UNPRECEDENTED UNITY: YOES SLATE UNOPPOSED IN NATIONAL FOP ELECTIONS

GOV DeSANTIS WOWS CONFERENCE CROWD WITH SURPRISE APPEARANCE

By Jeff Roorda

The 65th national conference of the Fraternal Order of Police was held in Indianapolis from August 15 through 19 with about 4,000 in attendance, including eleven SLPOA delegates.

Incumbent National FOP President, Patrick Yoes, a long-time close ally of the SLPOA, ran unopposed and he and his entire slate were elected by acclamation without opposition.

Like most American unions, the FOP has a long history of hotly contested - sometimes divisive - national elections. But at a time when police are under relentless attack across the country, the members of the FOP came together in a way they never had before, to endorse the work of a leadership team that has been fearless in its non-stop advocacy for police officers across the nation.

As highlighted during the conference, FOP leadership has been quoted in the press more than 78,000 times over the last two-years. That's more press hits than the next ten largest police organizations in America combined. And these aren't some throw away quotes lost in the text of media reports on law enforcement stories; they are full-throated defenses of our members and our profession in a time when too many shrink away from policing in America.

As President Yoes remarked during his acceptance speech, "United, I know that nothing can stop us from speaking with one voice for all of law enforcement."

But, Yoes and the other national executive board officers weren't the only ones speaking-out on behalf of law enforcement at the biennial conference.

Just as the delegates in attendance were preparing to vote to select Miami as the host city for the 2025 national conference, an unexpected guest was called forward to the dais. The 2023 convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis addressed the 2021 FOP convention.

Several minutes, culminating with the Governor debuting his three-point plan to recruit and retain police officers in Florida.

DeSantis commented, "We know that the pandemic put an awful lot of strain on our first responders...so, we believe we should recognize their sacrifice over the last year," before announcing his $280 million proposal to provide $1,000 retention incentives to current police officers and $5,000 recruiting bonuses for officers who relocate to Florida.

An early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, DeSantis emphasized his support for police as he closed by saying, "As so many cities and states choose to disrespect, degrade and defund the honorable work of law enforcement, we want Florida to continue valuing our men and women of law enforcement today, tomorrow and for generations to come."

On-hand for the DeSantis remarks and the rest of the convention were SLPOA delegates: Jay Schroeder, Marcus Alston, Joe Busso, Ed Hemken's (Lambert Airport Police), Joe Hill, Karl Laschober, Charles Lowe, Adam Notch, Craig Sayer, Nicole Shrum (SLMPD - Retired), and Brandon Wyms.

Also in attendance were Missouri National Trustee Kevin Ahlbrand (SLMPD) and SLPOA business manager Jeff Roorda (a life-member of the FOP).

Outgoing Missouri National Trustee, Bill Albertson (Buchanan County Sheriff’s Office - Retired), was honored during the closing ceremonies of the conference for his long years of dedicated service to the FOP. A moment of silence was also held for recently deceased Missouri State FOP Secretary Rick Kohnen (Florissant Police Department).

The 2023 convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.
"In memory of the Saint Louis Police Officers who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice"

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

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"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 with Binding Arbitration." (Preamble of the Association’s Constitution and By-Laws)

WATCH YOUR 6 !

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
September 29
6 p.m.

E-BOARD MEETING
September 29
4:30 p.m.

VETERAN’S MEETING
September 8
11:30 a.m.

POLICE WIVES MEETING
September 8
7 p.m.
MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

I started my career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department 1986. I worked as a police officer for three different departments over the next seventeen years. I served as a State Representative for another eight years working closely with rank-and-file cops and police administrators from across the state in my capacity as Ranking Member of the House Public Safety Committee. I served briefly as a Special Assistant to the Missouri Director of Public Safety. And, I’ve worked for the SLPOA for over ten years representing St. Louis police officers.

I’ve been around law enforcement for a long, long time. I came-up in an era where most police commanders were more than worthy and left to fend for themselves. The old military slang “sad sack” was the only term I could think of when I learned of Sack’s bungling display at the recent awards ceremony for the dozens of officers who were recognized for risking their lives in the protection of this city during the June 1st Riot in 2020.

Mind you now, it is inexcusable that it took Sack and the rest of Chief Hayden’s feeble inner circle fourteen months to recognize the death-defying heroism displayed by so many police officers while haywire reigned in city streets as a result of the failure of leadership that has come to define Hayden and his top confidante, Sack. The June 1st Riots were characterized by an utter lack of planning or command-and-control as officers were abandoned and left to fend for themselves.

If this were a military organization, Hayden and Sack would’ve been court martialed for desertion and so I don’t say this easily, but... cowardice.

Fuck Mike Sack! He is a disgrace to the badge. He is a disgrace to the badge. Rather than doing the job we’ve all done - that requires risky, split-second decisions that are easy to second-guess in the deliberative, cool comfort of an oversize 7th Floor office chair - Sack has made a career of sitting in judgement of those bloody themselves in battles he’s never had to fight. Like a schoolyard tattletale turned schoolyard bully, Sack's career has taken him from rat to shark; as he circles his next victim thirsting for blood in major metropolitan police department.

Sack showed-up looking more like an unmade bed than a Lt. Colonel in a major metropolitan police department.

And, remember, this is the Inspector of Police. He’s the guy who is supposed to enforce the uniform code. How can someone who looks such a mess in his uniform (see inset photo) discipline you for the way you look?

Sack’s physically-unfit-for-duty build nary allows him to fasten all of the buttons of his ill-fitting uniform, that he sullies with both his appearance and his head-hunting conduct. The tennis shoes he wears with his dress uniform look like something a lunch lady with fallen-arches would wear to serve cafeteria pudding to unruly school children. And, they look as though they were polished with that same pudding.

And, even though he was in dress uniform for the awards ceremony, he wasn’t wearing the dress uniform hat required for such occasions that was donned by other commanders present.

Yes, Sack looked like an unkempt mess in his uniform during the awards ceremony but that wasn’t the worst of it. At one point the pencil-pushing automatron stopped the ceremony to sign termination papers or something of the like. Unbelievable!

But, at least Sack got his signature right unlike the recipient names on the awards certificates.

And, inconceivably, they couldn’t even get the genders of the recipients right.

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What a slap in the face.

And in the absolute hell is this guy in charge of deciding who is and isn’t doing their job right?

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term “sad sack” as “an inept blundering person.”

If there was ever any doubt before, there shouldn’t be any after this awards ceremony. Our Inspector of Police is nothing but a sad Sack.

By Jeff Roorda-SLPOA Business Manager
The Other War On Police: Emotional Violence

Emotional violence is creating the lowest morale in law enforcement history

By Robert Michaels

Over the past several years we've seen a sharp increase and violence against police officers. This would include stabbings and shootings with many resulting in death. We just saw a tragic one in Chicago. Last weekend's murder of Chicago Police Officer Ella French, is part of the 47 felonious police officer killings so far in 2021. According to the FBI’s Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program (LEOKA), that horrendous statistic almost equals the total in all of 2019.

I'm glad to see the media acknowledging the violence, moreover in some media acknowledging the culpability of activist politicians, extremist media, and hate groups who called for the death of police but the few that are speaking are not nearly enough.

Chaos Created By Liars

When you have politicians like Rep. Corey Bush (D-Mo.) demanding defunding of police and alleging their participation in the death of black men, weak and hate filled minds are inflamed and motivated to commit such violence as we are seeing today. Despite her $70,000 personal security brigade, she calls for the defunding of police and communities hardest hit by violence. Moreover, she uses misinformation to make her point. In 2019 the total number of unarmed black men killed by police was 14 and as Law Officer routinely points out, the vast majority of those are justified by law enforcement. The largest segment responsible for the death of black men are other black men and with thousands murdered each year, that cannot be refuted.

The propaganda is certainly working as a recent study found that a large segment of our society believes that over 10,000 unarmed black men are killed by police each year.

The Crisis Is Here

Today the crisis in law enforcement is so severe that retirements and resignations are at an all-time high while recruitment at an all-time low. No one wants to be a cop and why would they? When the loudest voices like politicians in the media blame them for all of the woes of society, and malicious prosecutors and judges file criminal actions against officers when the incidents were justified and warranted, who could blame anyone from running away from the noble profession of law enforcement.

The physical violence against police is without question a crisis. Thugs and punks feel empowered by the words of those who hate police including the politicians and media to take physical action against officers. Ambushes have skyrocketed and the death of Chicago Police Officer Ella French only highlights what we have known for the last few years.

Without question we are facing a war on police but I want to call your attention to a second war on police.

The Emotional War

When police officers around the country see their brothers and sisters physically harmed and targeted, moreover maliciously prosecuted for incidents that were truly justified, an emotional response is necessarily triggered. When officers learn of such incidents they can imagine themselves being the victim, or those with whom they work being the subject of such attacks or investigations.

In some cases, the emotional uneasiness is created by departmental leadership. The vast majority of Chiefs and Sheriffs are honorable and stand for their officers when wrongly accused or attacked but there is a narrow segment of our leaders who are more committed to being politically correct than being honorable and standing for justice.

Too often we read of a police chief who is an activist and joins in motivating a malicious and unwarranted prosecution or investigation. It’s bad enough when officers are subjected to the harassment of politicians and media, but when they come to a place where they don’t believe they can trust departmental leadership it triggers an emotional response.

I was fortunate when serving with the Norfolk Police Department, both in uniform on patrol and as a detective. Our Chief, Charles Grant, was a cop’s cop. He served and all of the divisions starting off on foot patrol as a rookie. He worked his way through the ranks and served with distinction in every position. When this chief talked about police you knew without a doubt that he knew what he was talking about. As it turns out, the vast majority of those are justified, an emotional response is necessarily triggered. When officers learn of such incidents they can imagine themselves being the victim, or those with whom they work being the subject of such attacks or investigations.

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Tragically, far too many departments are bringing in chiefs from other areas who are purely administrators. As Dirty Harry would call them, “pencil necked pencil pushers.”

Sadly, such woke administrative chiefs truly do not understand the perils and challenges of law enforcement. Today, far too many come from a
The Other War On Police: Emotional Violence

(Cont. from pg. 4)

progressive mindset and a woke philosophy that is doing undeniable damage to the profession and the communities that are served.

Interestingly enough, the idea of being “woke” began as a symbol of an awakening of pride and self-respect in African Americans who had been oppressed by the culture and laws. By this original definition, Rosa Parks was “woke” because she awoke from her society-induced second-class existence to realize and assert that her skin color should not dictate where she sat on a bus. The original idea of being “woke” was best exemplified by the words of Dr. King, “I have a dream.”

The ongoing and continuing attacks on law enforcement whether external or internal has destroyed much of the morale in law enforcement around the nation. Officers feel beaten down emotionally and insecure professionally because of the lack of support from city and departmental leadership.

The Time Is Now

The danger in declining morale is that it can lead to depression, and if left unaddressed it can lead to self-medication or perhaps suicidal ideations. Departments who are led by a good administrative team understand the critical need for emotional ventilation. Focus on the ability of their officers to ask for help when they feel distraught. City or county leadership must also understand the critical need to provide for the emotional Wellness of those who keep them safe. They have the need to provide resources to get help and alternative resources when the officers feel unsafe speaking to those connected with the department. It is quite common for officers to not trust their employee assistance program. Their fear is that asking for help will be reported to the chief, which is in fact a violation of HIPAA.

In an ideal world, politicians and media would treat law enforcement fairly. Prosecutors would not be as malicious in their accusations and charges, rather they would follow the law. Personally, I have helped two officers charged by malicious prosecutors with murder. One in North Carolina saw the charges dropped because there was no evidence. One in South Carolina was reduced to a misdemeanor. In both cases the officers had been cleared by local, state, and federal authorities. Yet the prosecutor thought it was politically expedient to go after two of these officers.

One lost his job, his home, and his family. This has to stop.

The Solution

It is my recommendation that in cases such as these, the prosecutor needs to be investigated for malicious prosecution. If proven malicious, the prosecutor should be removed from office and face disbarment. Again, this is in an ideal world and will never actually happen. Let’s face it, lawyers make the laws.

It is also my recommendation that the media who willfully, knowingly, and maliciously make false reports in the news alleging blame before an investigation is done should be suspended or terminated.

Moreover, any person in the media who releases personal information on an officer under investigation, or jurors in a trial, should be charged with a crime. In so doing they put the lives of the individuals and their families in jeopardy. This can no longer be an accepted practice. And it should be a federal crime.

Likewise, it is my recommendation that no politician be given immunity from lying publicly, from the floor, or in the media. Too often politicians knowingly lie about ongoing investigations assigning blame when there is no blame to be assigned. They claim murder when a shooting is justified. Such politicians should be censored and prosecuted for fraud.

They should lose their position of power and never allowed to hold office again. These politicians ruin the lives of those who keep us safe.

If an officer is involved in an alleged criminal activity, the media should not assign blame, and should wait until the investigation is concluded. Once the investigation determines culpability that can be reported.

The Heart of the Matter

The heart of what I’m writing is that in addition to the horrible vicious and violent attacks on law enforcement, officers are being violently attacked emotionally.

Post-traumatic stress does not just occur with violent acts. Emotional abuse such as I have described is traumatic. Officers falsely accused and 1100 

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The Heart of the Matter

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Post-traumatic stress does not just occur with violent acts. Emotional abuse such as I have described is traumatic. Officers falsely accused and malign’d suffer emotional violence by those who make the accusations. Even when destroyed, the falsely accused have to live the rest of their life under the shadow of the accusations with questions often remaining despite being cleared. Additionally, officers around the country who witnessed the emotional abuse of their brothers and sisters through the media and politicians experience a secondhand form of trauma knowing the very same thing could happen to them or their peers. The same is true when they witness the physical violence against officers.

We as a profession must understand that emotional violence waged against our brothers and sisters cannot be tolerated in the name of political correctness. I have taken to social media in the past taking a stand against those falsely accused. I’ve encouraged others to call mayors and departments to do the right thing when an officer has been maligned, or when a politician has been terminated because of their trauma…but it will take more than myself for real change.

Since 2011, the organization I founded, Serve and Protect, has provided emotional support services for almost 7,000 public safety professionals. And in every case these 7,000 have come to our house because they fear to call their department, or in some cases because their department did not respond to their needs.

I encourage every member of law enforcement, active or retired, to join me in this fight for our brothers and sisters holding the ever shrinking frontline. We must stand together against this war on police that continues to wreak physical and emotional carnage against those with whom we serve or serve with in the past.

We can no longer remain silent and witness the emotional carnage, too often leading to suicidal ideations.

We must challenge every false allegation by media or politicians.

We cannot sit on the sidelines.

We must encourage our brothers and sisters to seek help when they are victims of emotional violence.

Law enforcement is a noble profession and as such demands we stand together.

In this case, silence is not golden…It is deadly.
Donald Joseph “Don” Eickhoff

Birth 30 Jun 1937
Death 7 Jul 2021 (aged 84)

SLMPD-2021-46

Officer Donald J. Eickhoff, DSN 5026, received his commission on 02/10/1964. After the academy Officer Eickhoff was sent to the 3rd district on 06/01/1964. Officer Eickhoff remained in this district until he retired on 12/16/1989 on a work related disability retirement.

Eickhoff was a veteran of the United States Navy and served from 08/20/1954 to 06/20/1958 on active duty, and continued his service in the USNR. He was honorably discharged from the reserves on 08/19/1962 as a Fireman 2nd Class Petty Officer.

Donald “Don” Eickhoff, 84, of Rocky Mount, Missouri passed away Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at his residence in Rocky Mount, Missouri.

He was born June 30, 1937 in St. Louis, Missouri and was the son late Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. and Hazel (McDermott) Eickhoff.

On October 13, 1956 in the state of Virginia he was united in marriage to Barbara Ruth (Nusbaum) Eickhoff who survives of the home.

Sons, Mark Eickhoff (Pamela) of Middleton, ID; Wayne Eickhoff of Eldon, Missouri, daughter, Kristi Cotten (Allen) of Eldon, Missouri. Four Grandchildren, Andy, Katie, Jason & Elizabeth. two Great Grandchildren, Ganon & Benjamin, and son-in-law Michael Baldwin of Olean, Missouri. Siblings, Helen Keihlholz of St. Louis, MO; Joseph Stimple of Jefferson City, Missouri. Don was also preceded in death by his daughter, Donna Sue Baldwin.

Don served in the United States Navy for 8 years and then was employed with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department until his retirement. He was then a bail bondman for over 30 years. Don’s love and talent as an avid fisherman lead him to become a fishing guide for many years on the waters of Lake of the Ozarks.

Visitation was held Sunday, July 18, 2021 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Phillips Funeral Home of Eldon, MO with Full Military Honors presented.

Private Family Interment will be held at a later date.

Memorials in his name are suggested to: National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
P.O. Box 1848
Longmont, CO 80502

Detective Paul Omer James

Birth 18 Sep 1953
Death 1 Aug 2021 (aged 67)

SLMPD-2021-47

Detective Paul O. James, DSN 8202, started his career as a Cadet on 11/15/1971.

In this capacity he worked in the following district’s and specialized division’s. They were the Police Academy, 4th, Medical Division, 5th, Identification Section (I.D. Section), Watchman’s Division, and finally the 4th.

Detective James received his commission on 10/14/1974, and subsequently served in the 6th, Mobile Reserve Section, 6th, 9th, Bureau of Investigation-9th Detective Bureau, 9th District Detective Bureau, and finally the Area II Detective Bureau. During his career he was the recipient of 1 Exceptional Performance of Duty Award on 09/03/1982, and 1 Chief Letter of Commendation on 03/12/1976. Both of these awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Detective James retired on 10/17/1994, having served 22.92 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Detective James followed his father Sergeant Joseph O. James, DSN 1021, into the field of law enforcement and became a 2nd generation police officer in the family to serve on the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Barbara James of the home.

Detective James was predeceased by his parents Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O. and Virginia J. (nee Longin) James.

A celebration of life was held at Pechacek Funeral Home

Pechacek Funeral Homes - Red Bud
1340 West Market
Red Bud, IL 62278

PAUL OMER JAMES, 67, of Red Bud, Illinois, passed away at 3:06 pm, Sunday, August 1, 2021 at his residence.

He was born to the late Joseph Omer and Virginia (nee Longin) James on September 18, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Paul married Barbara Elder on February 20, 1993 in Maestystown, Illinois; she survives.

He had worked as a Police Officer for St. Louis City for 20 years, and for the last 13 years he had worked for Weir Parts Center in Red Bud, Illinois.

Paul enjoyed gardening, woodworking, taking care of his lawn, building model airplanes and loved to do Crossword puzzles. He also enjoyed watching John Wayne and Western movies.

Survivors:
Wife: Barbara James Red Bud, IL
3 Step Children: Lisa (Chris) Burton Waterloo, IL, Emily Jost Waterloo, IL
Eric (Heather) Jost Belleville, IL
1 Sister: Jaquie Kampmeinert of St. Charles, MO
5 Step Grandchildren: Ella Burton, Tessa Burton, Emma Horn, Aiden Jost and Noah Jost
1 Niece:Eve Kampmeinert
2 Nephew's:Gary (Lisa) Kampmeinert; and John (Robin) Kampmeinert
2 Great Niece's:Katie and Lexi Kampmeinert
1 Great Nephew:Tommy Kampmeinert
1 Sister-in-law: Mary (Sam) Parker
Preceded in death by: Parents and 5 Brother-in-law's

Officer Richard M. Rick Kohnen - Florissant PD

Officer Richard M. “Rick” Kohnen, served as a dedicated police officer for 37 years, investing 30 of those in the Florissant Police Department and surrounding communities.

He was the proudest of the decade plus he served as the School Resource Officer at McCluer High School. Rick received numerous commendations and recognitions for his service throughout his career.

Additionally, Rick faithfully served as the President of the local Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 25 and the State Secretary for the Missouri State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police for many years.

Richard Michael Kohnen entered into rest peacefully on Sunday, August 1, 2021. He was at home, surrounded by his family.

Rick was born in Florissant on May 8, 1959 to Joe and Arlene Kohnen.

He graduated with his Associates degree in Criminal Justice from Florissant Valley Community College and then graduated from Lindenwood University with his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

On May 12, 1984, he married the love of his life, Lois. Rick is survived by his father Joseph Kohnen, his beloved wife of 37 years, Lois, his children Amanda (JR.) Forasteros, and Brandon (Amanda) Kohnen, his grandchildren Charlotte and William Kohnen and his siblings, Joseph, Rosanne (Kenneth), Kenneth (Nancy), Jerome and Charles (Donna).

(Cont. on pg.14)
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER
SLPOA BOARD ELECTIONS
Ballots Must Be Received by September 15th

DIVISION 11
Michael Reeves - No statement submitted

Marcus Alston - Let me take this time to introduce myself. My name is Marcus Alston and I have been with the St. Louis Police Department since 2007. I started my career in North Patrol, spending the bulk of my time there or doing Narcotics work. I am currently assigned to Intelligence and I am running for Division 11 Rep. I am taking this time and opportunity to get more involved. My goal is to stop sitting on the sidelines and become more active in trying to make our Association and Department better, especially now during tough times. I will work hard for the association and would appreciate your vote.

DIVISION 13
Michael Biggs - I am seeking the position of your Division 13 representative in the hopes of providing more information to our division. In years prior I have found that there is a dire lack of communication between our Division representatives and the people they represent. This has been a concern in other divisions as well and should I be selected to represent our Division, I will diligently work to share information with everyone and work with everyone to get their concerns and problems addressed. I feel we have not had that type of representation in some time and I aim to change that. I’ve been involved in different aspects of the association for my 15 years on the Department and hope to serve our Division in this capacity. Please contact me if you have any questions in regards to my desire to be your representative. Stay safe. Fraternally, PO Michael Biggs 7134

Charles Lowe - I’m Sgt Charles Lowe your current division 13 representative. Over the last several years I have worked hard to represent you and any issues that have arisen. On top of attending regular scheduled board meetings I have helped facilitate the collective bargaining agreement on your behalf. In addition I have made myself available day and night to assist with questions, legal representation, or anyone needing someone to speak with about the struggles of this career. As we move forward we have many challenges ahead. With 23 years of law enforcement experience under my belt I have the tools and know how of where and who to get the information from and things done on your behalf. Thank you once again for allowing me to represent you.

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Don’t kill the messenger.

I don’t have great news for those who are reluctant to receive the Covid-19 vaccination.

The Association learned on August 18 that City Hall plans to institute a mandatory vaccine program starting on October 15.

As odd coincidences would have it, I was in Indianapolis at the FOP Convention that day and the FOP’s national legal counsel, Larry James, was giving a report on—you guessed it—mandatory vaccination programs. The crux of his report was that the court decisions on Covid-19 mandatory vaccinations and other litigation regarding forced vaccination for various communicable diseases over the years strongly favors employers when it comes to such programs.

Particularly when weekly testing is offered as an option to vaccination in the recent cases, the courts have consistently found for cities and other public employers who initiate mandatory vaccination programs with those sort of accommodations.

Understand, Larry James is a nationally renowned lawyer who has a stellar record of fighting for cops, so I was inclined to believe he knew what he was talking about but, this was too controversial an issue to leave it at that. Jay Schroeder and I brought three of our most trusted Association lawyers onto the conversation just to get a second opinion…and a third and fourth opinion.

Uniformly, they all agreed with Larry’s take after some fairly extensive research. (Of course, our lawyers are constantly monitoring litigation around the country and if something changes we will communicate it to the membership).

They all concurred with Larry that the law does allow for exceptions to such programs in cases of a medical condition that might be complicated by vaccination or a bona fide, closely-held religious objection. These are very narrow exceptions though that precious few would qualify for.

The other issue that Larry raised was collective bargaining rights. He opined—and I firmly agree—that the implementation of a compulsory vaccination program is a mandatory subject of bargaining. That is to say that the City must negotiate with our union and the other labor organizations that represent City employees over the “when, where and how” of the program.

I wrote to the City the same day that they announced the vaccination program and demanded bargaining on the topic. Several of the other unions have followed suit and made similar demands. The City has agreed to meet with us and the other unions but they are reluctant to call it collective bargaining, probably because they’ve walked away from our contract talks and declared a bad-faith impasse in violation of the law.

There are important issues to negotiate over with regards to this program if the City is going to move forward with it: Will members who have had the virus recently and have antibodies be required to take the vaccine; will members be required to take a vaccine that isn’t FDA approved; if vaccinations aren’t available during their regular work hours, will you be paid overtime; are the people administering the vaccine properly trained and weekly tested; is the HIPAA law being fully followed; what about the ADA law; and many, many more questions.

We will continue to push hard for answers and for the City to meet its collective bargaining obligations but, look, we don’t want this to come off as some sort of “anti-vaxxer” rant that damages the credibility of our organization.

I’m vaccinated. I think you should be too if you don’t have a medical or religious objection. But, that’s not my choice. It shouldn’t be your employer’s choice either. It should be yours. And, you should be free to make that choice without consequence.

But the courts don’t exactly see it that way. The consistent legal theory that interweaves all of these court decisions is you have a right to choose not to be vaccinated. But, you don’t have a right to your job if you decline. We can’t afford to lose anymore police officers though. So, there is another answer. A better answer. Take the test. Put in for overtime if you can. Make them spend the money on swabs and swabbers. But don’t let them win over shoving a cue tip up your nose. This Police Department and this City have shoved much bigger things up much worse places.

You can take it. It’ll be our turn to do the shoving soon.

---

**VAX FACTS**

By Jeff Roorda
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<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
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BEFORE THE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of:

TRUSTEE GARY WIEGERT

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By statute, by common law and by our own internal rules and regulations, the purpose of the Board of Trustees is to ensure that our funds are healthy and well invested in order to protect the beneficiaries of the pension. The strength of the Board is that the Board meets collectively utilizing their collective wisdom and experience to meet our fiduciary duties.

We are a Board and operate as a Board and no member has the authority to attempt to operate individually or in their own interests. It is the duty of a Board to act collectively, selflessly, and with good faith regarding the decisions necessary to keep the pension system running smoothly and for the sole benefit of its members.

Trustee Wiegert has failed to meet his fiduciary obligations or discharge his duties that are required of all trustees of the St. Louis Police Retirement System. The Board in its decisions has relied upon uncontested proof, real evidence of misconduct.

The Board provided ample method and opportunity for Trustee Wiegert to respond to any concerns that he may have had so that they could be fairly and properly investigated, however, Trustee Wiegert declined to do so. The Board also provided ample opportunity for Trustee Wiegert to defend himself against the allegations made before this Board. Once again, Trustee Wiegert declined to do so.

It is clear that Trustee Wiegert was never interested in having his claims investigated. He was only interested in his own ambitions which were calculated to undermine his fellow trustees in their efforts to faithfully administer the affairs of the Police Retirement System. Trustee Wiegert has knowingly violated several provisions of the rules and laws applicable to the trustees of the PRS. His actions have constituted misfeasance, malfeasance and non-performance beyond his authority as a member of the Board of Trustees. His actions have affected the administration of the PRS and have undermined the Board’s efforts to faithfully administer the affairs of the PRS. While violation of any one of the policies of the Board of Trustees could constitute a removal from the Board of Trustees, Trustee Wiegert’s flagrant violation of several policies leaves us with only the option of removal.

Wallace K.Leapold
Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Police Retirement System of St. Louis

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matt.mcdonough@prudential.com

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Also do your homework before you purchase a vehicle. So many times we see people paying too much when they could have seen a lot of information on the internet to guide their purchase. We always book the vehicle in NADA before issuing a loan. Getting preapproved for a loan also helps you know how much your payments could be and that may influence your purchase.

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Police Civilian
Farrah Lepper
was honored at the
August 11 meeting of
the St. Louis Police
Veterans
Association (SLPVA)
for her dedication to
the active and retired
police officers and
civilians of the St.
Louis Metropolitan
Police Department.

At the urging of
retired St. Louis
Police Officer (and
Gendarme obituary
page editor) Timothy Tumbrink, the SLPVA, SLPOA and the Police
Leadership Organization all pitched-in to applaud Lepper for the years of
hard work she has put into assisting in honoring SLMPD employees
when they pass away.

Lepper, a forensic photographer
assigned to the SLMPD Crime Lab,
has long been instrumental in
supplying pictures and work
histories for employees when they
pass on.

Tumbrink told the Gendarme it
would be impossible to properly
honor our lost comrades were it not
for the extensive support that
Lepper provides.

Lepper received a commemorative
plaque and a standing ovation from
the 60 or so retirees on-hand for the
presentation.

Nancy Trares-DuMeyer
(Officer Jeff Trares Mom)

DAVID GREGORY
ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY
FOR STATE AUDITOR;
FOP, SLPOA ENDORSEMENTS

Longtime police supporter, State Rep David
Gregory, announces his candidacy for Auditor at
the Missouri FOP Lodge as St. Louis County
Police Association Executive Director Joe
Patterson looks on. Gregory went on a five city
whirlwind tour on August 4 touting his police
support, including a stop at the SLPOA Hall.

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He was preceded in death by his mother, Arlene, and his sister-in-law Barbara. In addition, Rick was a beloved uncle, great-uncle, cousin, father-figure to all in need and friend to so many.

Rick loved his family and kept a menagerie of dogs, birds and fish. The pride and joy of his entire life were his grandkids. He drank espresso when the sun came up and bourbon when it set. He was always ready to go somewhere – especially to the beach or the family lake house. And he loved movies – especially Star Trek and Star Wars. He was ready to make you laugh with a terrible dad joke or pun. He always made sure to set an extra place at the dinner table in case you showed up, and if he wasn’t at the table, you could probably find him sitting outside smoking a cigar and sipping an IPA.

In lieu of flowers, Rick’s family requests donations made in his name to the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police Foundation.

Check should be made out to:
Missouri FOP Foundation
715 Jefferson St
Jefferson City, MO. 65101

---

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us
(Cont. from pg. 6)

Officer Richard “Rick” M. Kohnen

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Minutes after being notified today by the City's Director of Personnel that the City intends to mandate vaccinations/weekly testing commencing October 15th, our business manager wrote the City and declared that vaccinations are a mandatory subject of bargaining and demanded that the City meet with our union (and the other 15 unions that represent city employees if they agree) to negotiate over vaccination policies. The DOP Director has tentatively agreed to such meetings.

We have already conferred with our local legal counsel as well as our National FOP legal counsel on prevailing laws and court decisions related to forced vaccinations and we will continue to do so as this issue develops.

We will keep you posted as to the progressions of these negotiations.

In the meantime, the one thing we know for certain is that the courts have recognized exceptions for medical conditions that are compounded by vaccinations as well as bonafide long-held religious objections. If you believe you fall into one of these categories, please contact our business manager.

Thanks

The SLPOA

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**Fade Outs – June 2021**

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<td>PO Eric E. Mattson</td>
<td>11701</td>
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<td>PO Stacy R. Newton</td>
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<td>06/08/20</td>
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<td>SGT John J. Winkler</td>
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<td>PO Anthony J. Meyer</td>
<td>11186</td>
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<td>PO James R. Wright</td>
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**Fade Outs – July 2021**

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REMEMBER TO MAIL IN YOUR SLPOA ELECTION BALLOTS

Ballots Must Be Received By September 15th