



"The voice of local law enforcement"

CODE THREE

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

FALL 2022

Storm Stories

Chronicling the courageous efforts of PBCPBA members responding to Hurricane Ian



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COVER STORY



COVER DESIGN BY GINA CROTCHFELT

Weathering the Storm

When Hurricane Ian turned into the most devastating natural disaster they had ever seen, PBCPBA members were ready to respond. Officers and deputies from Palm Beach and Martin counties were deployed to Charlotte County and surrounding areas and stepped up in so many ways. From working overnight tours so local officers could tend to their families to helping residents clean up the damage, members answered every call. The support came in what might have seemed like small ways. But it made a big difference.

Read some of these Storm Stories in this special report
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INSIDE STORIES



All Heart



Well-Earned Contract



Good Thinking

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All heart



**JOHN
KAZANJIAN
PBCPBA
PRESIDENT**

It's an omen, what happened.

In July, I was diagnosed with two heart valves that needed to be replaced. Fortunately, I had decided to take advantage of the heart screening Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics offers with the bus that comes to the PBA every couple of months. Completely outfitted with equipment and technology to test for many heart-related issues, including bad valves. They caught my problem even though it was not seen during one of my regular checkups.

If this had not been caught, I probably would've dropped dead riding on my bike, because one valve was really bad. I saw it, man. It wasn't freaking closing.

I did have a cardio screening when I was getting ready to retire. But my problem was they didn't detect it when I was getting ready to leave in 2016. And then I went back, and they caught it on the bus.

Listen, 30 or 40 minutes out of your life to get an ultrasound is all it takes.

Whether they check your carotid arteries, do the ultrasound or run one of the many other diagnostics available, you've got to get something done. Especially in our profession. I am seeing more law enforcement officers and correction officers with heart problems all the time.

I mean, after 25 or 30 years, you are going to have an issue. So keep an eye out for notices we send you or that are posted on our website or Facebook page that the bus is coming to the PBA. Whether you have five years on, 10 years on or you're in the DROP, I recommend you get your heart checked. Because you have to stay on top of it as your career progresses. Remember, you want to enjoy good health after you've made it through your 30 years.

And don't think you're Superman. I mean, with my issue, I was riding my bike 15 miles a day, five to seven days a week. And I didn't have one symptom, none whatsoever.

Listen, I was feeling great. And then when I had the exam done on the bus, it really, really shocked me that he said, "Hey, you've got a valve problem."

I know you were all ready for the phone call after Hurricane Ian hit. You were ready to be deployed for hurricane response and relief support. You were ready to go 10-100 status.

Our members never hesitate. When disaster strikes, you all are, "See you, honey. Get my backpack. I'll be back." You take

care of your family. And then you go for 10 days or whatever like so many our members did not hesitate to do again with this devastating storm.

You all responded in so many remarkable ways. Like Tater, our Martin County rep. He called me and said, "I've got somebody willing to donate some generators." At first, he said seven. I said, "Great. We'll get them and bring them over to the areas that were hit hardest." I asked if we could get more. Next thing you know, he comes up with 30 generators. And these generators were like 2,000, 2,500 bucks apiece. So we loaded up. Sheriff Bradshaw let us use a box truck, and we brought them across to the Fort Myers area.

I wish I had a couple hundred. It was a great feeling.

It was also a great feeling to see the support Governor DeSantis gave the PBA to help members who took a beating in the hurricane. Perhaps you saw that he gave us a \$500,000 check to distribute to members who need the help.

As we come up on Election Day, this is just another reason to vote for the governor and his administration. You got to take your hat off to the guy. At the very beginning, he supported us, and we supported him.

And he goes out of his way for us. Whenever we're at a function or whatever, he'll go out of his way just to make sure he sees us and shakes our hands and all that.

And listen, he's open. There have been times when we have to get things done right away, and because of the leadership in Tallahassee, we can. They support law enforcement, and you can see the pendulum has shifted back from defunding the police.

Back when that first happened, I called out a lot of Democrats and said, "I need your support," especially from candidates that we've endorsed. And there were some that were just crickets. At least the Republicans, they had our back right from the beginning. They said, "How dare you defund the police? You can't do that."

And now look what's going on in the country. It's freaking crazy. Let's see what happens on Nov. 8.

Make sure you get out and vote, because it's going to be one of the most exciting election days we've ever had.

Whatever happens, please make sure to take care of yourselves. Every day.

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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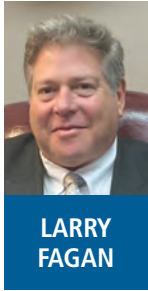
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Performance Improvement Plans

Management's "slow walk" to termination



LARRY
FAGAN

There seems to be a trend at agencies to place individuals on Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs).

However, while PIPs on their faces may appear under the guise of "assisting" the employee by helping them get to a higher or better productivity level, the PIP quagmire often masquerades as something other than what is really is: potential "pre"-discipline and a slow walk out the door to unemployment.

Often times, the PIP operates as the employer's documentation of why an employee could not do the job and, therefore, the agency had to terminate that employee. The PIP is many times disguised as a tool to give an employee with alleged performance deficiencies an opportunity to turn it around and flourish. Each agency has (or, should have) documented policies and procedures that it must follow in order to properly administer a PIP for an employee who has alleged job performance "deficiencies." These procedures must be followed precisely, lest the PIP be improperly administered by the agency, and fail on its face.

For example, some PIP policies mandate that over the term of the PIP, a supervisor must meet with the employee verbally and keep a log detailing that employee's progress. The weekly

meetings must be documented and substantive, so the affected employee may know how they are doing and what is expected of their performance. To properly perform the PIP, the agency must rigidly follow the mandates of the policy on administering the PIP.

Interestingly, most collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) maintain sections for articles on progressive discipline at individual agencies, but typically not on performance. These CBAs have progressive lists of possible disciplinary measures, with the last level being termination. Similarly, if an employee does not "pass" the PIP (based on the agency's own subjective criteria), the resulting discipline may also include termination. A PIP can, therefore, be an agency's pathway to getting rid of an employee, without even going through the contractually mandated, progressive discipline process. This is a pattern we see often lately, at multiple agencies.

If that doesn't set off warning bells, I'm not sure what does. I am by no means suggesting that all PIPs erupt into termination cases. The focus here, however, should be that when the employee gets placed on a PIP by his or her agency, the footsteps of receiving termination paperwork may not be far behind. From there, we will use your individual CBA strategically in an effort to return you to work promptly. Stay safe out there.



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Get the Drop on the DROP

Florida Retirement System's move to an eight-year DROP and new retirement territory



KATIE
MENDOZA

As you all know, the Florida Retirement System (FRS) offers a deferred retirement option program (DROP), wherein pension plan members may accumulate retirement benefits while delaying the end of their employment. The DROP is 60 months under FRS. However, as a result of recent amendments to the state statute governing the DROP, law enforcement officers are eligible for up to a 36 calendar month extension. Other groups of public employees, like certain instructional and administrative personnel in the school system, are also eligible for a DROP extension. Specifically, section 121.091(13) of the Florida Statutes added the following language in regards to law enforcement officers:

(b) Participation in DROP. Except as provided in this paragraph, an eligible member may elect to participate in DROP for a period not to exceed a maximum of 60 calendar months.

...c. Effective July 1, 2022, a member of the Special Risk Class who is a law enforcement officer who meets the criteria in s. 121.0515(3)(a) and who is a DROP participant on or after July 1, 2022, may participate in DROP for up to 36 calendar months beyond the 60-month period if he or she enters DROP on or before June 30, 2028.

2. Upon deciding to participate in DROP, the member shall submit, on forms required by the division:

- a. A written election to participate in DROP;
- b. Selection of DROP participation and termination dates that satisfy the limitations stated in paragraph (a) and subparagraph 1. The termination date must be in a binding letter of resignation to the employer establishing a deferred termination date. The member may change the termination date within the limitations of subparagraph 1, but only with the written approval of the employer;
- c. A properly completed DROP application for service retirement as provided in this section; and
- d. Any other information required by the division.

3. The DROP participant is a retiree under the Florida Retirement System for all purposes, except for paragraph (5) (f) and subsection (9) and ss. 112.3173, 112.363, 121.053, and 121.122. DROP participation is final and may not be canceled by the participant after the first payment is credited during the DROP participation period. However, participation in DROP does not alter the participant's employment status, and the member is not deemed retired from employment until his or her deferred resignation is effective and termination occurs as defined in s. 121.021.

Because this statutory language is so new, there are few resources on the issue. Some law enforcement agencies rely on the language of subsection (b)2.(b.) to decline the 36-month extension to its current DROP participants, which states that "the member may change the termination date within the limitations of subparagraph 1, but only with the written approval of the employer." For example, the Martin County Sheriff's Of-

fice has refused to amend the resignation dates of its current DROP participants, acknowledging only the original DROP end dates for those people (thus causing confusion amongst those officers already in the DROP versus those officers first entering the DROP or choosing a resignation date). The PBA has been communicating with the state to correct these unforeseen application discrepancies. In contrast, other agencies, including the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, have recognized the special DROP extension option for all law enforcement officers.

The Florida Department of Management Services has issued a form entitled the "Optional Application for Extended DROP Participation for Law Enforcement Officers," which is available on the DROP Forms page of dms.myflorida.com. This form provides the below guidance:

Members employed as law enforcement officers and who meet the criteria in section 121.0515(3)(a), Florida Statutes, may participate in DROP for up to 36 calendar months beyond their initial 60-month eligibility period as provided in section 121.091(13)(b)1.c., Florida Statutes. To be eligible for DROP extension, members employed in eligible law enforcement officer positions must be an active DROP participant on or after July 1, 2022 and DROP participation must begin before July 1, 2028. The Extension of DROP form for Specified Law Enforcement Officers must be received no later than the last day of your initial DROP participation period and will be accepted up to six months before your initial DROP termination date. The member must be employed as an eligible law enforcement officer at the end of their initial DROP participation and must remain in an eligible law enforcement officer position while working during the entire period of extended DROP participation. If the member changes positions to a non-eligible position during the period of DROP extension the member's retirement and DROP are voided. DROP participation does not guarantee employment for the member whose DROP participation is extended. The member and the employer will be jointly and severally liable for any benefit overpayment to the member.

Despite this new application form, the initial DROP application form (and applicable administrative rule) references only the 60-month period from the date of normal retirement, and certain employers hang their hat on that form and initial resignation dates for their current DROP participants.

It is doubtful that the state intended such disparate treatment amongst its law enforcement officers. Moreover, with the ongoing shortage of law enforcement officers and the need for quality first responders, it is disheartening that some employers are not utilizing this great benefit to retain their many valuable policemen and women — especially during such a time when they are needed the most. Although some FRS employers have been slow to fully promote the DROP extension for law enforcement officers, certain municipalities, including Boynton Beach, have voluntarily extended their DROP periods to eight years to match FRS. If you are eligible for this DROP extension, be sure to submit your application on time, and please call us with any questions.

Board of Directors Meeting Attendance - Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022

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 Kevin Igo.....X
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Antonio Gerena.....X
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For a FREE Consultation Contact:
Executive Vice President

Michelle Jotz

TEL (702) 429 - 7202

EMAIL mjotz@spectrumadvisorygroup.net

Welcome, New PBCPBA Members

JUNE 2022

NAME	AGENCY
MICHAEL DURHAM	MCSO

JULY 2022

NAME	AGENCY
FRANK CUGLIATA	P.B. COUNTY
SHANE HEWITT	SCHOOL POLICE
GINA MENDEZ	PALM BEACH GARDENS
MORGAN BONDURANT	PBSO
JUSTIN LEE	MCSO
KALI STEMPE	MCSO
LEONARDO SANTAMARIA	STUART
DERRICK WILLIAMS SR.	STUART
ESTELLE JEROME	P.B. COUNTY

DEBORAH KOCHERSPERGER	PBSO
KAILEY LEONARDI	DELRAY BEACH
ALEXANDRA WEOT	DELRAY BEACH
ANTHONY MURPHY	RIVIERA BEACH
RAMON BATISTA	GULF STREAM
KRYSTINA MASTRARRIGO	RIVIERA BEACH
TAYLOR WILSON	PBSO
MALIK BROWN	BOYNTON BEACH
JARVIS CARTER	BOYNTON BEACH
AMY COULSON	BOYNTON BEACH
MICHAEL BAKER	PBSO
CALIE COMBS	PBSO
WILLIAM DREHER	PBSO
KATHRYN NOEL	PBSO
ANTHONY ROBUSTELLI	PBSO
KELLEY VANOVER	PBSO
KEVIN WRIGHT	PBSO
PEDRO ZAMOR	PBSO
ANDREA WATSON	PBSO
MARC BALLATORI	PBSO
BILLY DOLCINE	PBSO
BILESHEA PARKES JOHNSON	PBSO
KHODR CHEHAB	PBSO
NICHOLAS COPELAND	PBSO
THOMAS CULLEN-WALTON JR.	PBSO
GREGORY FITZSIMMONS	PBSO
JAMES HARRIS	PBSO
LLEN JIMENEZ JR.	PBSO
RANDY KINKADE	PBSO
JAMES MOSTUPANICK	PBSO
KATHERINE NELSON	PBSO
JORDAN OLSEN	PBSO
RICOT PIERRE	PBSO
BRYAN WINTERBAUER	PBSO

AUGUST 2022

NAME	AGENCY
JADA DEGRAFFENREID	TEQUESTA
CHRISTOPHER LETSOS	P.B. COUNTY
BAILEY PEARCE	SCHOOL POLICE
EMILY DIAZ	PBSO
DANIELLE MADERO	PBSO
MICHAEL REARDON	PBSO
GRACE HEIDISCH	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
NICHOLAS COOPER	UNIVERSITY
ISAIAH GONZALEZ	PBSO
MICHAEL LUST	DELRAY BEACH
JAMES SCHNADERBECK	JUPITER
THOMAS PUSTIZZI	JUPITER
WILLIAM BROWN	P.B. COUNTY
NALLELI DEJESUS	SCHOOL POLICE
FERNANDO PALACIOS	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
JEANNINE CANNATA	UNIVERSITY
DAVID RIVERA	MCSO
PAMELA GIBBS-MANNING	PBSO

SEPTEMBER 2022

NAME	AGENCY
RONALD FERREIRA	RIVIERA BEACH
KEITH RAMIREZ	OCEAN RIDGE
MATTHEW NOEL	PBSO
CONNOR HAUGH	PBSO
STEPHEN CZAJKA III	LANTANA
CECIL TIPTON JR.	LANTANA
BRANDON VIANUEVA	LANTANA
RAVEN CLARK	LANTANA
ROBERT GAGNON	LANTANA
LEAH SILVER	PBSO
NATALIE HILLS	PBSO
THOMASINA MILLER	PBSO
MADELIN GONZALEZ	PBSO
KEVIN NEUS	LANTANA
ERIC TURNER	MANALAPAN

OCTOBER 2022

NAME	AGENCY
MICHAEL FIORENTINO	NORTH PALM BEACH
SUSANNAH SMITH	LAKE CLARKE SHORES
BRENT HITCHCOCK	MCSO
QUINN HARRIS	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
DANIEL FOOTE	UNIVERSITY
JOHANNA NIEVES	MCSO
LEILA BROWN	P.B. COUNTY
JEAN MARY JEAN-LOUS	SCHOOL POLICE
IIADEN LAUREANO II	LANTANA
	RIVIERA BEACH
	P.B. COUNTY
	SCHOOL POLICE

SUZANNE MORROW	PBSO
AMBER CERRETO	RIVIERA BEACH
JAMES BANNER	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
BRYAN BAGDZIUNAS	UNIVERSITY
KEVIN SALES-LOPEZ	JUPITER
BRYCE VANLANINGHAM	JUPITER
RHONDA VICKERS	MCSO
WANDA FUENTES	PBSO
HEATHER THOMAS	P.B. COUNTY
JOSEPH PLESS	SCHOOL POLICE
JESENIA TORRES VARGAS	PBSO
LOUIS ACEVEDO	PBSO
VALS BLAISE	PBSO
JULIO BURRAS	PBSO
ANTHONY HYDE JR.	PBSO
ROBERT KESSLER	PBSO
CARLOS NIEVES	PBSO
JONATHAN CASTELLANOS	PBSO
JULIA DUNCAN	PBSO
JESSICA HENRY	PBSO
JESSICA JOY	PBSO
JASON KAUFMAN	PBSO
CARESSA LOPEZ	PBSO
MARY LUCIANO	PBSO
JAVIER MIRANDA	PBSO
STEFANIE PECTAL	PBSO
JENNIFER PINKERMAN	PBSO
ASHLY REYES CASTILLO	PBSO
VANESSA VEGA	PBSO
DEANNA WILLIAMS	PBSO
CEDRICKA EDWARDS PRINCE	PBSO
SENNETHA EDWARDS	PBSO
DECAYETTE WILGUERRE	PBSO
TIMOTHY HUNT II	PBSO
KRYSTAL MCAFFEE	PBSO
CHRISTOPHER BYRNE	PBSO
JERMAINE DENNIE	PBSO
LOVELY DOUYON	PBSO
DAVID DUNCAN	PBSO
ARGELIS HERNANDEZ	PBSO
LUIS HERNANDEZ VITERI	PBSO
JARROD ILER	PBSO
MARCO JIMENEZ	PBSO
MARK KENNEDY	PBSO
CHRISTOPHER MCCRAE	PBSO
RITCHY NORMIL	PBSO
ELIJAH PICARD	PBSO
STEVE PROPHETE	PBSO
JOHNATHAN QUIROZ	PBSO
MAYROBIN SALINAS	PBSO
JERRY SOSA	PBSO

Honoring Retired Members

NAME	RETIREMENT DATE
KARL NELSON	JAN. 7, 2022
JOHNNY SLAUGHTER	JAN. 15, 2022
JUAN HINOJOSA	JAN. 31, 2022

NAME	RETIREMENT DATE
SALLY COLLINS	FEB. 1, 2022
CLAUDETTE SHAW	MAY 17, 2022
PAUL PITTI	JUNE 15, 2022
PATRICK WOODWARD	OCT. 10, 2022

Know Your Rights

If you are under investigation, remember, as a law enforcement officer, you have rights.

They include:

THE RIGHT to have a PBA representative present during an interview

THE RIGHT to know who's in charge of the investigation

THE RIGHT to know what the charges are and the name of the person bringing the charges

THE RIGHT to have the interview at a reasonable time and for a reasonable length of time

THE RIGHT to have any interview tape-recorded from start to finish

THE RIGHT not to be threatened or bribed or to have to listen to offensive language

THE RIGHT not to be forced to resign

Notice: Legal Advisory

Police shootings, in-custody deaths or serious traffic accidents

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Have you been ordered to write a statement about an incident that may be investigated?

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After Hours: 561-371-7200

DO NOT TALK to anyone until you have consulted with a PBA ATTORNEY.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

The following statement should be written as the first sentences on any statement, report or memorandum an officer is ordered to write when the officer knows or has a reasonable belief that discipline may result:

It is my understanding that this report is made for administrative, internal police department purposes only. This report is made by me after being ordered to do so by lawful supervisory officers. I have not been permitted a reasonable amount of time to confer with a PBA representative or attorney. It is my understanding that by refusing to obey an order to write this immediately, I can be disciplined for insubordination and that the punishment for insubordination can be up to, and including, termination of employment. This report is made only pursuant to such orders and the potential punishment/discipline that can result for failure to obey that order.

REMINDER

The legal defense policies of the Florida and Palm Beach County PBA have an important provision regarding representation. If a member elects to secure representation by anyone other than the PBA (a private attorney, for example), that member is considered to have waived representation by the PBA. Once this happens, it is the PBA's option whether or not to continue to represent the member in that matter. Please call the PBA office if you have any questions regarding this policy.

[Download PBC PBA Legal Defense Policy](#)

[Download Florida PBA Legal Defense Policy](#)

[Download PBA Bylaws](#)

[Download PBA Constitution](#)

<https://www.pbcpba.org/membership/legal/>

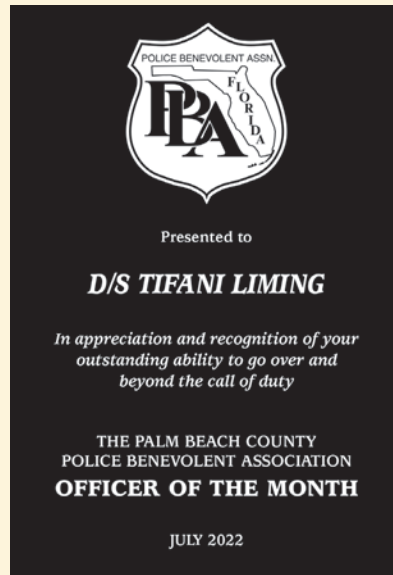
Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

JULY 2022

Deputy Tifani Liming **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**

Nominated by Sergeant Brandt Sellari

On a late-night call in July 2022, Deputy Liming responded to an active residential fire in Loxahatchee, where black smoke was billowing from the home's doors and windows. She learned that an elderly female was trapped inside the house and had hit her head. The woman's daughter was outside the home but was apprehensive to enter due to her own medical condition. The daughter gave Deputy Liming the house keys and, after gaining entry, Deputy Liming used her flashlight to navigate through the smoke and to find the woman in the kitchen. Deputy Liming dragged the woman to safety, and they were both transported to the hospital due to smoke inhalation. Deputy Liming's uncommon bravery and strength of character ensured this woman's survival. Very well done!

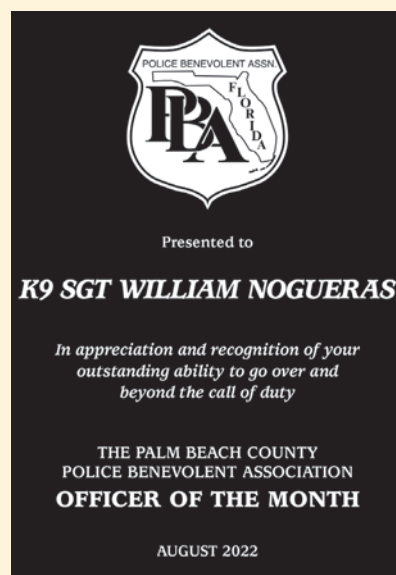


AUGUST 2022

K-9 Sergeant William Nogueras **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**

Nominated by Lieutenant J.P. Harvey

Sergeant Nogueras responded to a hostage situation where there were reports of a woman's screams for help from a residence. The home's windows and doors were covered, and the deputies were forced to breach the house to make contact. The suspect had duct taped the victim and sexually assaulted her for hours. Deputies found the man restraining the woman with a large knife to her throat. Despite numerous commands for the suspect to drop the knife, the man did not comply. Sergeant Nogueras was forced to fire his weapon at the defendant to stop the threat, striking him once in the head. Both the man and the victim were transported for medical treatment and survived. The man was charged with multiple criminal offenses, including sexual battery and attempted murder. Sergeant Nogueras saved this woman from imminent threat of harm and living nightmare. We commend you.



Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

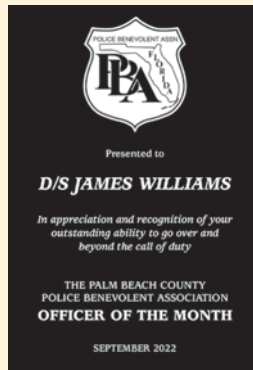
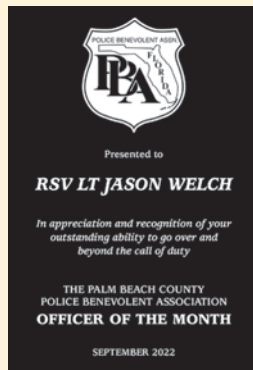
SEPTEMBER 2022

**Reserve Lieutenant Jason Welch &
Deputy James Williams**

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by Lieutenant Jason Johnson

In July 2022, there was a hit-and-run accident in Lake Worth, where a driver struck and killed a pedestrian and fled in a white BMW. Lieutenant Welch located the car, which had front-end damage, and he updated dispatch with the location and tag number of the suspect while he remained undetected. The suspect then fled at a high rate of speed, and a pursuit ensued. Deputy Williams realized that the vehicle was headed in his direction, and he successfully deployed his tire deflation device in the roadway. The suspect vehicle traveled eastbound in the westbound lanes of traffic on Jog Road but eventually stopped. The driver was taken into custody without further incident. Both Lieutenant Welch and Deputy Williams worked efficiently under pressure and prevented further risk of harm to the public. Great job!



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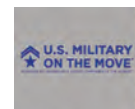
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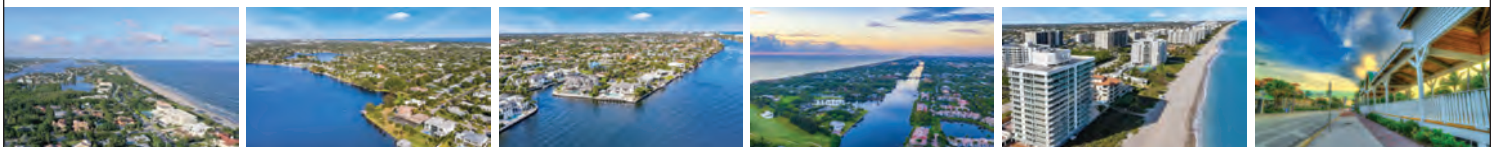
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STORM STORIES:

How PBA members responded to Hurricane Ian

Calm After the Storm

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The PBSO Emergency Field Force had no idea how much of an emergency hurricane response would become. As Ian began its assault on the west coast, deputies on the EFF and support personnel received an email on Sept. 29 to be ready within the next five to seven days to head to the Charlotte County area, where they would provide assistance to local departments.

An hour later, another email came: "We're leaving tomorrow at 6 a.m."

EFF member Cory Gray had never been part of a hurricane or natural disaster relief deployment. He was taken by another section of the email that read:

Bring toiletries, bring enough uniforms. We don't know what we're doing about shower situations.

"You know what you train for, and you don't know what goes on behind the scenes, but we were prepared for anything," confirmed Gray, a motorcycle deputy and PBSO unit rep who recently became part of the EFF. "But you know that you're there to help the other men and women in blue and do whatever it takes to get the job done."

When the force of approximately 75 gathered at 6 a.m., they were met by Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, whose pep talk emphasized that if deputies needed anything to get the job done to just let him know. And the convoy, with its own motor pool, radio shop, high trucks for flooding, airboats, drone unit and the grill team to handle feeding the force, set out for Charlotte County.

"It was pretty amazing what we had there to help out," Gray observed. "We had everything to run a mini police department. And for the sheriff to come out early in the morning like that says a lot."

When the EFF team hit the streets, they took over for local police who had not had a day off since before the hurricane hit and had not even had time to check on damage to their own homes.

"They were too busy serving the public," Gray added. "To relieve those deputies, it was a great honor."

The deployment quickly moved to going from home to home to make sure residents were accounted for and if they needed any food and water. There was so



Members of the PBSO EFF team gather with Sheriff Ric Bradshaw as they prepare to leave.



EFF team members in Charlotte County, where they were deployed for Hurricane Ian response.



The PBSO Drone Unit provided local law enforcement a full aerial view of areas hardest hit by the hurricane.

much flooding that some of that detail could only be accomplished by going in by boat.

Part of the team took to draping blue tarps on homes where roofs were damaged or blown off. And the EFF also helped empty houses of all the contents ruined by flooding.

During the rounds, a group of deputies encountered former DeSoto County Sheriff Joseph L. Varnadore, who served from 1985 to 1993. He had been injured, so PBSO deputies patched him up and then helped clean up damage on his property.

The PBSO Drone Unit also provided valuable assistance by giving officers doing search and rescue a bird's-eye view



EFF team members helped out in many capacities, including cleaning up houses that were damaged.

of the area, including places they could not get to. With that resource, they were able to ensure that people had not been left stranded, as well as get a full damage assessment. The aerial view also helped agencies set assets, especially where roadways were not passable.

"I can vouch for everybody on the team within the EFF that they were excited to be there, and we did whatever we could, including good old-fashioned community policing," Gray commented. "From my understanding, the sheriff got a lot of phone calls and emails saying how proud people were that Palm Beach Sheriff's Office was there."



The overnight shift

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Blazing red billows of smoke rose high into the air as members of the Martin County Sheriff's Office Rapid Response Team arrived at the scene of a house in Charlotte County engulfed in flames. A call had come through from a resident who was moving his generator in fear that it would be stolen, and that's when the fire ignited.

This was just one example of the devastating effects in the Charlotte County community in the wake of Hurricane Ian. And the MCSO was ready.

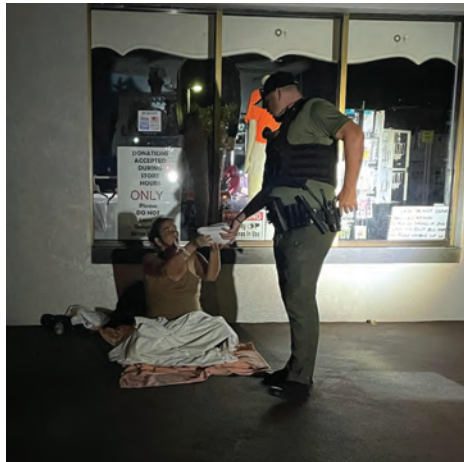
Long into the night on Oct. 30, the team of 15 members assisted the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, answering calls of theft, domestics and suspected looting. During the next seven days, the team enforced curfews and patrolled the streets in business districts that had become prime targets of burglaries. They also provided food and water to residents who had lost everything and had no real place for recovery.

"These guys are all about it, they're very passionate," explained MCSO Corporal Jon Hanton, who has served as one of the supervisors for the MCSO Rapid Response Team for five years. "All of them want to give back and go out there and help the citizens and law enforcement of other areas."

The MCSO Rapid Response Team is a group of highly trained officers who go through a lengthy interview process to join. Then they complete weeklong training sessions in natural disaster relief and protestor tactics to learn the best measures for aiding in those situations.

"Our primary thing has been natural disaster assistance to other agencies," Hanton commented. "And the guys and gals, they get on it, because they just want to help other agencies that are going through hard times, like after natural disasters."

Immediately after Hurricane Ian hit, the Florida Sheriff's Association reached out, looking for self-sustainable agencies who could provide assistance. When Hanton received the word that his team would be deployed, he began preparing. As a self-sustainable team, MCSO members had secured tents with air conditioning, as well as generators and bath-



A member of the MCSO Rapid Response Team provides food for a hurricane victim in Charlotte County.



Members of the MCSO Rapid Response Team worked the overnight shift, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. room trailers.

When the team arrived in Charlotte County on the morning of Sept. 30, they spent the first two hours setting up their command area in a large field behind the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office District 3 headquarters. Then they prepared to work an ongoing run of 6 p.m.-to-6 a.m. shifts.

This was not the first hurricane Hanton had experienced. In 2004 and 2005, he remembers enduring the four storms that hit Martin County, one after the other.

During that time, many agencies provided relief and support for MCSO, assisting in any way possible. And that has been one driving force for this team.

"As kids, they remember seeing the outside agencies here helping, and all of them want to give back and go out there and help," Hanton added. "The flip side is our people are volunteering. And they're leaving their families for weeks to go over and do this."



Members of the MCSO Rapid Response Team responded to a house fire in Charlotte County after the storm.





STORM STORIES:

How PBA members responded to Hurricane Ian

Powerful Response

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

When Hurricane Ian hit, Palm Beach County PBA members rushed to respond. Among those getting in gear, Martin County Sheriff's Office Rep Ken Youngblood connected with a selfless supporter who literally helped ignite the power of the PBA.

He calls her "Miss Eva," and she has a store called Bin Deals in Palm City. In the back, Miss Eva, also known as Eva Rivera, sells discount items. Including generators.

"She always wants to help law enforcement," Youngblood explained. "So I called her and told her I had a few people from the business community who wanted to donate the money to buy some generators."

Youngblood continued to inform Miss Eva about officers at agencies on the west coast who were without power. He wanted to purchase whatever generators he could with the money collected.

"She said, 'Don't worry about the money. I'll just donate them,'" Youngblood added.

Originally, Miss Eva was able to come up with seven generators. Youngblood informed PBCPBA President John Kazanjian about the donation to set up a way to get them to officers on the west coast.

Kaz prompted Youngblood to see if the PBA could buy some more. But Miss Eva still wouldn't hear of taking any money. She stepped up with a total of 30 generators.

"And it was like, 'wow,' because we looked them up and these generators were like \$2,500 apiece," Kaz exclaimed. "So we loaded up."

Kaz called Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to arrange for a box truck from the sheriff's office to load up the generators. Then he called Southwest Florida PBA President Mick McHale to see which of his members' houses were without power and could use the generators.

And they took off for the west coast. Ian had some barriers waiting, forcing the transport to reroute from Interstate 70 on some back roads to get to the Northport area. Youngblood said the devastation when they arrived included



Martin County Sheriff's Office PBA Rep Ken Youngblood (right) and PBCPBA President John Kazanjian deliver generators to members on the west coast who lost power in their homes when Hurricane Ian hit.



seeing full-grown rows of palm trees bent over like they were snapped in half and many houses that had roofs blown off.

They arrived on Oct. 5, which happened to be Youngblood's birthday.

"So that was a pretty cool birthday present," he quipped. "It was a good time. It was very rewarding to be able to do that. And we wouldn't have been able



to have done it without Miss Eva's huge generosity, because it wasn't a cheap donation."

Miss Eva's passion for law enforcement runs deep. Youngblood noted that it probably comes from her father, a PBSO Corrections deputy, who retired last year following 30 years of service.

"We got there, and the generators went just like that," Kaz commented. "I wish we had a couple hundred of them. It was such a great feeling to be able to do that."



Camp Fired Up

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Three days after Ian stormed Charlotte and surrounding counties, Camp Punta Gorda sprouted to provide officers coming from around the state with some of the comforts of home. In a field on the grounds of Cheney Brothers Food Service Distributors in Punta Gorda, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Emergency Field Force (EFF) had built its village of tents where deputies would stay for their nine-day support assignment.

Within the compound, the PBSO Grill Team – the same team that is seen at so many PBCPBA events and made up of mostly retired deputies now serving the sheriff's office as civilians – set up shop to keep those officers doing 12-hour tours properly fueled. And not having to eat those god-awful MREs.

"Our sheriff says he wants his women and men to come in and have a hot meal after a day's work," grill team leader Ray Griffith explained. "He believes in the motivation of food. Food brings people together, if you will. And the camaraderie that comes with it is unsurpassed by anything."

And perhaps never more needed than when responding to a natural disaster of this magnitude. After responding to many disasters during the past 20 years, they have learned how much some of the little things can mean at operations like Camp Punta Gorda.

Having made camp on Friday, Sept. 30, Griffith saw by the end of the weekend that a washer and dryer would be a big asset. So he worked with team member and retired West Palm Beach Officer Allan Ortman to get a setup working by Monday morning.

And when they found out one of the deputies assigned to the detail was having his birthday, they whipped up a birthday cake for him. That was on top of meal offerings that included steaks, sausage, onions and peppers over pasta and Asian night.

To top all that off, they figured out a way to hook up a television to watch Monday Night Football. All of it in a dining room set up under the stars.

"It's a warm, fuzzy feeling, but we believe in what we do because we do it for the members," Griffith detailed. "We know how nice it is for them to be able to come home and relax. It's a great feeling. It really is."

When the winds and rain kicked up in Palm Beach County, the grill team began prepping for deployment. Griffith said they



spent the two days before departing buying all the provisions, so they were able to arrive at Camp Punta Gorda with pretty much everything they needed. And PBSO has stocked the equipment needed to make camp since the EFF was formed in 2005.

As the support and relief tour progressed, officers from Boynton Beach, the Broward County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Highway Patrol took up residence at Camp Punta Gorda. The grill team was actually feeding more than 100 officers three meals a day throughout the week.

They were just doing their part to help an area that had been overrun with a 12-foot tsunami days earlier get started on the road to recovery.

"I'm not telling you it's the worst thing in the world, because it's not," Griffith added. "It's what we do to help the guys in the field."





STORM STORIES:

How PBA members responded to Hurricane Ian

The searchers

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Boynton Beach Sergeant Cory Herny knew the aftermath of Hurricane Ian would be bad. But when he saw it with his own eyes, he could hardly believe how bad.

Trailers had flipped upside down. Roofs were thrown off homes. Roadways had disappeared.

"I've never seen anything like it," Herny said. "We were just heartbroken for them. It was one of those shocking moments that it could've very easily been us."

On Oct. 1, Herny led the Boynton Beach PD search and rescue team, which joined forces with the PBSO Emergency Field Force, to support relief and recovery in Charlotte County. They brought trailers filled with food and cases of water, as well as off-road vehicles, including ATVs and UTVs, and a shallow-water boat.

And for the next seven 16-hour days, they had one common goal: search and rescue.

"We looked at every encounter as significant, because we were able to offer some type of services," Herny shared. "Whether it be a couple cases of water, MREs because they hadn't eaten in days or providing transportation across waterways. Every encounter had the same reaction, same emotions."

As floodwaters gradually receded, members ventured out in their boats to check as many homes as possible and deliver water and other necessities to residents. Sometimes they encountered people who had been trapped in their homes for days.

But Herny noticed that even through all that devastation, many



A member of the Boynton Beach PD Hurricane Ian search and rescue team delivers supplies to a local family.



Boynton Beach PD officers delivered cases of water to residents in DeSoto and Charlotte counties.



The Boynton Beach PD search and rescue team, from left: Boynton Beach PD Sergeant Brian McDeavitt, Officer Greg Koch, Officer Vinny Mastro, Sergeant Cory Herny, Detective Shaun James, Officer Harold Hall and Officer Darren Hederian.

people were still smiling. In tears, residents embraced officers and simply thanked them for being there.

"These people lost their farms, cow pastures, all their cows that died and their horses that died because they all drowned. I mean, it was insane," Herny said. "They lost everything within a 12-hour period. And yet, they're still positive and have smiles on their faces."

As the team continued its relief efforts, Boynton Beach PD Public Information Officer Holly Picciano gathered school supplies for Pine Island, which was also devastated by the hurricane. In less than 24 hours, donations and support came flooding in.

And soon, there were enough donations for all five schools on the island, for those children and teachers who had lost so much.

"I really can't describe it, other than just saying it was a rewarding experience for me to be able to go over there," said Detective Shaun James, who was part of the Boynton PD team. "I feel like I did something good and was able to help somebody truly in need."

We got your back

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

At a press conference on Oct. 13 at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis presented a Florida disaster relief fund check to Florida State PBA members. South Florida PBA President Steadman Stahl accepted the check on behalf of members who were impacted by Hurricane Ian.

DeSantis provided the \$500,000 donation with the intent that it would help members who suffered losses in Hurricane Ian get back on their feet as they continue to stand on the front lines to serve devastated communities.



Diaper dandies

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

As the Jupiter PD Hurricane Ian response team approached the city of North Port, they were struck by the complete devastation. Although most of the flooding had receded, many power lines were still down, houses were completely torn apart and many residents did not have food or water.

The team of 16, from Jupiter PD, Tequesta PD and Juno Beach PD, had to be prepared for anything. They had a total of 13 vehicles, a command bus, a johnboat and a rigid-hull boat carrying heavy-duty equipment.

The members didn't know what to expect. All they knew was that any little way they could help would have a lasting and meaningful impact on the residents of the North Port community.

"Anytime you see any devastation like that, our first thought is, what can I do to help out in a situation like this?" explained Jupiter Unit Rep Scott Kimbark, who was part of the team. "And it was very encouraging to be there with a group of people who weren't ordered to be there. They went there to help people and help provide any service that was required."

Over the next seven days, team members took on any task, no matter how mundane. At times, that meant standing on the street corners to direct traffic



The Jupiter PD Hurricane Ian response team provided food and water to victims in North Port, or offering to help someone wash their clothes.

It also meant providing food and water to the countless residents who had nothing to eat.

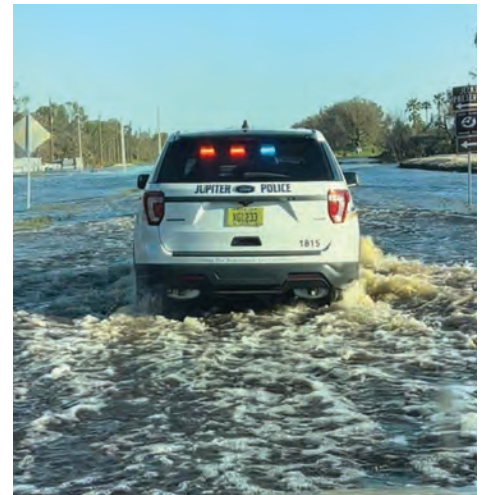
"Residents would frequently drive by us and they would ask, 'Do you know where I can get cases of water? Do you know where I can get some food?'" Kimbark said. "We ended up having an entire industrial van full of food and water to donate to them."

And when officers met two young moms with babies who had lost everything, they bought them a supply of diapers and other necessities.

"We were just as encouraged to help them as they were thankful," Kimbark added. "It was an overwhelming feeling, just to witness everybody come together and help each other."



Jupiter PD members donated diapers and supplies to a mother who had lost everything.



"You lose everything. Houses are all torn apart. Your family's scattered. While you're working, looking to protect the good from evil, there is at back of your mind, what are you going to do when you go home? How's your house going to get fixed?" Stahl commented. "So the money is designed to give out to our members, and that's what we're focusing on."

DeSantis promised members that he is committed to offering more financial resources down the road. Right now, his focus is offering immediate relief. Stahl noted just how significant it would be for members to relieve them of financial stress.

"It gives [members] the opportunities to get back into this game," Stahl added. "It's one less thing you have to have on your mind. And it's very commendable. The governor stepped up to the plate and made sure that public safety, our first responders, are taken care of. He has our back, and we're going to have his back."





STORM STORIES:

How PBA members responded to Hurricane Ian

Eye-Opening

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Numerous reports of snakes and alligators on city streets literally surfaced in Sarasota County where Ian cut part of its greatest swath of annihilation. The sites and scenes after the storm of a lifetime pounded wind and rain for six to seven hours could hardly be imagined.

Florida PBA Senior Vice President Mick McHale, also the president of the Southwest Florida PBA, lived through that barrage, calling it something he had never seen before. His eyes inside the eye of the storm reveal a lot about what members had to respond to and endure as Ian left unprecedented shrapnel.

"I have members that had five feet of standing water inside their residence for somewhere from five to six days," McHale described. "And when they were called in to duty, there was no timeline of when they would be able to go home."

McHale reported how the support of law enforcement agencies – from sheriff's offices to local PDs – and the military helped first responders and those they served keep going. Behind the scenes in the command center set up to provide the support, he saw a washer and dryer set up and observed how much that helped.

"When you think of the totality, a pair of dry socks was better than a double-scooped ice cream cone," he added.

All of which enabled law enforcement



officers to perform harrowing rescue operations. McHale heard about people pulled out of their cars through the sunroof because they were so overrun with water. He heard of numerous families being rescued from the attics of their homes because that was the only escape hatch from the flooding.

The PBA provided generators to members so their families could survive in their homes while they went out to do the search and rescue. And amid the devastating conditions, McHale saw the best of the profession literally among the different patches standing shoulder to shoulder.

"There's just hundreds, if not thou-



sands, of stories of heroism that have taken place," he declared. "I couldn't be more proud to be a part of a profession that when the chips are down and we can't control Mother Nature, we rally together and truly look out for the best interest of the public that we serve, and especially their brothers and sisters."

Paying It Forward

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

Jim Baiardi knows the struggle.

Thirty years ago, when Hurricane Andrew cut a nasty swath of destruction across southern Florida, Baiardi was left with only the clothes on his back. Another hurricane — he says there have been so many — dropped a tree on his home and his car.

As ingrained as those memories are, Baiardi remembers the help that followed the devastation, which is what motivates the Florida PBA vice president

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23





PAYING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

for services to do all he can to help fellow corrections officers who are balancing the need to work with the persistent struggle of recovering from Hurricane Ian.

"It's been a passion for me to help officers in need, especially from hurricanes," Baiardi said. "I know what they are going through. They still have to go to work, they can't go out there and get supplies. They can't wait."

As soon as the roads became drivable after Ian struck, Baiardi, president of the

Florida PBA state corrections chapter, and his team began visiting correctional facilities across the Gulf Coast region. They brought food and other basics to officers coping in the storm's aftermath. The requests varied from one place to another — some were looking for snacks; others requested prepared meals — and Baiardi was pushing himself to the limit to deliver.

In one instance, Baiardi and his team went directly to a chicken processing center to pick up enough to feed three shifts at the Charlotte Correctional Institution, just north of Fort Myers, where

Ian cut its greatest damage. Plucking a few feathers to help prep the chickens is one example of how far Baiardi is willing to go to help others.

"You get creative. I think I went to about 20 stores in a few days ... to buy stuff," he explained, mentioning flashlights, batteries and even every box of jerky he encountered at one store. "Giving a guy who lost his home a sandwich or a hot meal ... makes him feel better, knowing that somebody cares. I think that acts like mine and other people's did restore faith back in each other, our co-workers and the union."



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CARDIOLOGIST'S WARNING:

Serving in law enforcement for 25 years can make you 170 percent more at risk for heart attacks, heart disease, strokes and aneurysms.

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

By now, most PBCPBA members and their loved ones know the trials Kaz faced regarding his heart valves failing. The PBA president, who does not look that far removed from the shape of his days in the Marine Corps, had been through cardiac checkups that did not detect this issue.

Kaz could have been one of those people who suffered a fatal heart attack during one of those 15-mile bike rides he makes as part of his exercise routine five times per week. He was one of those law enforcement officers who have a 30 to 70 times increased chance of suffering cardiac arrest just because of the job they do.

By now, you have heard the warning from Kaz, but it bears repeating as the PBCPBA ramps up opportunities for members to schedule cardiac screenings with the experts at Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics.

"You got to get something done," states John Kazanjian, less than four months after successful open-heart surgery to replace two valves. "I am seeing more law enforcement and corrections officers with heart problems. After 25 or 30 years, you are going to have an issue. You got to stay on top of it as your career progresses."

Advanced Cardiovascular comes to the PBCPBA headquarters in West Palm Beach every few months with its magic bus. Like on the visit the bus made to the PBA earlier in November, it comes equipped to run various diagnostics designed to check

for blockages in arteries, compromised blood flow to the heart and brain and the presence of an aneurysm that might rupture.

The bus also comes with fully equipped cardiologists like Dr. Robert Stuhl and Dr. Perry Frankel, who administer the testing with a staff of nurses and physician assistants. Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics has rolled into hundreds of departments in New York, New Jersey and Florida to essentially save lives. Like they did recently with two officers they screened in Syracuse. Or like they did with Kaz.

"You hear 'defund the police' a lot but not enough 'save a life in the police,'" Dr. Frankel states. "We practice offense, not defense. We don't wait for a heart attack. We will pick up a tight blockage with 85 to 90 percent accuracy."

Dr. Frankel's experience working with law enforcement officers has verified national reports that they are more likely to have their first heart attack on average at age 49. For the rest of the population, it's age 67 on average.

And the prevalence of cardiovascular disease among law enforcement is due to a number of factors such as: the amount of overtime worked; sleep deprivation; acute and chronic psychological stress; sudden physical exertion; and shift work preying on the fact that people are programmed to sleep in the dark.

Dr. Frankel describes the screening as like bringing a cardiologist to your office. He calls it concierge medicine.

It begins with receiving an email from the PBA to schedule an appointment when the bus will be coming. So keep an eye out for that and book online or through the QR code that comes right to you.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

The appointment, of course, begins with a little paperwork – just to get some medical history – getting your vitals and then seeing the doctor. The diagnostics on-site can include:

- **Echocardiogram:** A noninvasive ultrasound test that evaluates the structures of the heart, as well as the direction of blood flow within it. A heart attack occurs when a part of the heart muscle is damaged and blood flow is reduced or completely blocked.
- **Stress Echocardiogram:** A test that uses ultrasound imaging to show how well your heart muscle is working to pump blood to your body. It is most often used to detect a decrease in blood flow to the heart from narrowing in the coronary arteries.
- **Carotid Doppler:** A noninvasive test using sound waves to measure the flow of blood through the large carotid arteries that supply blood to the brain. It also detects plaque (carotid artery disease) and can help determine stroke risk and the need for preventive measures.
- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Ultrasound:** Approximately 200,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with abdominal aortic aneurysms, of whom 66 percent have no prior symptoms or warnings. This can determine if you are at risk for a rupture.

“And then we come up with a plan,” Dr. Frankel explains. “Every single person we sit down with, go over every single test that they had and give them a plan. Maybe we need a CAT scan or another test. I’m also a big nutrition and exercise pusher. It’s not just about preventing heart attacks and strokes. It’s about how to increase your lifespan.”

Having worked with many law enforcement agencies, correctional facilities and PBAs in several states, Dr. Frankel has



learned that looking healthy can be deceiving. He tells a story of a New York State Trooper assigned to the SWAT team who had set national records in weightlifting. But one day his wife came home and found him on the floor on the verge of death. She was a nurse and used CPR to bring him back.

But his point is that you never know when you might be suffering from a blockage or another problem. Dr. Frankel notes that half of heart attacks result from a blockage that ruptures. This could be undetected and occur when running a marathon or running after somebody who committed a crime.

Or on a 15-mile bike ride.

“A lot of it is just common sense and caring,” Dr. Frankel submits. “We want to be there for them because they are there for us. They risk their lives for us.”

So get on the bus, because that is the best way to take away some of that risk.



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Making history at the Palm Beach County PBA

When Palm Beach County Commissioner Dave Kerner wanted to present his stunning and historic endorsement of Governor DeSantis, there was only one appropriate place to make the announcement. So he called the Palm Beach County PBA and asked to use the PBA Hall for the press conference that received national media attention.

On Sept. 20, law enforcement officers, firefighters, other first responders and the public packed the PBA Hall. It was historic for a Democratic commissioner in a Democratic county to endorse a Republican candidate.

“He called me up and asked,” PBCPBA President John Kazanjian explained. “I said, ‘Absolutely. Knock yourself out.’”

Kerner stated that his endorsement was the result of the state’s trajectory, the management of the pandemic and DeSantis’ ongoing support of law enforcement. He confirmed that this support is simply because the governor’s service in Florida has been exemplary. He called him “America’s Governor” and mentioned that the focus should be on the governor’s service and that is the reason for the endorsement across party lines.



Championing law enforcement

In one of the highest-profile election campaigns in Florida history, some candidates have realized the value of support from law enforcement as a make-or-break component of getting elected. And then there are candidates like Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis.

Patronis has never wavered in his support for police and corrections officers. So the run-up to Election Day seemed to be a perfect time to recognize Patronis for his ongoing and unwavering support.

On Oct. 19, Florida PBA and Palm Beach County PBA Presi-

dent John Kazanjian joined members of the Florida PBA executive board to present Patronis with the Law Enforcement Officer’s Champion Award.

“He’s been a champion,” Kaz declared. “I mean, he is the one that pushed the PTSD bill and all that stuff. And you know what, he looks after first responders. You can’t say enough good things about Jimmy Patronis. You talk about the governor being all over the place for this state. Well, Jimmy is following right behind him.”



Meet Palm Beach County PBA-Endorsed Candidates

General Election: Nov. 8, 2022

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Tina Polsky

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Andy Thomson

The PBA is proud to endorse Andy Thomson for State
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Saulis Banionis

State Representative District 86



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Michelle Oyola McGovern

The PBA is proud to endorse Michelle Oyola McGovern
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Making Their Points

MCSO members secure new contract that confirms their value to the department

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The typical contract negotiations ping-pong between Martin County Sheriff's Office members and Sheriff William Snyder had hit a healthy flow. Members served up a proposal for a 6-percent salary increase in year one and COLA for years two and three. The sheriff slammed back with dismissal.

But his was only a shot to make a point. Nobody wanted to play games during the three negotiating sessions of this contract set. In fact, this was not the typical two sides squaring across the table from each other in angst or consternation, as had been the case in the previous two contract confrontations between MCSO members and their respected but commanding sheriff.

"This one was a bit odd," Palm Beach County PBA attorney Brennan Keeler explained in a complimentary way of comparing this contract negotiation to the past two he spearheaded for the MCSO unit.

"The prior two were, I'd use the word 'contentious,'" Keeler continued. "The most appropriate word I would use for this one would be 'atypical,' compared to past negotiations."

Perhaps the sheriff didn't utter the words, but the actions of this contract negotiation seemed to speak loud with affirmation about the caliber of work his officers are doing. Now, affirmation can come in many forms. But clearly with the three-year contract that started on Oct. 1 and runs to Sept. 30, 2025, the sheriff put his money where his mouth is.

All Martin County Sheriff's Office members received a 5.9 percent salary increase with the new contract. Additionally, all members will automatically move up a step on their anniversary, which is another 5 percent. In year two, they all get a 3 percent COLA and in year three, they get a 2 percent COLA.

But wait, there's more. Not only do members get enough of a first-year increase to outrun the insane inflation rates. But the contract includes "me-too" clauses to reopen negotiations for year two and year three COLA.

The me-too is linked to the increases Martin County Fire and Rescue gets during the next two years. If those surpass the year two and three guarantees for officers, then the PBA can reopen negotiation for bigger increases.

"At the end of the day, I think everybody made out pretty good," MCSO Unit Rep Ken Youngblood commented. "You're not going to make everybody happy, but this contract definitely gives us some peace of mind."

After meetings that a majority of members attended, the MCSO negotiating team set a floor of a 5 percent increase in year 1, 3 percent COLA in year two and 2 percent COLA in year 3. So members can consider the final outcome a win.

In negotiations past, the sheriff's team might have played hardball and dismissed any year two or three deals. But Keeler observed that the department brought a different team to the table than in past years.

When the sheriff sat down for the first session, he indicated the desire to avoid what had happened during the previous two contract negotiations.

"I think lessons were learned from the past two negotiations," Keeler added. "The sheriff said he wanted to be straight up with us. So we said, 'That's great. We really hope you work together with us and make it competitive.' We basically threw the ball right back at him."

As a result, MCSO members received their biggest first-year bump ever. And in another win, the new contract allows members to count off-duty detail pay as pensionable compensation.

"That was a big win," Keeler confirmed. "Our argument the entire time has been, just because it's an off-duty detail, they're still doing the same job as if they were working on duty. They're still wearing uniforms. They still have arrest powers."

MCSO didn't win every point. The unit wanted additional assignment pay created with the new contract. The department balked at that, and it proved to be prudent to give that one up this time around.

"We definitely want to keep trying to work it in," Youngblood assured.

In exchange for that, the MCSO reps netted the me-too clauses in the contract. The unit held steadfast on those not just because of the expected rise in cost of living, perhaps driven by continuing inflation. But to make a point.

The sheriff's office wanted to leave year two and three as reopening negotiations. And then they came back with a 2 percent and 1 percent offer.

"But we said, 'None of that. We have to have something to hold your feet to the fire,'" Keeler explained. "We stuck to our 3 and 2 percent with the me-too clause, and they ultimately agreed."

The contract now allows for reopening years two and three with the 3 percent and 2 percent minimums. That's the standard of protection the PBA has been able to procure for several of its units.

And instead of letting negotiations ping-pong into a no-win situation, it becomes a win-win of making sure MCSO salaries reach the level to hopefully retain officers and recruit new ones.

"I don't know if I would use the word happy. I think they're realistic," Keeler concluded. "The reps understand, and they did a good job of conveying to the members about being pragmatic. We didn't fight over things. At the end of the day you just kind of realize, we'll take the money and move on."

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PBCPBA scholarship winners showcase their dedication and drive to give back

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Reginald Peterson's personal goal is to never fail a class. And as a student-athlete at Florida International University who has made the Dean's List numerous times, he doesn't plan on doing so anytime soon.

Having struggled with speech problems when he was younger, Peterson experienced how teachers connected with him and helped him overcome his struggles. And those experiences inspired him to pursue a degree in psychology, with a goal of opening his own business one day.

Peterson remembers his father, Eric Sirmons, who has been on the job with MCSO for 24 years, teaching him the importance of working hard and that even if you don't see the results right away, it will pay off.

So when Peterson was named the Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund Scholarship first-place winner, he said he realized what his father was talking about.

"I feel very thankful, very blessed and highly favored," Peterson commented. "Just being chosen out of all those people really meant something to me. It makes me feel like I'm not a kid that's forgotten about."

On Aug. 1, Peterson stood alongside the other PBA scholarship recipients, who all seem to be inspired by their parents' commitment to service.

Students like Kevin Linardos, son of 25-year PBSO veteran Kevin Linardos, who dedicates his free time as a junior to directed independent research for his neuroscience and behavior degree at Florida International University. And Bria Cop-pin, daughter of PBSO member Kevin Coppin, who created the L.O.V.E. (Letting Our Voices Encourage) Letters Project, which delivers handwritten letters to breast cancer patients, health-care workers and children's hospitals.

These are a few of the ways that this year's recipients of the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship and the Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund scholarships have dedicated themselves to achieving their academic, career and life goals. Inspired by their parents on the job and their PBA family, they have followed a path of service that has been a big asset in working toward those goals.

If Peterson is not on the football field with his teammates, he is spending his time studying. He learned the value of hard work from his father, who would spend countless hours helping him understand homework assignments.

And now, one of his biggest goals is to succeed so he can give back to his parents.

"My family has always been my motivation, even when I'm out there on the football field or in the classroom," he added. "I know if I stop here, I won't be able to get to where I want to go in the future."

Linardos has also been motivated by his father's involvement in the PBA and commitment to the community. He remembers joining his dad, at the annual PBCPBA golf outing, played in Kaitlin's honor and to raise money for the scholarship fund.

"Growing up with my dad in the community taught me to put others before yourself," Linardos related. "And the fact is, that sometimes means you have to go to work at, like, 4 a.m., but in



Reginald Peterson, son of MCSO Deputy Eric Sirmons, was awarded the Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund first-place scholarship.



Bria Coppin, daughter of PBSO member Kevin Coppin, was named the second-place recipient of the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship.

the end it'll be worth it because of all the connections that you make with other people."

When Linardos, who is planning to attend medical school, earned the Kaitlin Kazanjian first-place scholarship, it confirmed for his father the impact of the award.

"The PBA is securing its future for not just its members, but its citizens, by donating to people who are going to donate back to their community," PBSO Sergeant Linardos commented. "There are kids who literally couldn't afford to go to college and further their education or their livelihood, but now, through the



Courtney Halperin, daughter of PBSO Officer Mark Halperin, received the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian third-place scholarship.

work of the Kazanjian Fund, they are able to achieve that goal. It's very emotional to see these kids get the opportunity to fulfill some of their dreams."

Bria Coppin remembers being greeted with smiles and hugs whenever she walked into the PBCPBA office. She said she always felt support from members, and now, as a junior at Spelman College in Atlanta, receiving the Kaitlin Kazanjian second-place scholarship seems like an extension of that support.

"To have a scholarship like this, it shows how the PBA is an amazing institution that will help me excel," Coppin remarked. "And there's also a family aspect, where I know I can come back home, and they'll be there to welcome me with open arms."

Coppin is currently studying psychology. She is hoping to become a clinical psychologist with a practice dedicated to children and students of color. She dedicates much of her time to community service, such as organizing book drives or toy drives for local children's hospitals.

"Helping other people is a calling," Kevin Coppin related. "And I definitely think she's picked that up between me and her mother, who is a teacher."

Kevin Coppin noted that Bria has learned strength and determination from her father. There were times she was worried that he wouldn't make it home safely. But he always did, and he never quit.

Bria described having that same drive to achieve her goals. And now, she is also motivated to uphold Kaitlin's legacy.

"Kaitlin unfortunately didn't get to experience graduation, marriage, all of those things," Bria added. "So I just want to try to live up to her name and really excel academically as well as personally."

Growing up with her father, Mark Halperin, on the job with PBSO, Courtney Halperin learned the leadership and problem-solving skills that are the foundation of service.

During her current fieldwork as a sophomore elementary-education student at Florida Atlantic University, that is what she has carried with her. Halperin is this year's recipient of the Kaitlin Kazanjian third-place scholarship.

"It was a very proud moment," described Mark Halperin



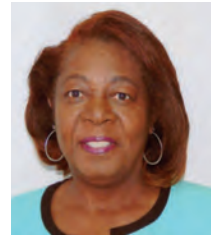
Carlee Moschette, daughter of Palm Beach County School Police Officer Francis Moschette, received the Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund third-place scholarship.

about his daughter receiving the scholarship. "And I was very humble and grateful for her to have that opportunity, knowing that it'll allow her to continue toward her dreams."

Courtney also expressed her gratitude to the PBA for being so

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Ready to Serve Florida's First Responders

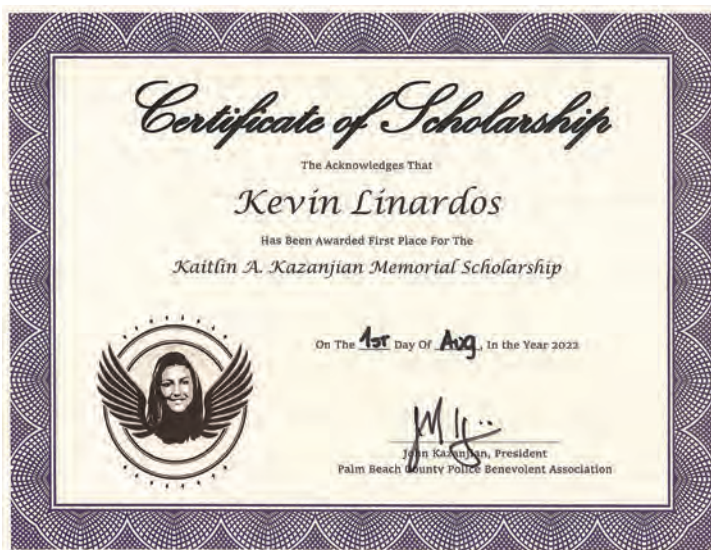


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SELECTING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

supportive in helping her continue her education.

"It shows they really care for the families and the children of the families," Halperin related. "It's like a family, but not only a family. It's a community."

After completing a tax accounting course during the summer, Carlee Moschette received an extra boost of motivation when her professor emailed her the following message:

"Congratulations," the professor wrote. "Getting an A in a tax accounting class is not easy. You have a bright future ahead of you."

And Moschette seemed even more surprised when she was



chosen as the recipient of the Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund Scholarship. Her father, Francis Moschette, who has been on the job for 33 years with the Palm Beach County School District Police, has seen Carlee's tenacious drive to always go above and beyond.

As it is for many of this year's recipients, the PBA's support is something Moschette has felt her whole life. But now, as a student, it means so much more.

"I just love how they're so supportive of each other and that they're always there for each other as an organization," Moschette added. "And now, seeing how it can impact me even more and help me get through my studies in order to have a good future, it's so nice to see that they actually care."

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'Nothing is too small in life'

The moment Andrea Dagostino walked into the PBCPBA office to begin her new job in September, she felt the warm, welcoming atmosphere of the law enforcement family. As an office assistant, her job entails a little bit of everything, from answering phone calls and sending out mailers for union rep ballots to welcoming people at the door.

Dagostino had known about the PBA previously, as some of her family members were on the job with PBSO, like her brother-in-law, Mike Kennedy, and her uncle, Bobby Allen.

Dagostino has many fond memories of law enforcement from when she was younger. She recalls seeing her uncle Bobby in uniform and running up to give him a hug. When she saw him in his uniform, she knew he was helping the community.

So when Kennedy recently told Dagostino that there was a job opening at the PBA, she felt a bit of the calling.

"The second I met everyone, I was like, 'OK this is an amazing environment,'" Dagostino says. "These are amazing people who are more than just employers. I feel like family or connected. We're just more and I love the environment."

A Wellington native, Dagostino moved to Tampa to attend the University of South Florida, where she graduated with her bachelor's degree in speech pathology and a master's degree in education. After graduating, Dagostino taught third grade for 10 years in the Tampa public school system before deciding to move back with her husband, Joe, to start a family.

She dedicated herself to what she feels is the most important thing she's ever done: Being a stay-at-home mom. After teaching other people's kids for so many years, Dagostino felt a calling to bring that same dedication to her family.

"My number-one priority in my life has always been my kids," Dagostino says. "My greatest contribution to this world might not be something I do, but someone I raise. So, raising my kids is huge to me and it always has been. So now to show them that I'm part of something that gives back to the community, it's huge."

And now that her children, Ethan, 16, Eli, 13, and Ivie, 9, are older, Dagostino was able to transition back into the workforce. After being a stay-at-home mom for 15 years, it is a completely new venture, but one she has embraced with open arms.

During the transition, Dagostino described the hardest part of returning back to work as not knowing anyone and being away for so long. But the team she is working with seems to have already made all the difference.

"They don't care if I've been home or not, or been working," Dagostino says. "They just take me on as a part of the team. And that's honestly what I'm looking forward to, just being a part of something and helping out in any way I can."

Even though she is new to the job, Dagostino is motivated to serve PBA members in any capacity. And she carries with her a passion and desire to leave an example for her children.

"Nothing is too small in life," Dagostino says. "Everything I do is to model for my kids what they're going to grow up and be like, whether it's kindness, humbleness or being helpful in this world. And if you do that, no matter what level you're on in this world, you will achieve something and be great."



The Dagostino family, from left, Andrea, Eli, Ethan, Ivie and Joe

Meet Andrea Dagostino



- Grew up in Wellington
- Attended the University of South Florida
- Has a bachelor's degree in speech pathology
- Has a master's degree in education

What I love about my job

Just being part of the team. That's honestly what I'm looking

forward to, is just being a part of something and helping out in any way I can.

What I love about working for the PBA

Honestly, the people here, the environment, the atmosphere. These are amazing people who are more than just employers.

How I approach my job

I look at it as a way to teach my kids. Everything I do is to model for my kids what they're going to grow up and be like, whether it's kindness, humbleness or being helpful in this world.



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- Must possess or be able to obtain a valid Florida Driver's License prior to employment.
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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: \$61,080 (3+ years Certified Corrections experience \$66,720)

- Monitors and surveils inmates
- Prepares legal documentation and reports
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- 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

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Spring Board

Florida PBA adds new positions and leaders to its executive board and begins plans to target new members

The new Florida PBA executive board was sworn in at the state meeting on Oct. 20 at the Palm Beach County PBA.

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

John Kazanjian surged into the Palm Beach County PBA Hall with a burst of energy. Presidents and other members from Florida PBA charters and chapters had been waiting for Kaz to start the state meeting on Oct. 20, and when he stepped to the podium, a rush came over the room.

The PBCPBA president, who doubles as the Florida PBA president, had an announcement to make. Well, not so much an announcement maybe as much as a declaration or proclamation. He was almost Jeffersonian among this group because the action at hand was that historic.

"Listen, we've got some problems," Kaz began. "Other unions are trying to raid us for our units and members. And we're going to fight back."

Not that throwing tea into the harbor is the current plan. But a little of the modern-day vim, vigor and pushback appears to be coming to the Florida PBA.

The two-day meeting featured the high point of swearing in the new state PBA executive board with newfound diversity and two new vice presidents to lead the charge. Eventually, the meeting would detail some of the PBA's selling points to prospective members.

But for most of the meeting, the buzz centered around recruiting new members and the strategic plan to do so.

Sun Coast Charter President Johnny Vazquez was named to the newly created position of vice president of recruiting. Florida State Law Enforcement Chapter President Scott Hoffman was named to the newly created position of vice president of strategic planning. And Correctional Probation Officers Presi-

dent Tammy Marcus was named sergeant-at-arms, becoming the first female member of the board.

"I think we have the opportunity to take a deep dive into our successes and failures and make sure we unify our chapters and charters," Vazquez stated. "And then we can make sure we start moving in a direction that will start getting more membership."

Vazquez went to work even before the new board was sworn in on the afternoon of Oct. 20. That morning, he stood up at the meeting and related work in place to create a map with color-coded overlays to show which agencies in Florida have PBA representation and which have other representation.

The others will become the targets of the recruiting initiatives Vazquez plans to engineer. He asked for the work to start right there at the meeting.

"We need all our chapter and charter presidents to put their heads together to identify what has been successful in gaining new membership," he implored. "And then we make a plan of attack to go out there and get new members."

Vazquez confirmed that the PBA has no shortage of selling points for prospective members, especially those who are realizing their benefits from other unions might not be so hot.

"We have our legislative accomplishments. We have our collective bargaining successes in getting the best wages and benefits for our members. I think those are huge," he elaborated. "But you can't negate the fact that our legal defense is absolutely phenomenal. Prospective members need to know that for a certain amount, which is way less than putting somebody on retainer, you're going to get the best lawyers in Florida to defend you."

Hoffman submitted how much he is looking forward to working with Vazquez. He even announced at the meeting that he has started a planning committee that includes Vazquez, Marcus, Florida PBA Vice President for Chapters Steve Slade and George Corwine, the chief negotiator and field representative for the state PBA.

“Strategic planning and recruitment go hand in hand,” explained Hoffman, who has been a PBA leader for nearly 25 years and currently works as a recruiter for the state PBA. “There’s no reason to plan if you don’t have recruitment. And there no reason to recruit if you don’t have a plan. That’s why I reached out to these four people to develop a plan and focus on new units.”

Hoffman believes there are a couple of key factors to expanding the membership. One will be incorporating technology. He hopes the PBA will develop an app members can download to get up-to-date information.

He knows this is how younger members, of which there are more every day, want to be engaged. Hoffman related that he recently went to an academy graduation and signed up 11 new members. None of them wanted the paper application, preferring to fill it out on their devices.

Noting that the Florida PBA recently signed up the Leon County Sheriff’s Office, which had never had representation, and that there are hot targets in the panhandle where he lives, Hoffman offered a pledge. This might have been more Hamiltoneque than Jeffersonian.

“If we haven’t signed up new units in 12 months from now, then I don’t know what the hell I’m doing,” Hoffman charged. “It’s that simple. I want to see this going on in multiple areas of the state.”



Marcus might be one of the Florida PBA’s most valuable players in expanding the power of the union with membership and more. For one, Marcus represents probation officers who have such a diverse and complex job that she knows the need to get out there and educate peers and legislators.

Additionally, she has a self-proclaimed gift of gab. Her ability to talk to anybody about anything and make points that they probably haven’t thought of will resonate from the state legislature in Tallahassee to every corner of the state.

And, of course, she brings another perspective to the Florida PBA board.

“It’s kind of nice being the female on the executive board,” Marcus asserted. “We need more diversity because we are employing more females in all aspects of police, corrections and probations. Even a lot more of our legislators are female. I think the PBA will benefit from having that diversity.”

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- Warren Buffett

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Claim to Fame

PBSO Rep Brandon West earns high honor on softball diamond

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Brandon West, PBSO unit rep and coach of the South Florida Lawmen softball team, stepped onto the baseball diamond at the Big Dreams League Facility in Las Vegas on Oct. 14. It was the opening ceremony for Police Softball World Series XVII and the moment of a lifetime.

West stood with 10 other law enforcement officers from across the country being inducted into the policessoftball.com Hall of Fame.

When he first joined the Lawmen out of the academy in 2003, West probably never imagined the opportunities it would bring him, culminating with leading the team to victory in the 2021 Police Softball World Series.

"The Hall of Fame is very prestigious, and I think it's also a tribute to all the teammates I've had," West commented. "It's been my passion to try to get better and keep playing. [My team] has been very supportive, and it's been very rewarding. You have the competitive fire and the camaraderie of hanging out with your friends and competing on the field together. At the end of the day when you win, like we won last year, all that time, effort and hard work pay off."

West became the first South Florida Lawmen team member to be inducted into the policessoftball.com Hall of Fame, which includes more than 100 honorees. The Lawmen is a team of officers from Florida and Georgia that has competed in multiple tournaments in New York, St. Louis, Las Vegas and South Carolina. The team also plays in local events and hosts an annual tournament in Tampa in honor of fallen officer and former team member John Scollo, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame after he passed away in 2015.

West still remembers when former coach and current PBSO Captain Mike Kletzky asked him to join the team. West had just come on the job. All Kletzky knew about West was that he had played baseball at the University of South Alabama.

When Kletzky decided to step down as coach in 2018, West stepped up to take on the leadership role. He had experienced the camaraderie of the team and wanted to continue building upon that.

"I didn't want to let that opportuni-



PBSO Unit Rep and South Florida Lawmen Coach Brandon West has been inducted into the policessoftball.com Hall of Fame.



The South Florida Lawmen celebrated their victory at the Police Softball World Series XVI in 2021.

ty slip away and not have a chance to present it to the young guys coming in," West explained. "And now it means a ton because I love the relationships, having played sports my whole life, and the camaraderie side of traveling and getting to know their families. Through the good and bad times, this whole team looks out for each other."

Since becoming the coach, West has continued with the team's mission to help guide members in their careers. West has stressed the importance of not only continuing with the team, but also keeping the name. It is a way for the team members to honor both Scollo and



PBSO Unit Rep Brandon West took on the coaching role after Mike Kletzky stepped down from the position in 2018.

Kletzky.

"I think the most special thing is that we've never really gotten away from what the goal and the mindset and the mission of this team were when we started 20 years ago," West noted.

West added his appreciation for Kletzky because, without him, West wouldn't have had the incredible opportunity to receive the honor of being inducted into the Police Softball Hall of Fame.

"He gave me the opportunity, not knowing who I was," West added. "And if I'd never taken this thing over four years ago, I'd never be in the Hall of Fame today."

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Members Only Section

Celebrating PBCPBA members and the way they serve every day

Taking Care

PBSO outreach team helps provide for a homeless family

When a PBSO deputy ran into a homeless family of eight during a routine road patrol, it quickly became a day he said he would always remember. On Sept. 22, the deputy made a quick stop in an Office Depot parking lot to respond to incoming messages and calls. That's when he noticed, 25 yards away from him, a smiling child coming out of a van.

Then another child did, too. The deputy watched as they both sat on the ground beside the van, followed by three more children. Immediately, the deputy drove his vehicle closer to the scene and asked the mother and grandmother if every-

thing was OK.

"Yes," the grandmother responded. "We are OK. I'm just waiting for my husband, who is inside donating plasma for money."

That's when it clicked for the deputy that this family was homeless.

At first, the two women were apprehensive about accepting help, but the deputy said he just wanted to help the children. So he asked if they had eaten breakfast.

"That is what they are doing right now," responded the grandmother, who motioned to the children sharing a granola bar.

The deputy was persistent and asked if he could buy them breakfast at McDonald's. And that's when tears streamed down their faces, as the women admitted they were homeless and living out of their van.

After enjoying a breakfast together, the deputy reached out to a member of the PBSO outreach team so they could find a way to help get the family off the streets. And not only did the team provide groceries, but they also provided a hotel until the family could find permanent housing.



Riviera Beach members help homeless family

On Sept. 7, a local citizen reported a mother with four children ages 10 and under walking the streets. Officers on the Riviera Beach Homeless Task Force decided to search the city and eventually found the family outside Wells Recreation Center.

The mother, Nicola, explained to officers that she was out on the street after she was forced out of her one-bedroom home due to unforeseen circumstances. Nicola and her children (ages 10, 8, 5 and 1) were left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. She said she had only eaten a bag of chips and a juice box all day long and had run out of diapers.

Riviera Beach Officers knew they had to take action, so they reached out to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for assistance. The two agencies worked with Riviera Beach Coalition for Families, the Lord's Place, Adopt a Family and the Palm Beach County Victims Advocates. Together, they were able to find food and a hotel room for the family to stay in.

Officers Jennifer Jones and Ramiro Pena came to her aid, buying her diapers and a meal. Jones has experience in helping the homeless, and she thanks the community for their support.

"It often takes a village, and this is just a beautiful reflection of



how much our city cares for each other," she said. "The family is a top priority for all of us, and we will continue to work with outreach resources to get them shelter."

Stuart members savor BBQ competition

When you think of great destinations for barbecue, Stuart is a city that may not come to mind immediately. But Stuart Police officers might disagree with you.

On Sept. 4, Stuart Police showed off their competition skills at the first annual NAACP BBQ Cook off in partnership with the Reverse the Door organization, which helps nonviolent offenders build life skills and obtain employment in Martin County.

Stuart Police ended up taking home second place after winning over judges with tasty ribs accentuated with the officers' special sauce.



Boynton Beach officers participate in 9/11 ceremony

Boynton Beach is more than 1,200 miles from New York City. But on Sept. 11 of this year, Boynton Beach officers joined with other local police and fire departments at ceremony to honor the fallen. Officers gathered on the 21st anniversary of that tragic day to remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost.



Grappling for Good

Jupiter members go to the mat to make a difference

In late July, Jupiter Police officers exhibited their athleticism in the Second Annual Heroes Grappling Tournament. The department took home second place overall out of several departments from around the state.

But Jupiter Police got more than just a win — they had the chance to make a difference in the lives of officers and their children.

The tournament benefitted the First Responders Children's Foundation, which ensures that children of first responders receive the proper resources to help them thrive. It also helped Adopt a Cop, an organization providing free jiu jitsu training for first responders.

MCSO members shine under Friday night lights

There's nothing like Friday night football. That's why Martin County Sheriff's Office deputies came out to support South Fork High School's football team for its season opener on Sept. 2. Besides enjoying the game, the department was there to be celebrated on Law Enforcement Appreciation Night.



Delray Beach Police receive honor for work with homeless

The Delray Beach Community Outreach Team has become renowned for providing a safe space for those in need. On Sept. 22, the team's efforts were recognized by the Palm Beach County Homeless Coalition. The Community Outreach Team was given the Community Partner of the Year Award for all of their hard work.





PBSO officers spread hope to a homeless man

When the PBSO Homeless Intervention Team was alerted to a homeless man's situation, they immediately took action. Peter, a 74-year-old resident, had been living out of his car for the past seven months. But his hard circumstances didn't end there. His car was also broken down and in desperate need of repairs.

When the team met with Peter on Aug. 23, they went above and beyond to help him. They purchased clothes, shoes and food for him. They also reached out to a mechanic who gave Peter's car a tune-up. And together, the team purchased the vehicle parts that were needed to provide him with transportation again.

Before the PBSO officers left Peter, he expressed his gratitude and added, "You are all servants of the Lord, and may he keep you safe and continue to bless you."

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PBA members help kids get back into school

The school year is up and running, aided by the efforts of members from across Palm Beach and Martin counties. Here are some departments who went above and beyond for students and teachers.



Stuart

On July 21, Stuart Police held a major back-to-school bash with more than 400 people in attendance. It wouldn't have been a success without help from the Gertrude Walden Child Care Center, Tenth Street Community Center, JD Parker Elementary and Stuart Middle School.



Delray Beach

In Delray Beach, officers filled more than 800 backpacks with supplies that were handed out during National Night Out. And Delray Beach police officers welcomed students back to the classroom on the first day of school.



MCSO

The Martin County Sheriff's Office was getting kids ready for the new school year in its own way. On Aug. 6, the department partnered with the Academies of Cosmetology to give free haircuts in preparation for the first day of class. They were also able to hand out 750 backpacks filled with supplies thanks to Elev8 Hope. The day was concluded with treats cooked by the MCSO BBQ Grill Team.



Boynton Beach



While it's nice to give a boost of encouragement to students, Boynton Beach Police couldn't forget about our educators. In honor of World Teachers' Day on Oct. 5, the department donated supplies to Corkscrew Elementary, one of the schools hit hard by Hurricane Ian.



PBSO

In early August, PBSO officers lent a helping hand to a local special-needs school and charter school. They donated supplies to the Career Academy of Palm Beaches and the Renaissance Charter School.

But the donations didn't stop there. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Foundation was able to donate supplies to Belle Glade Elementary's AVID Program. AVID is a readiness system designed to encourage children to continue their higher education.

If there's one thing a student can't go to school without, it's a backpack. PBSO deputies from Lake Worth made the rounds to North Grade, Highland, South Grade and Barton Elementary Schools to hand out backpacks on Aug. 4.

But PBSO didn't support students alone. In fact, they were inspired by a local girl to help other students when they came upon Aleeh's lemonade stand. Aleeh wanted to give back by handing out school supplies. Her wish became the department's command. With the help of Greenacres Councilwoman Susy Diaz, Greenacres Community Center, Macy's, DonMar Health Services, Live Well Chiropractic Spa & Acupuncture Center and That's My Dog Food Truck, they pulled off a fun event for all on Aug. 8.

Diaz also stepped up for PBSO a week earlier at L.C. Swain Middle School. On Aug. 1, the department was able to distribute school supplies for all of Greenacres.



Members build community relationships at National Night Out

One night a year, police departments across the country give their residents an inside look at who they are and how they make an impact in their communities. This is known as National Night Out. Here is a look at the way members connected with their communities.



Delray Beach

It was a party over in Delray Beach. Local kids and their families had a chance to learn more about what officers do in the department's Mobile P.A.R.T.Y. trailer, which stands for partnering with and recruiting today's youth. When the hard work was over, the kids could hop on over to the grill and enjoy a hot dog.



Riviera Beach

National Night Out in Riviera Beach popped off with a performance from a local drumline. The good music and good vibes even got some officers breaking it down. Luckily, the weather held off long for everyone enjoy the fun and games.



Jupiter



The support for the men and women in blue could be felt all over Jupiter on National Night Out. As officers drove throughout the local streets, several families posted lawn signs and blue line flags thanking them for their efforts to keep the community safe.



Stuart



The Stuart Police Department had some very special guests at its National Night Out celebrations. Officers brought the fun to the residents at Ocean Pointe Apartments, Solaris Senior Living and The Crossings at Indian Run. They were even able to hand out brand-new backpacks to get local kids ready for the school year.

Feeding the Hungry

PBCPBA members give back to residents in need

In honor of September being Hunger Action Month, PBCPBA members gave back to residents in numerous ways. From hosting food donations, to supporting different organizations with food drives, to volunteering their time to help families in need, here are a few snapshots of how members took action to help their communities.



Delray Beach

Delray Beach officers gathered on Sept. 15 to help support a food drive that was in partnership with Eat Better Live Better. This organization helped provide food to local families in need. The items donated were enough to feed dozens of families.



PBSO

PBSO members sprang into action for Hunger Action Month and partnered with Restoration Bridge International on Sept. 14. Members collected food items throughout the districts to help fight hunger in Palm Beach County.



Riviera Beach

On Aug. 2, Riviera Beach members volunteered to help with a food drive at Wells Recreation to provide free groceries to those in need.

Jupiter members honored for their community service and beyond

When officers step out the door, they are ready to go above and beyond the call. Jupiter members seem to be doing that almost on a daily basis.

Diana Zeitz received the Officer of the Second Quarter award from the department on Aug. 11, and it's easy to see why. Zeitz is a liaison for the department's autism program and helps organize Coffee with a Cop and countless other events. And if being named Officer of the Second Quarter wasn't enough, she was also recognized by the ASIS Law Enforcement Awards Committee on Aug. 26 for her outstanding work.

From connecting to the community to saving the community, some officers were saviors this year, and it showed. On Sept. 21, officers Christopher Lowe and Shanna Staff were honored by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Station 16 for how they responded to a medical call on Dec. 31, 2021.

The pair arrived on scene to find Jeffrey Engleman not breathing. CPR had been administered by a neighbor, but Lowe found him with no pulse and began doing chest compressions. The officers were able to keep Engleman stable until the paramedics arrived to transport him. Thanks to the of-



Officer Diana Zeitz was recognized by the ASIS Law Enforcement Awards Committee and the Jupiter Police Department for her community service.

Officers' quick actions, he was able to make a full recovery.

A former NFL star also got to thank the officers who saved his life. In December 2021, former New York Jets kicker Russell Carpentieri suffered from injuries in a car accident. Officers Phillip Gelina, Chad Norman and Barry Partelow, Detective Nestor Zaragoza and Major Adam Hirsch arrived on scene to find Carpentieri unconscious.

Hirsch and Partelow were able to break open the car windows, remove Carpentieri



Officers Shanna Staff, left, and Christopher Lowe.



Former NFL kicker Russell Carpentieri (third from left) with the Jupiter officers who rescued him after a car accident.

from the vehicle and provide CPR until Palm Beach County Fire Rescue arrived on scene. On July 26, the officers were able to meet Carpentieri and his family in person at a ceremony hosted by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.



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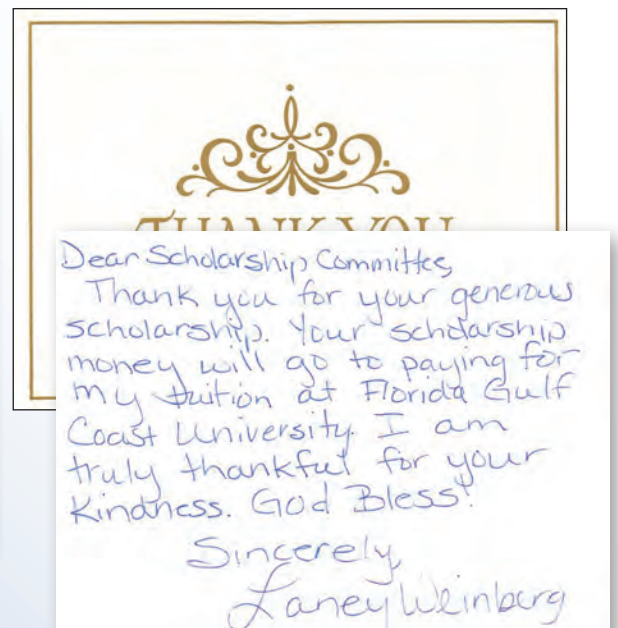
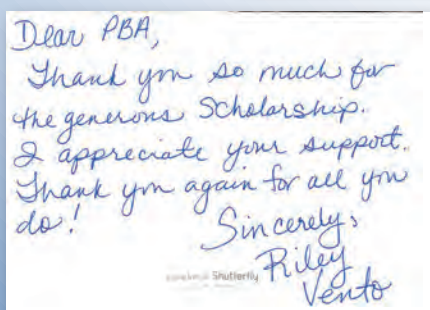
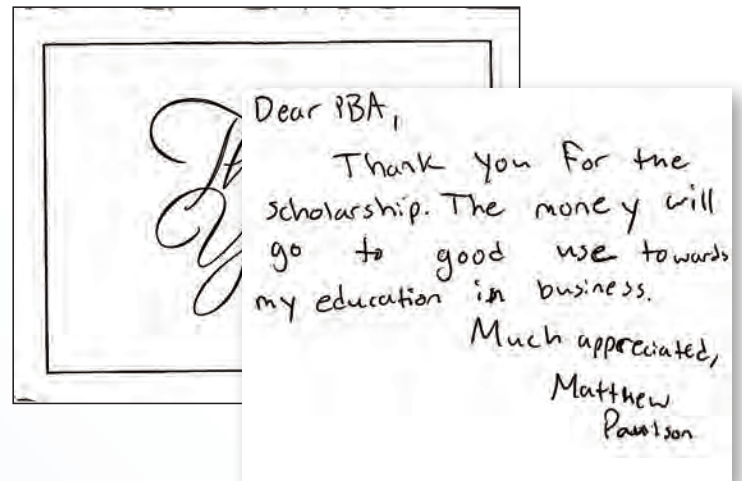
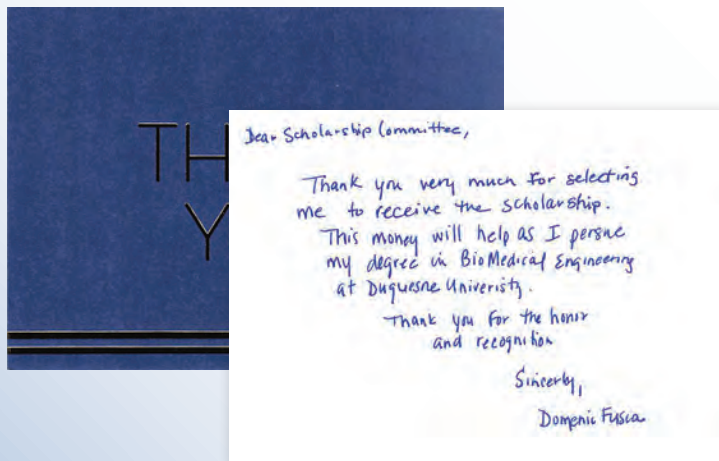
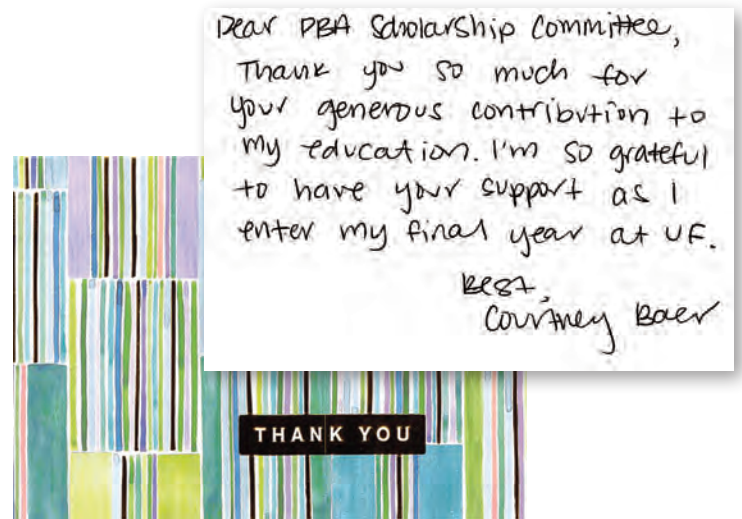
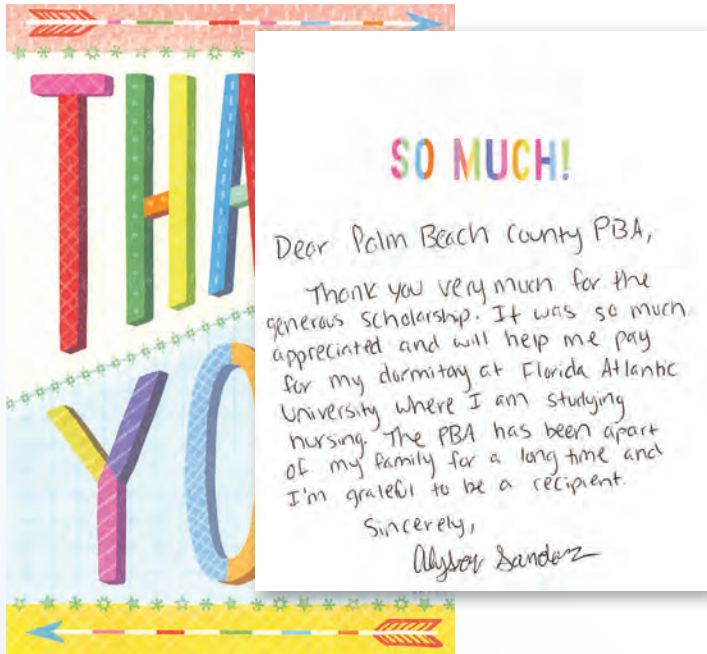
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Thank-You Notes TO THE PBA



Thank-You Notes TO THE PBA

Hello,

It is a great honor to receive your generous scholarship that will help fund the expenses of my education at Florida International University. I am most grateful for your belief and support, and I would like to thank you for choosing me.

I am a Junior studying Physical Therapy with a minor in Business Administration. My love for science, entrepreneurship and helping others has molded me into an individual who would adore a career as a owner of my own Physical Therapy practice.

Receiving this scholarship will allow me to continue chasing my dreams. Your earnest investment in my future goals will not be forgotten. Thank you again for your generous and thoughtful gift.

Sincerely,

Reginald Peterson

October 22, 2022

To The PBA Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to thank you for allowing me to be a recipient of the Kaitlin Kazanjian Scholarship.

I am a psychology major with a mental health concentration. I plan to pursue a career in clinical psychology upon graduating from Spelman College. After graduation, I will attend graduate school to earn my doctorate degree in psychology. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

I hope with this scholarship I am able to help others, give back to the community, and achieve academically in honor of Kaitlin Kazanjian. Again, thank you!

Sincerely,
Bria Coppin



John,

It was great meeting you!

I would like to thank you for the endorsement of the PBA. With the help of patriots like you, I am confident that we will win back this seat!

Regards,

Dan

Paid For By Dan Franzese For Congress



Dear Kaz,

Please extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Police Benevolent Association, Inc for their endorsement and campaign contribution your support means a lot to me and is greatly appreciated.

All the best,

Lori

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Lori Berman, Democrat, for Florida State Senate, District 31.



Kaz + Team PBA,
Thank you for such a generous donation to my campaign for Sheriff. Your financial support and endorsement mean the world to me. Hope to see you all again soon. Rick

Thank-You Notes TO THE PBA



May 25, 2022

Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association P.C. & Issues Fund
2100 N. Florida Mango Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Friend,

I wanted to thank you for your generous contribution to my campaign. It's contributions from supporters like you that will make an impact in this campaign and will lead us to victory.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in person soon.

Sincerely,

Michelle
Michelle Oyola McGovern

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Paid by Michelle Oyola McGovern, Candidate, for County Commission



PBC Police Benevolent Assoc
2100 N Florida Mango Rd
WPB, FL 33409

Dear PBC Police Benevolent Assoc,

Thank you for your support and contribution to my campaign. Together, we were successful on Election Day!

I am honored to be able to serve you and the citizens of Palm Beach County for another six years.

Thank you for being a part of our team and for your trust and support in me as a candidate and as your Judge.

Sincerely,

PA Damico
Judge Paul Damico

Paid for by Judge Paul Damico for County Court Judge, Group 9, Non-partisan.

Re-Elect



July 7, 2022

Palm Beach County PBA Justice PAC
2100 N. Florida Mango Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Palm Beach County PBA Justice PAC,

I would like to personally thank you for your contribution and support of my campaign for re-election to Martin County Commission, District 2. It's supporters like yourself that make our campaign possible. Your early support has put us in such a strong position.

I'm humbled by your support and will continue working hard to bring balance, and integrity to the Martin County Commission. My deep roots compel me to be devoted to preserving Martin County's character and supporting a plan that focuses on how we will adapt to the changing needs of our residents, yet maintain, our quality of life.

I look forward to serving you as County Commissioner.

I sincerely appreciate your support!

All the best,

Stacey Hetherington

Stacey Hetherington
District 2 Candidate Martin County Commission

HetheringtonforMartin.com

P.O. Box 541, Stuart, FL 34995

Paid by Stacey Hetherington, Republican, for Martin County Commission, District 2

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