



GENDARME



The Official Publication of the ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - LODGE 68

Vol. 40 No. 9

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NOVEMBER 2010



CRUSADE AGAINST CRIME

The 41st Annual Medal of Valor Awards

P.O. Brian King, Chief Isom, Ronald Conner, Todd Gilliam *See story on pages 8-9*



PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2

gaining contract. The contract now has to be reviewed by the Board and, subject to their approval; the contract will need to be ratified by the members of the Association. This contract includes the ranks of Patrolmen and Probationary Patrolmen. The Board refused to include the rank of Sergeant in this contract; however rest assured that the SLPOA will seek a separate agreement for Sergeants upon the successful conclusion of the Patrolmen/Probationary Patrolman contract.

Additional information concerning the dates for association members to discuss, review, and ratify the contract will be announced as soon as we have confirmation of the Board's approval.



Vice President Joe Steiger and President Tom Walsh of the St. Louis Police Officers' Association present Senator Jim Lembke with an encased Knight Stick.

Why you should be an Association member

"The objective of the Saint Louis Police Officers' Association shall be to advance the moral, social and material standing of the members of the Association by honorable and lawful means. As a labor organization the Association shall endeavor to achieve Collective Bargaining Binding Arbitration."

(Preamble of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws)

LEGAL

All members are guaranteed legal representation before the Board of Police Commissioners, additionally; members are represented before the Pension Board, and State and Federal grand juries. Officers also can, with Executive Board approval, be furnished legal counsel in Civil, Criminal or Class Action matters.

LEGISLATIVE

The Association's Legislative Committee lobbies in the State Capital and City Hall on behalf of legislation favorable and beneficial to SLPOA members. This includes legislating on behalf of improved wages, pension benefits and working conditions.

BLUE LIGHT LOAN PROGRAM

Members suspended without pay prior to a Police Board hearing arising from a line-of-duty incident, are eligible to apply for a no-interest loan of up to \$500.00, so that the officer might provide for his/her family during the suspension period. The Executive Board may approve additional financial aid, over and above the \$500.00.

DEATH BENEFIT

The survivors of a SLPOA member are eligible for a \$1,000.00 death benefit. The FOP has a \$7,500.00 accidental death benefit.

DISABILITY BENEFIT

Any member who is permanently disabled by a line-of-duty injury may apply to the Executive Board for a \$

GENDARME

Every member of the Association receives a subscription to the Association's official newspaper, the GENDARME,

which is primarily designed to give you the news you might not get anywhere else.

ANNUAL DANCE

An annual Dinner-Dance for all SLPOA members is held each October, at no cost to the member and his/ her spouse or guest. Newly elected Officers and Division Representatives are introduced at the annual affair.

HALL RENTAL

Rental of the Hall and Facilities shall be limited to Active Members in good standing and Retired Association Members who were in good standing at the time of their retirement. The office staff will give you the guidelines if you are interested in booking the Hall. Use of the hall will be limited to non-business hours only.

BLACK MARIA (SLPOA's paddy-wagon)

The Association maintains a replica of a 1915 Police Paddy Wagon for public relations purposes, called the Black Maria. The Black Maria appears in parades on a yearlong basis throughout the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area and is available for bona-fide functions such as school or church picnics or parades, or fraternal parades, etc., and SLPOA members can request its participation for a function in which the member is involved. All requests should be directed to the Chairman of the Black Maria Committee through the Association Office.

OFFICE STAFF AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

All SLPOA members are entitled to use the fax and copier located in the Association's Office for a reasonable number of copies, at no cost.

Veteran's Corner

By George Ratermann, SLPVA President

St. Louis Police Veterans' Association— Web: www.slpva.com Email: mail@slpva.com
Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the Month – 11:30 a.m., SLPOA Hall



Our November meeting celebrated both November holidays, Thanksgiving and Veterans' Day. Before partaking in our traditional Thanksgiving Feast we had our regular monthly meeting and heard presentations from Jim Chapman, a retired Wood River, IL, police officer known as the "Will Guy" and fellow member William Leahy, author of "Curbstone Justice", a book of St. Louis cop stories from the 50's and 60's. Leahy had several pre-production copies of the book for members to peruse and was offering a special purchase price of \$24.95. Leahy took several orders for his book and will be back at the December 8th meeting for those who didn't get their copy ordered in November. If you'd like to order a copy and can't make it to the meeting, call Bill Leahy at 636 488 1602 or contact him via e-mail at

wleahy@centurytel.net.

Jim Chapman informed the members about the necessity for wills and how he is offering free wills to the law enforcement community. Chapman will return for our January 12, 2011, meeting and will meet with interested officers and their spouses after the meeting to prepare wills. Chapman has written an article that's in this issue of the Gendarme explaining his providing wills and giving back to the law enforcement community. It's on page 7. Chapman's visit to the SLPVA meeting was in the midst of a very busy day for him. After our meeting he did a presentation for St. Louis County Police and later in the day another for SLMPD officers.

NEXT MEETING DEC. 8TH

Our December 8th meeting will be in the Christmas Holiday

theme and Dan Riley, our chef, will prepare a delicious Christmas lunch. Dan and his crew did an excellent job in November with the Thanksgiving lunch and it will be hard to top. All SLPVA members and a guest are invited to our December 8th Christmas meeting. For only \$5 you get a chance to reconnect with old friends and colleagues, a delicious hot Christmas lunch and several chances to win a \$10 attendance prize.

We are still collecting hand and bath soap for the needy. Members contributed many bars in November but many of us intended to (but forgot) to bring a few bars of soap and will need a second chance to participate. We'll again collect soap at the sign-in table at our December meeting. Thanks to Herman Ubben for spearheading our involvement in this worthy cause this year and last year.

The SLMPD has renewed the Medicare Supplement for retirees for 2011. Don Strate and Jim Wurm informed members at the November meeting that some drugs are being added to the plan and that the dental benefit has been improved. The Humana Vision Plan offered by the SLPVA will have a premium increase. Coverage for the retiree only will increase \$0.36 per month over current rates, and proportionally for additional family members. Complete rates and details are in Humana letter posted online on the SLPVA website at <http://slpva.com/rateincrease.html>

IN MEMORIAM

Cletus Johnson 09/13/10
Jerry Bradshaw 10/17/10

SICK

Jack Billings


INSURANCE – MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT AND HUMANA VISION COVERAGE

JANUARY SLPVA MEETING WILL BE ON THE 12TH

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John Isbell
Father of a Police Officer



Jonathan Hegger
Son of a Police Officer



Sam Ventimiglia
Former Police Officer

FADE OUT

The following officers retired:

	Appointed	Effective	
Larry Merrill		9/15/10	
Michael D. Horton		10/01/10	
Gary L. Thompson	09/03/74	10/11/10	
Robert Andrew Stern	07/10/02	11/08/10	Acc. Dis

The following officers have resigned:

Kevin Lauman	09/18/10
Joseph Veselsky	10/18/10
Jeffrey Dixon	10/19/10
Lance Wolff	10/27/10
Anita Wilson	05/21/09
Katherine Donahue	11/08/10

The Gendarme takes this opportunity to wish the officers named above the very best in the future, and may the wind be always at your back.

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Karen Majda, GRI

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MORE COP STORIES!

The 50's and 60's now come back to life in a book about the St. Louis Police Department in those early years. Author Bill Leahy came up through the civilian ranks in the 10th and 5th Districts and later served as a commissioned officer in the Fifth.

Many of the stories revolve around people many will know, including Dave Sinclair who made a second career out of giving "out his address."

The book includes follow-ups on the likes of Al Nelke who was paralyzed after a shootout with burglars, Nick Valenti who was involved in an unusual tavern killing and the capture of Ivan Lowell Deckard who shot two University City Detectives only to be found in the home of a well know 5th District safe burglar. Still another young officer found out what happens when you lock up a hooker with a sponsor...his next assignment was crosswalk duty at the Zoo's Bird Cage. Lastly, there was a wedding reception where most of one shift of 10th district officers ended up in the 6th District holdover after someone broke the groom's crutches.

Copies will be available to SLPOA members at all forthcoming meetings for \$24.95 or through the website www.curbstonejustice.com for \$29.95 which includes shipping.

Coming Soon!

A book of St. Louis cop stories from the 50's and 60's

CURBSTONE JUSTICE

First printing should be ready in early December and available at the SLMPD Hall on Hampton during any scheduled Veteran's meeting for a discounted price of \$24.95

Books will also go on sale at Left Bank Bookstores in the Central West End and downtown (314-367-6731) or Subterranean Book Store in the Delmar Loop (314-862-6100) at the market price of \$29.95. Copies will also be available on the website www.curbstonejustice.com for the same price, same day shipping included.

This is an 8 by 10 inch 325 page book with forty chapters of stories about real events, some funny, some not, that will bring you back to a different time, complete with the pictures and news clippings that validate.

For those without computers call my home phone, 636 488 1602 with a credit card and I'll mail your copy...*it was a lot more fun living it than writing about it...*

Bill Leahy...Coptalk's "Really old ex-cop"...636 488 1602 or wleahy@centurytel.net

ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

John Sylvester White	1877	Fred W. Benz	1924
Patrick Doran	1881	Robert E. Woody	1924
Nicholas Hunt	1897	Joseph P. McGovern	1928
Arthur M. Huddleston	1912	Joseph Theobald, Jr.	1933
Charles F. Barmeier	1915	Harry Canton	1939
John Flaherty	1923	Steven J. Strehl	1993
Edward Kuehner	1923		



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The Homeland Security Advisory Council

Governor Jay Nixon has appointed Kevin Ahlbrand to the "Homeland Security Advisory Council". The council is tasked with ensuring that proper homeland security plans and coordination are in place at the state and local level and that homeland security grant expenditures are done in a coordinated and efficient way.



A safe and secure Missouri is one of the most basic building blocks upon which our state's future rests. To ensure security, the Missouri Office of Homeland Security was established on September 26, 2001. Missouri was the first state in the nation to create an Office of Homeland Security in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Executive Order 05-20 was signed on July 21, 2005, moving the Missouri Office of Homeland Security to the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Placing the office here has allowed for better coordination between the Department of Public Safety agencies that do much of the daily work that makes up homeland security, such as the State Emergency Management Agency and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. In the same executive order, the Homeland Security Advisory Council was established to review state and local security plans and grant funding requests and

make recommendations for changes to better protect Missourians. The Homeland Security Advisory Council was designed to be comprised of the director of the Department of Public Safety and relevant Public Safety division directors and, equally as important, directors of other state departments. This ensures a statewide focus for homeland security and an effective means for coordination of resources.

Kevin has 27 years of experience in law enforcement, and is currently a Detective Sergeant with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department 3rd District Detective Bureau, Deputy Commander of the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis, is the current president of the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, and a former President of the St. Louis Police Officers Association.



Sometimes, friendship means being tough

Ask yourself, would you insist - no, demand - that a friend "three sheets to the wind" spend the night after a party rather than drive home? And would you, after an evening of revelry that left you a bit top heavy, give your friend a bad time because you'd think, hey, no big deal, I can handle this?

A little booze sometimes turns the nicest people into real jerks. Present company excepted?

We all know drinking and driving is insanity, yet the slaughter continues--are we really getting the message?

In May 2008, an idea was born. The idea was **let's give back to the public safety community by providing the ultimate in protection**, a FREE Living will and a FREE Simple Will, along with expert financial planning, to families of active, retired and disabled police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel in the greater St. Louis Metropolitan area. *Something for nothing with a purpose in mind.*

James Chapman, a retired 30 year veteran police officer with the Wood River Illinois Police Department, 3RD generation police officer and owner of Chapman Insurance had a vision. That vision was to make sure every police officer, firefighter and emergency medical responder in the greater St. Louis Metropolitan area knew about their line of duty benefits, make sure that the families are taken care of in case of an emergency through careful financial planning and to make sure that each family had a plan of action in the event of an unforeseen emergency: that plan being a simple will and a medical power of attorney and a well thought out financial plan for the future. Since 2008, over 9000 wills have been prepared and given to police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel **FREE OF CHARGE!**

A Simple will is: is a simple document that designates which family members or others you want to have your property, money, and sentimental objects, after your death. Without a will, state law

Retired Police Officer Gives Back to the Law Enforcement Community

determines what happens to your possessions. In your will you choose who will be your representative and how your wishes will be carried out. A will also lets you name a guardian for your minor children in the event of your death. Without a will, the Court decides who will raise your children. You can revise your will at any time in the future as your personal circumstances change. In addition, a will is a personal document that is not filed with the county until the person's death.

A Living will is: A Medical Power of Attorney allows you to appoint someone as your agent who can make medical decisions for you if you cannot do so. This document also gives that person (your agent) access to your medical records. This document instructs your medical providers to withdraw life sustaining measures in the event That you are 1) in a coma; 2) unable to communicate for seven days or more; and 3) in a terminal condition that has been certified by two doctors. If you are only receiving artificial nutrition, you can choose if you want to continue it and

for how long.

LINE OF DUTY BENEFITS SHEET: This form that is to be signed will explain the federal and/or state line of death benefits. It also shortens the amount of time that the benefits are sent to the first responder's family.

THE TOTAL TIME FOR BOTH WILLS IS APPROXIMATELY 15-20 MINUTES PER PERSON. SPOUSES ARE ALSO WELCOME AND ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM ALSO FREE OF CHARGE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PURCHASE ANYTHING IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE AND ALL INFORMATION IS GIVEN BACK TO THE PARTICIPANT AND ALSO DELETED OFF THE COMPUTER AT THE END OF THE DAY. THE WILLS ARE LEGAL AS LONG AS THE WILLS ARE SIGNED BY THE PARTICIPANT FOR WHOM THE WILLS ARE MADE FOR, SIGNED BY TWO INDEPENDENT WITNESSES AND SIGNED IN FRONT OF A NOTARY PUBLIC.

Thanks to the HUNDREDS of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical staff that vision is being realized. In these uncertain economic

times, James and his wife Cathy do *what no other insurance company does. THEY GIVE BACK.* They give back to the public safety community by donating 25% of their company proceeds back to help provide funding for this worthwhile program. *No corporate or public funds, fund this program, only the proceeds from the business AND THE WILLINGNESS TO HELP A FELLOW PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.*

As a little background, James and Cathy come from a family of police officers and firefighters. James is a third generation police officer. His wife Cathy, worked several years in the drug enforcement unit in Madison-St. Clair County IL, she has a brother who is a police officer and a sister who worked in the 8th District SLMPD for 8 years before moving to Edwardsville IL PD. Her mother is a retired corrections' officer and her two uncles are firefighters. Public Safety is their life.

Be a part of this vision, make sure you and your family has "something for nothing," a plan in place just in case.

For more information please contact James at jchapman101@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 618-973-4091. Plans are in the works for sessions to be held at the St Louis Police Officer's Association Hall, dates to be announced, or by Contacting Barb Miksicek at the St Louis Police Academy Library at 314-444-5581 for an appointment time at the academy library.

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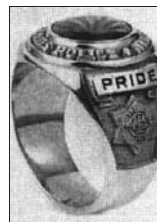
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Anthem –Posting of the Colors



P.O. Chris Lovelady-Armstrong, Chief Isom, P.O. Ronald Vaughan

CRUSADE AG

The 41st Annual Me

The Medal of Valor represents the highest award our community can bestow upon the men and women who protect us and our property through the conscientious enforcement of our laws. Sponsored by the Crusade Against Crime of America and the St. Louis Area Police Chiefs' Association, the Medal of Valor is presented in recognition of a conspicuous act of bravery exceeding the normal demands of police service. It expresses the community's gratitude for the sound judgment demonstrated by the officer in the performance of his or her duty, often without regard for personal safety, yet with full

awareness of the reasonable attainment of his or her objective. The award guidelines were broadened in 1974 to provide for the recognition of citizen involvement in performing a heroic act, out of concern for the safety and welfare of a police officer or in the prevention of a crime. Since its inception in 1969, the Medal of Valor has been presented to over 250 police officers and local citizens. Nominations are submitted to the Medal of Valor Committee by more than 140 Police Departments in the St. Louis metropolitan area. All nominees must be approved by their respective chiefs.



Chief Isom, Sgt. David Bonenberger



Chief Isom, P.O. Isabella Lovadina



Chief Isom, Det.

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AINST CRIME

edal of Valor Awards

The prestigious Medal of Valor awards were presented to 22 very deserving law enforcement officers and 2 civilians from the St. Louis region, according to Mayor Robert G. Lowery, Sr., President of the Crusade Against Crime of America and the sponsor of this program. This is the 41st annual awards luncheon to honor these recipients with this year's keynote speaker from the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, the Honorable Robert G. Dowd, Jr. and the Master of Ceremony being Karen Foss from Ameren UE.

The luncheon was held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark on Wednesday, November 10, 2010.

This year's recipients from the St. Louis City Police Department are:

Detective Sgt. John Applegate	Detective Ryan Linhorst
Detective Joshua Becherer	Officer Isabella Lovadina
Sergeant David Bonenberger	Officer Chris Lovelady-Armstrong
Detective Jason Collins	Detective Joseph McCloskey
Detective Jeremy Cotton	Detective Robert Simons
Officer Joseph Haman	Officer Ronald Vaughn
Officer Brian King	Detective Marc Wasem

Congratulations to all our Officers; their actions are truly exemplary and deserving of the Medal of Valor.



t. Mark Wasem



Chief Isom, Det. Joshua Becherer



Chief Isom, P.O. Joseph Haman

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DAN CHATFIELD
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Blue Line Toy Drive

By Sgt. Edward A. Smoote

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

Ladies and Gentlemen last year I put together the first of what I hope to be many community service projects that will not only enhance the public's perception of the Police but to also give back as we are fortunate to be in the positions that we have.

For the 2010 holiday season, I will be putting together the second annual toy drive for children in four local shelters located in the City of St. Louis. Imagine celebrating the holiday season somewhere that you cannot call home. I am soliciting help for this event. This may be in the form of joining a committee for the organization of this, monetary donations, and especially the donation of unwrapped new toys.

The dates for the drive will be from November 15, 2010 until December 20, 2010. Toys will be distributed on Tuesday, December 22, 2010.

Donation boxes will be placed in all area stations, Headquarters, and Support Operations beginning on Monday, November 15th.

Please contact me if you can help and thank you in advance.

Last year was a great success and I would like to continue this tradition of giving.

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AN AFTERNOON WITH SANTA



*Sunday, December 19, 2010
12:00-4:00*

At the Police Association Hall

3710 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

*Santa will be available for
pictures at 1:00. There will be
hot dogs, chips, and a drink
for each child in attendance, along
with some fun activities.*

**Please RSVP by December 14
to Katie @ 314-409-6203
or Kelli @ 314-807-1882**

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HOW TO SURVIVE THE HOLIDAYS!!!!

Thanksgiving is here and for many of us that means: too much food and too many parties from now until New Year's Eve. But a big holiday dinner doesn't have to leave you feeling like a stuffed sausage — or signal the beginning of the end of your weight loss.

REMEMBER THANKSGIVING IS JUST ONE DAY— NOT A WHOLE WEEK!

One large meal won't pile on the pounds. But if you are the type who feels guilty after just one sliver of pie — and uses this slip-up as an excuse to go on a week-long binge — perhaps it's time to rethink your strategy—**THEREFORE YOU MUST HAVE A GAME PLAN**

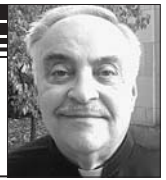
1. The first part of your *PLAN* involves *Mental Focus*—do not set yourself up for failure.
2. Next, you must *STRATEGIZE* and decide what you want your plate to look like and what foods you want to star on your plate before you sit down.
3. Finally, look at the *TIPS* listed below to help you develop a plan of attack and strategize your dinner plate content:
 - Decide how much of a favorite food will satisfy you. If you cannot conceive of eating just a small piece of pumpkin pie, cut something else out to account for the larger slice.
 - Select foods you do not normally eat so that you can easily eliminate several of the dishes. For example if you eat regular white mashed potatoes often, then skip them at dinner and go for the sweet potato option. After all, do you really need to eat two different types of potatoes at one meal?
 - If you're hosting the meal, remember that there is always tomorrow — and leftovers. However if you are the type that constantly thinks about what is in the fridge until you eat it, try freezing your leftovers immediately or give your guests doggie bags to take home.
 - Push yourself away from the table when you're full. If you're not sitting within arm's length of the cookies, you'll be less likely to overindulge.
 - Keep your mouth and body busy. Move around the party. Try not to stay in one area of the party the whole time. Try chewing gum to keep your mouth busy. You will be less likely to put a chip or a cookie in your mouth if there is gum in your mouth (especially a mint or cinnamon flavor).
 - Acknowledge that all foods have benefits. Pumpkin pie, for example, is loaded with vitamin A (important for proper vision) and beta-carotene (a potentially powerful antioxidant). And that green bean casserole and stuffing contain lots of folic acid (a B vitamin linked to the prevention of birth defects and, possibly, heart disease). Just remember to stick to a normal serving size.
 - Try to broaden your focus so that the holiday is not just about food. Concentrate on what you're thankful for, like wearing a smaller size, more comfortably crossing your legs or feeling more confident about yourself.
 - And if, despite all your efforts, you end up feeling like you are off the mark. Do not worry, it is just one day, move on and start new the next day. Maybe even get a walk in the next morning to help you feel reenergized and ready to tackle the rest of the holiday season.

— FYI —

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Fitness Center offers free Boot Camp classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 12-12:30 for department employees and spouses.

Chaplain's Corner

By Fr. Edward Goldian



My Partner

Partners are someone we trust; someone we can rely on to be there when we need them. They are nonjudgmental; accept us for who we are. How blessed are we if we have a good partner, whether in marriage, or especially as police officers. The following story well illustrates the partner relationship.

From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If you standby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field.

Attached to the horse's halter is a small bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he can follow.

As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind, and the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray.

When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, it stops occasionally and looks back, making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these

two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way.

Good friends are like that. You may not always see them, but you know they are always there.

Your partner says, "Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours." Sometimes we are meant to hear the bell or wear the bell. Some days we are meant to do both. Remember, when we feel like the blind horse, God is always there ringing the bell to show us the way. Thank him for his bell and watchful eye over you.



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Police Work 101

By Sergeant William Boyd Kiphart II

Sweating the Little Stuff



This month I want to start with a concept that I strongly advocated in my teachings at the Academy. I believe that this concept is specifically important for the new and younger officers to grasp and I think a tenured officer can benefit from it as a reminder.

When we leave this job after a long career we take with us the same two things we leave with our peers and followers; our reputation and our credibility. That being the case, we need to recognize the fact that the quality of our work and work product as well as our ethics, believed and displayed, defines who we are. How we write our reports, deal with people on the street and conduct ourselves among our peers creates a reputation and image. Despite the thought of some officers, the war stories they tell will not define them, any intelligent and experienced police officer knows this.

In a time when hot topics

such as tattoos and hairstyles are on the lips of commanders and supervisors there relevance should be considered. These, as well as other items such as jewelry and accessories are part of a culture that allows us to display our individuality, personality and in some cases our beliefs. Even more defining is an individual officer's reputation and credibility. Remember that the uniform does not define who we are, with our reputation and credibility, we define the uniform.

That being said, I would like to mention a couple of issues I have seen lately that have caused some concern from a tactical and officer safety standpoint.

Remaining at the top of my list is my horror at seeing officers in the field and actually on calls with their hands in their pockets. Whether one or both hands, which I often see, and immediately address, this is a dangerous habit on multi-

ple levels. First and foremost it significantly reduces your ability to defend yourself and get to your equipment and weapons. Additionally, as a matter of body language it telegraphs a nonverbal message of relaxation and comfort. Whether conscious or subconscious, a predator can quickly decode this message and not only use it to assist in his decision to engage you but will now use your lack of preparation against you. The bottom line is that in any tactical situation, which is anytime you are on the street, keep those hands out of the pockets and where we taught you to, around your waist and near your equipment.

Another issue I wanted to mention takes up back to the cruisers again. While this will seem blatantly obvious to many of you, I have been in numerous police cars lately where the prior officer was apparently not aware of the concept.

The inside rearview mirror in your car is intended to show you what is behind you. The outside rear view mirrors, if correctly positioned, should

allow you to see the front of a passing car as it leaves the view of the inside mirror and moves to the view of the outside mirror. As the passing car moves out of the view of the outside mirror is it should enter your peripheral vision. If the mirrors are properly positioned you will have no blind spot as a car passes from behind to in front of you. Practice with the adjustment a little and you will quickly see the benefit. While there is nothing wrong with readjusting the mirrors to assist with backing, if you are moving forward and can see the rear or side of your car in the outside rear view mirror, they are nowhere near properly adjusted. Blind spots cause accidents and require additional time and attention to clear, particularly during emergency vehicle operations.

The next issue is a simple suggestion and I will acknowledge that there are different opinions on this but I present

Continued on page 13

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POLICE WORK 101

Continued from page 12
this one.

First and foremost, please make use of the corded microphone on the miniature radios. If used correctly it improves the volume and quality of the transmission. It also allows for you to use a lower volume and still adequately hear the radio as it puts the speaker closer to your ear. Once you commit to using the microphone the question becomes where and how to clip it. Again you have several options. My recommendation is to route the cord under the shoulder epaulet and then clip to the shirt between buttons just under your chin. There are several advantages to this method. The first being that it places the microphone within the recommended distance from your mouth and keeps your eyes up and your head facing forward.

When the microphone is clipped on the shoulder epaulet it creates a habit of turning the head to the left or right to properly modulate. This often causes the officer to remove his eyes from the target, traffic or whatever else may be in front of him.

Those of you who recall the Line of Duty video from the academy where the female officer is punched on the traffic stop by the large man probably



understands my point. This is the subject who has his daughter with him. You may recall she has handcuffs dangling from one hand and is depressing the button on the microphone clipped to her shoulder, while turning her head to the left and taking her eyes off the suspect just prior to him punching her; she never saw it coming.

A major advantage to the method I advocate is that if the microphone comes loose as a result of a fight or anything else, it will be dangling right in front of you and easy to grasp and still use. If it is not routed under the epaulet it will fall near your feet and may be anywhere.

The next item that merits consideration is the new Mobile Ticketing system. This

is one of the best administrative improvements I have seen to police work or this department in some time. I would argue this is the best thing implemented since we eliminated the PIRS system. The one thing I will mention from a tactical standpoint is that if you are using Mobile Ticketing on

traffic stops and are without back up to cover the car and its occupants, you are putting your life on the line for a ticket. The data entry is task intensive and requires a good deal of focus. Do not discard your assist and do not start on your data entry until the assist gets there.

Last but not least, be cautious with the cellular telephones, texting and internet use. There is a time and place for everything. Just remember while you are on the street, you are a target to the predators. I have seen numerous officers with their heads down while using their personal electronics. I know it is a sign of the times, but do not lose focus on where you are and what we do.

Remember, when it comes to tactics, even on the little stuff, the life you save may be your own.

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ATTENTION

Don't Forget The Christmas Coloring Contest

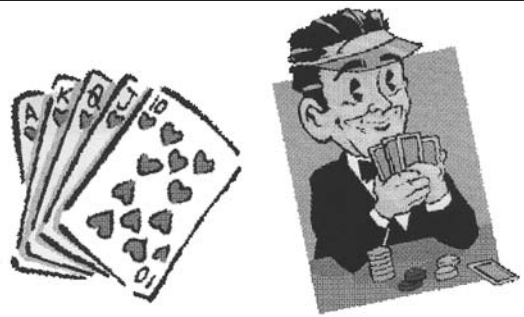
See Details on the Back Page

**Special Note: Deadline for Entries
Has Been Extended to
Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010**

**Winning Entries Will be Displayed
in the December Issue**



**Last Year's Winning Artwork by
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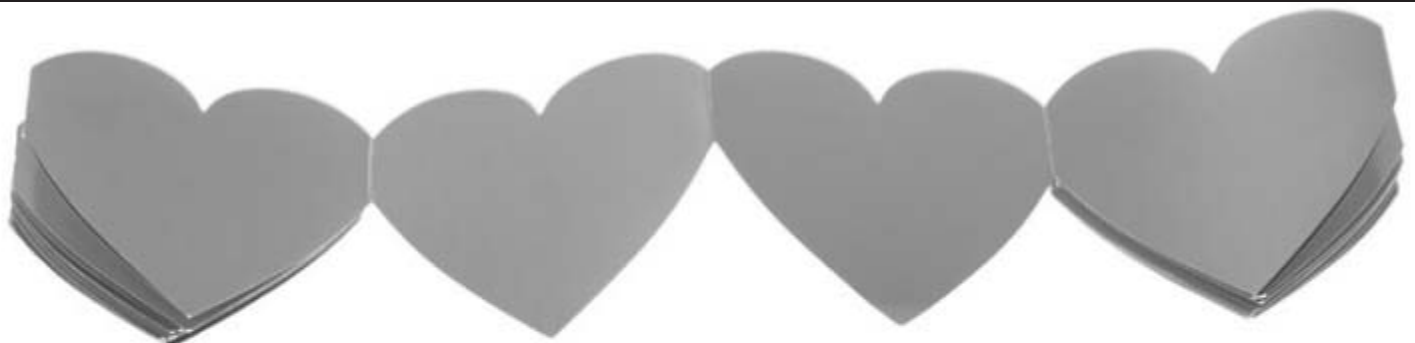
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\$70 Per Couple - \$35 Per Person

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Please RSVP to Kristin Flanery (636) 328-7626 or kristin.flanery@yahoo.com

All checks should be mailed to: **St. Louis Police Wives Association, P.O. Box 21723, St. Louis, MO 63109**

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST DEADLINE	7 PEARL HARBOR DAY	8 VETERANS MTG. POLICE WIVES MTG.	9	10 PAY DAY	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 VP BALL
19 AFTERNOON WITH SANTA	20	21	22	23	24 PAY DAY	25 CHRISTMAS
26	27	28	29 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING	30	31 FIRST NIGHT & FUN WITHOUT GUNS	

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 NEW YEARS DAY
2	3	4	5	6	7 PAY DAY	8
9	10	11	12 VETERANS MTG. POLICE WIVES MTG.	13	14	15
16	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRHTDAY	18	19	20	21 PAY DAY	22
23	24	25	26 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4 PAY DAY	5
6	7	8	9 VETERANS MTG. POLICE WIVES MTG.	10	11	12 VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE
13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17	18 PAY DAY	19 BARWICK/NEWTON TEXAS HOLD-EM
20	21 PRESIDENTS' DAY	22	23 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING	24	25	26
27	28					

It was in March of 1975, when the officers and directors of the **GENDARME**, grew disillusioned with the promoter firm which previously published the newspaper. At that time they made arrangements for the **GENDARME**, the official publication of the St. Louis Police Officers' Association, to be published locally - rather than out of the city.

There is no outside promoter involved in any aspect of the publishing of the GENDARME. We do no telephone soliciting. Advertising within the newspaper is sold by account executives who are employees of the SLPOA.

The **GENDARME** has a four-fold purpose of publication:

1) Informing the membership of what's happening in the Department and the

Association and reporting the Association's progress.

2) Reaching those in the power structure, at both the local and state level, with the Association's story, in order to better resolve existing problems and, if possible, to preclude potential problems.

3) Serving as a forum for discussing Department policies and practices which, in the opinion of the Association's Executive Board, are detrimental not only to the police officer, but to the Department in general, and

4) Acting as a forum for Association members on issues **NOT** usually acted upon by the SLPOA Executive Board or the Department.

**Drawing Contest Deadline
Extended to Thursday, Dec. 9**

SLPOA'S ANNUAL Christmas Drawing Contest

1st Prize- \$25 (5) Runner-Up Prizes- \$10 each

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all active and retired SLPOA members' children, stepchildren, and grandchildren (6 thru 12 years of age).

WHAT KIND OF DRAWING?

Original drawings about Christmas as the child views it in his or her own mind.

ART REQUIREMENTS

Drawings must be on 8 1/2 x 11" white paper, drawn with **RED, GREEN, and BLACK** crayons, colored pencils or markers only (**no other colors, please!**)

DEADLINE

Drawings must reach the Association Office no later than **Thursday Dec. 9, 2010.**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each entry must specify the **parent's name** and **district or unit** to which assigned, address and phone number plus the name and age of the child. **Please print.** (List this information on the back of the drawing.)

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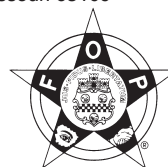
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