Alonzo show their support for law enforcement.

"It's always nice to have these events that bring the community back together," Holmes added.



Kudos to Boynton Beach K-9 Argo

Boynton Beach K-9 Argo was the MVP on Feb. 17 when he and his partner, Officer Chris Schalk, found a burglar who had been breaking into cars in the Via Lugano, Borgata and Sandalwood neighborhoods. K-9 Argo and Schalk displayed great teamwork in their first track together.

Boynton Beach, can you build it?

Yes, they can! And they did.

Boynton Beach officers put their painting skills to the test on March 4 for a special project. Members partnered with Habitat for Humanity South Palm Beach County to help put the finishing touches on a new home for a family in the local community. Members also donated \$1,773 to Habitat to help them in their mission of building homes for those in need.



Delray Beach members cheer on the Miracle League's return to the dugout

Delray Beach members packed the stands for the Miracle League's opening day baseball game on March 26. With Chuck Halberg throwing the opening pitch, members cheered on the players from the sidelines.

DBPD officers also had a special treat for the children in attendance. They gave away patrol packs, which were baseball cards that they packaged together. It was a great day for members to celebrate opening day with players and residents of the community.



A grand gesture for Jupiter Police Explorers

Jersey Mike's hosted a fundraising event for the Jupiter Police Explorers program during the grand opening of its newest location in Concourse Plaza. Each customer who donated \$3 or more received a free sub.

On March 4, Jersey Mike's presented Jupiter PD officers with a \$1,500 donation from the proceeds of the grand opening.

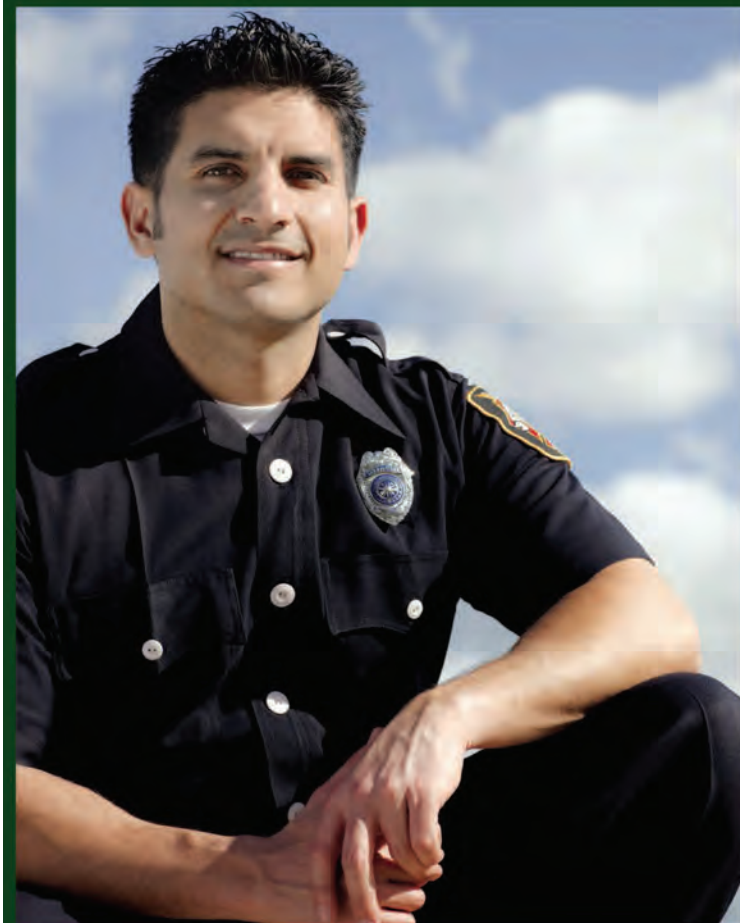


A future recruit for Jupiter PD's K-9 unit

Jupiter PD officers expressed their gratitude to several benefactors — Chris Newman, Hank Newman and Michael Drew — who donated \$15,000 on March 8 for the K-9 unit. This donation will allow members to purchase and train a future canine for the unit and help them to continue keeping the community safe.

MCSO deputies kick off community event

MCSO deputies partnered with Martin County Parks and Recreation on April 8 for a community event at Langford Park — the Friday Night Showdown on the Playground. Members of the community enjoyed a friendly game of kickball with MCSO officers, hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream. And MCSO deputies welcomed the opportunity to build relationships with families and residents of the community.



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MCSO members go the distance for the 100 Club

MCSO members participated in a 24-hour run/walk on April 3 to raise money for the 100 Club of Martin County. Their goal was to run or walk four miles every hour for 24 hours.

Participants and volunteers dedicated their time to the 100 Club, which is a nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance to Martin County Public Safety workers who are injured in the line of duty.



PBSO deputies offer a helping hand

On Feb. 28, more than 200 teenagers from across Florida gathered at the Peter Blum Family YMCA Spring Rally in Boca Raton. Their goal was to package meals for people in South Africa.

They were surprised when PBSO deputies walked through the doors to offer assistance. PBSO members helped them package 20,000 meals.



Stuart PD members spend the day at the park

Kiwanis Park has a new playset, donated by the Stuart Firefighters Benevolent and put together by the Stuart PD and Stuart Fire Rescue team.

On Feb. 5, Stuart members gathered at the park for a community build event

to help build a playset that looks like a replica of SFR Station 1, with a green and black fire truck.

Children from the community are sure to enjoy this great addition to the park.



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Stuart officers have fun at field day

Stuart PD members soaked up the sunshine on April 1 at the Gertrude Walder Childcare Center field day. Members set up games for the children, such as sack races, tug-of-war and frisbee. It was all smiles for the kids as well as the members.



Delray Beach members go green for St. Patrick's Day

A sea of green filled the streets on March 14 at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Delray Beach officers joined the festivities and rode along in their motorcade, greeting residents and children of the community. Other DBPD officers stood alongside residents to ensure safety for everyone.

The parade was a team effort with DBPD, Delray Beach Parks and Recreation and Delray Beach Fire Rescue.



PBSO members host picnic to celebrate those with autism

On Feb. 27, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) members hosted A Day for Autism Picnic at Village Park. It was one of PBSO's largest events, with more than a dozen community organizations and resource agencies available for members of the community.

PBSO partnered with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida Atlantic University to celebrate people with all disabilities and to create a positive and welcoming experience for residents and families in the community.



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For law enforcement officers, estate planning is crucial



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Peace of mind is the No. 1 reason law enforcement personnel decide to pursue estate planning. Estate planning includes wills, trusts, healthcare directives, personal messages, letters of instruction for financial institutions, funeral directions, wealth management, inheritance management and the overall creation of a plan that will help address family needs and family priorities. The reality is that law enforcement is routinely ranked as one of the most dangerous professions, with thousands of injuries and numerous critical incidents, life-threatening injuries and fatalities each year. As a result of the dangers of the profession, estate planning is not just for the ultrawealthy but also should include law enforcement personnel.

It is important to understand that regardless of age or marital status, estate planning should be a priority. Unexpected events occur in our lives, from changes in financial circumstances to medical debt, lawsuits and more. Curveballs can happen at any time. These unexpected events make it urgent and imperative that estate planning be part of the lives of law enforcement personnel. Even with the clear benefits of estate planning, many individuals are not protected with an estate plan. According to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 78 percent of millennials lack basic estate planning documents like a will or living trust. No matter the stage in life someone finds them-

selves in, it is important that an estate plan is in place. Here are three reasons why you should have an estate plan:

1. Self-determination

A vital step in developing an estate plan is establishing who will make decisions on your behalf if you are unavailable to do so yourself. A durable power of attorney is used to grant the power to a selected individual to act on your behalf on financial and legal matters if you become mentally disabled or physically disabled. This ensures that the individual selected is taking actions in your best interest. Other great estate planning tools include a healthcare proxy, an agent or power of attorney, a HIPAA release and a living will. These tools help make sure that you receive the care you need and desire.

2. Wealth allocation

One of the bedrock documents of any estate plan is a will. A will is a document that names a personal representative (also known as an executor) who is responsible for the administration of your estate after you die and distributes property as you direct. In addition to property, often parents with minor children will make recommendations in their will on naming guardians to oversee their minor children. Other tools that can supplement someone's will include revocable trusts or personal property memorandums.

It is important to note that not all assets must be listed in your will. These types of assets include life insurance, retirement accounts and annuities. These assets require you to name beneficiaries and thus don't necessarily need to be included in a will.

3. Wealth protection

Many wealth allocation approaches also have wealth protection benefits, which can be an important consideration for families. Asset ownership, insurance, limited liability entities, irrevocable trusts and asset protection trusts are all options when designing a plan that will protect your assets from creditors in the event of frivolous lawsuits and claims.

False arrest, civil rights violations and excessive force are just a few of the claims made by the thousands every year against police departments across the United States. Civil lawsuits against police officers and departments have become a ubiquitous way of pursuing accountability of a sort, with larger municipalities paying victims and their families tens of millions of dollars. These lawsuits leave law enforcement personnel exposed to financial liability, which can bankrupt any accumulated assets.

Estate planning can feel like a daunting task, but it does not have to feel this way. Wealth protection, wealth allocation and self-determination are all important reasons to pursue estate planning. It is critical and urgent that law enforcement personnel protect their wealth. Estate planning gives them power over the assets they want to allocate to their inheritors and beneficiaries and includes having a plan to manage their health and financial decisions.

Ann Charleus, executive director of the Blue Line Law Firm, leads the intake department, ensures that law enforcement personnel understand the estate planning process and provides educational opportunities to learn what tools are best for law enforcement personnel given their unique individual needs. For more information, call 888-611-9511 or go to www.tbllf.com.

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First responders receive enhanced benefits not available to the public



RYAN REIF

During the past few decades, we have seen a progression of Florida's statutory provisions that afford enhanced workers' compensation benefits to law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, correctional officers and emergency medical technicians who are injured in the line of duty. In Florida, first responders are provided special compensation benefits — such as Florida's Heart and Lung Bill, psychological care for PTSD, specific exceptions and treatment for COVID-19 — that are generally not available to other state employees or those working in the private sector.

Let's review some of these benefits that are available for PBCPBA members:

Florida's Heart and Lung Bill

Known informally as the Heart and Lung Bill, Florida Statute § 112.18 provides one of the most important benefits available solely to injured first responders and acts as a breath of relief for the people who risk their lives every day protecting Floridians from danger. Under Florida law, heart disease, tuberculosis and hypertension suffered by law enforcement officers and firefighters are health conditions presumed to be related to and arising out of their employment. Regardless of the law, insurance carriers often deny access to the Heart and Lung Bill benefits that first responders are entitled to receive for these conditions.

Psychological care for post-traumatic stress disorder

Due to the extremely hazardous situations and life-or-death emergencies that law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians are the first to respond to, these heroes often suffer in silence from an injury known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Due to the dangerous nature of their employment and repeated exposure to traumatic circumstances, first responders are commonly diagnosed with PTSD as a result of their employment. Florida's workers' compensation law provides an enhanced benefit under certain conditions that entitles those with PTSD to psychiatric care conducted by a licensed psychiatrist.

This provision in the law is designed to provide psychological treatment to first responders given the enormous risk of psychiatric issues that may arise from being the first person to arrive at the scene of a violent crime, tragic car accident and even Florida's natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes and floods. Even though the benefit of psychological care for PTSD is available in very limited circumstances to the general public, unlike other employees, first responders do not need to meet the extremely high threshold normally required to receive this benefit.

Law enforcement officers are an exception to the rule

With few exceptions, in Florida, an employee who is injured while traveling to or from work is generally not entitled to workers' compensation benefits. However, police officers who are injured while traveling to or from work in an official law enforcement vehicle are an exception to the rule. Under Florida law, this is considered to be within the course and scope of employment, and law enforcement officers are entitled to workers' compensation benefits for injuries arising from the actions of negligent drivers and hazardous road conditions.

Unmasking the risks of COVID-19 while in the line of duty

Most recently, the legislature highlighted the enormous risk undertaken by the first responders who served the citizens during a global pandemic and enacted statutory provisions requiring that medical care is provided to first responders who contract COVID-19. Similarly to Florida's Heart and Lung Bill, first responders who are diagnosed with COVID-19 are presumed to have contracted this highly contagious and deadly disease during the course and scope of their employment. Now, under Florida law, first responders and healthcare workers are entitled to this presumption, as well as medical treatment at the expense of their employer.

The entire team at Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Sosa has dedicated their careers to ensuring that the rights of first responders are protected. The knowledge, experience and passion of attorneys Marc Golden, Alan Aronson and myself will help any one of these heroes injured while in the line of duty, and we will fight vigorously for their enhanced benefits. We know first responders deserve way more than the insurance companies want to give them.

Ryan Reif has been an attorney at Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Sosa for more than five years and has experience handling all types of workers' compensation cases. He has successfully obtained multiple verdicts and awards. He is licensed to practice law in North Carolina and Florida.




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Help For Our Heroes Program

Our program, which is led by first responders, has an integrated treatment model to help first responders with co-occurring mental health disorders and substance use disorders. As a retired New Jersey police officer, I know firsthand that the exposure to tragedy and stress first responders endure everyday is overwhelming, which can lead to PTSD and addiction.

Our Program Includes:

- PTSD Management
- EMDR Therapy
- Relapse Prevention
- Stress/Anger Management
- Grief and Loss Healing
- Behavioral Addiction

Please don't wait. Call me for help.



Sgt. Adam Mogul (Ret.)
 Client Services Representative
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to your 14th annual
PBA Police officers Ball.

I Enjoyed seeing the Accomplishments
of your officers being recognized.

Thank you for your service
and I look forward to next
years event

Stacy Heston

THIS IS ONE
OF THOSE TIMES
WHEN SAYING
THANK YOU
DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE
ENOUGH.



Genelle
Shannon
Kaz a staff -
I just cannot find
enough words that can say
how much I appreciate all
you did for me
Thank you so much
is
Just
we did it!

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
HOW'S THAT?



ANDY THOMSON
COUNCIL MEMBER

JOHN,

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR TAKING THE TIME
TO MEET WITH ME. I REALLY ENJOYED
OUR CONVERSATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOU ALL. PLEASE
EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF THE GUYS.

Andy

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