

APRIL 2020

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# THE PBA

**THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
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# THE PRES SAYS



## Official Publication of the SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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Georgianne Cox, Editor

The HEAT is published monthly by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association solely for the benefit of its members. The publication, dedicated to the advancement of the law enforcement profession through better and stronger community relations, is the official medium of expression for the South Florida PBA. A limited number of paid advertisements are accepted for the publication, which is produced through organizational funds. These advertisements are not endorsements by the PBA unless otherwise specified.

**The HEAT is the official publication of the South Florida PBA. However, opinions expressed in the publication, including "The Pres Says," are not necessarily those of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association. BOD Updates are a summary of the approved meeting minutes.**

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No responsibility whatsoever is assumed, by HEAT or the South Florida Police Benevolent Association for unsolicited material. Members or readers submitting letters to the Editor are requested to observe these simple rules:

- 1) Address letters to: The Editor, HEAT  
10680 NW 25th St.  
Doral, FL 33172
- 2) Letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address.
- 3) A writer's identity may be withheld by request.
- 4) Please keep letters and/or articles legible.
- 5) The Editor reserves the right to add editor's notes to any letters submitted, if necessary.

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Here it is April already. It's hard to believe we are four months into 2020. It seems like yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and now Easter is upon us.

Here are some interesting facts about April I thought I'd share with you: On April 29th, 1786, Sheriff Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield County, Virginia, died when he was thrown from his horse, being the first known law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty. On April 14, 1865, just a few hours before his assassination, President Abraham Lincoln signed the legislation creating the U.S. Secret Service.

As we move into April, we certainly have been busy at the PBA. At the time of this writing, the Florida Legislative Session was coming to a close. Although the mood of some of our legislators has changed there are still a few that continue wanting to strip First Responders of certain rights — such as ending the right of Union representation. House Bill #1, which is an attack on Unions and viewed as an anti-union bill, passed the House, but it still needs to go through the Senate. Although it has more to go in the process, we believe we have the support of other Legislative leaders to stop it, and we are continuing our efforts to fight it passing.

We also have been working on restoring the COLA benefits and, while there has been some movement, it looks like it will not be solved this session. Fortunately, there is a commitment from our legislative supporters to move the COLA forward into the next session. As I said earlier, there are still some Legislators that do not put Public Safety as a priority (although that number is dwindling and we are starting to see an increase in support from them). The mood in Tallahassee has certainly changed for the better under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis. He inherited a dysfunctional State Corrections Department that suffered from lack of

funding and equipment. Rick Scott pushed for a heavier movement of privatization of the State Prison System, which was clearly a failure that will take years to fix, but Governor DeSantis is moving in the right direction. This is why we cannot stress enough the importance of getting out to vote in the upcoming elections. As I previously stated, I will no longer argue on which party is better. Some people have strong convictions over which party — Republican, Democrat or Independent — is better. I myself vote the person and not the party. We ask you to stay informed, stay involved and most importantly vote the PBA way.

Last month, the American Lung Association had their annual "Fight for Air Climb." I had the pleasure of accompanying about 30 of our MDPD, PRT, SRT and other members who climbed 39 floors of the One Biscayne Tower building downtown. The officers did an outstanding job making it to the top and I can say that with certainty because I made sure I was not going to block the way and I followed them up. Upon my arrival to the climb they were all smiles and I can assure you next year I will be better prepared for it.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who came out last month for the fundraiser barbeque for MDPD Marcos DeRosa's son, Jonathan, who was involved in a motorcycle accident and critically wounded. Special shout out to Joe Edreira for bringing his grill down and lending his cooking expertise. For all those that donated and showed up, we say "thank you." In the world we live in today, it seems all we see or hear about is the negative, but events like these restore my faith in humanity and people.

**Stay safe out there and see  
you next month!**

**Steadman Stahl, President**  
[steadman@sflpba.org](mailto:steadman@sflpba.org)

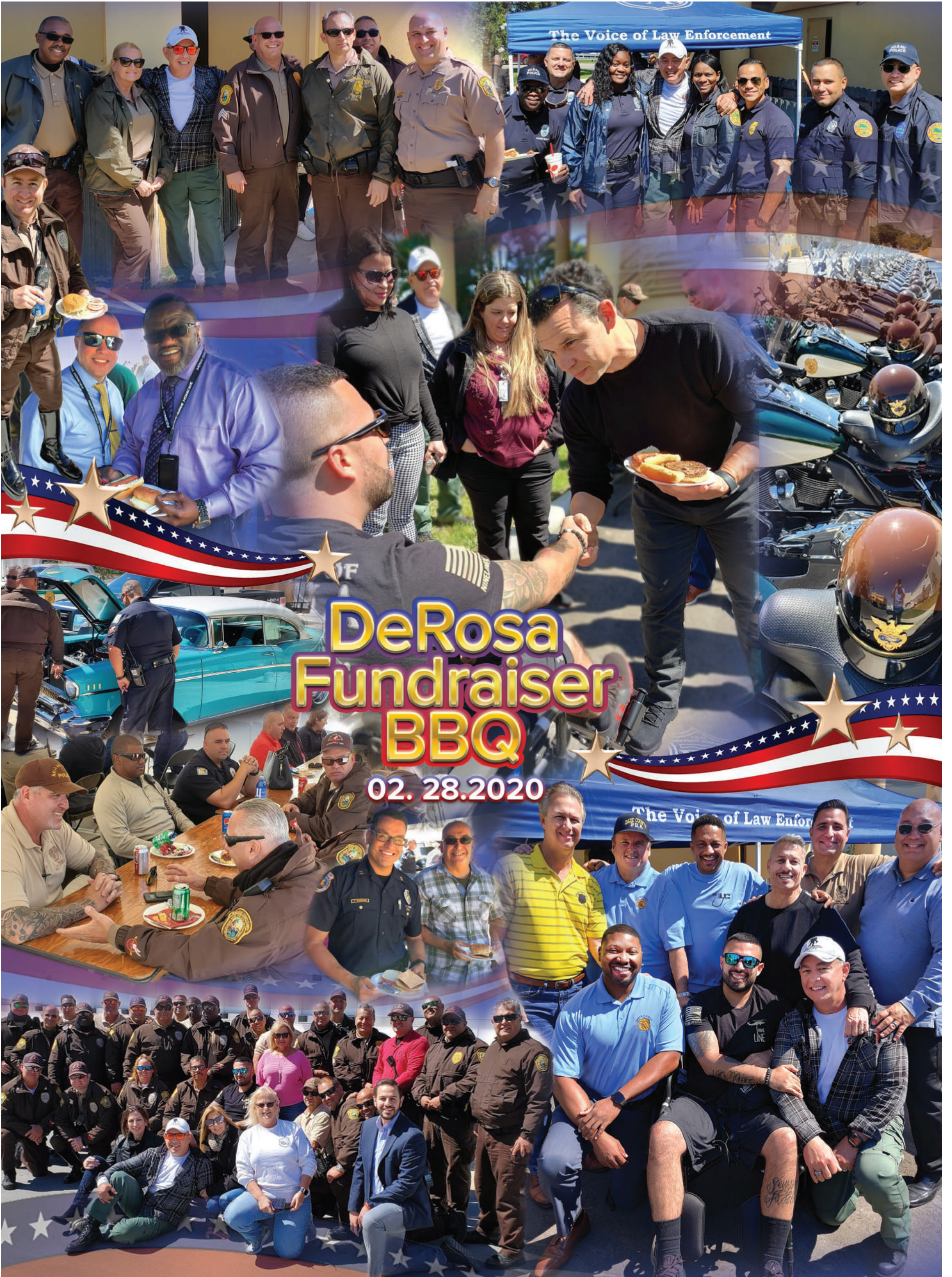


President Stahl with the always on point MDPD Honor Guard.



President Stahl joined members of MDPD, SRT and PRT in climbing 39 floors for American Lung Association's annual "Fight for Air Climb."







# Last Call for PBA Scholarship Applications!

The South Florida PBA Scholarship Committee accepts applications for scholarship funds between January 1st and April 15th of each year. **Applications must be postmarked by April 15th for acceptance.** No exceptions! Scholarships are based on financial need as well as merit. All information provided will be kept confidential. Scholarships are awarded once a year.



## **Eligibility Requirements (all criteria must be met to be considered):**

1. Applicant must be a child of a South Florida PBA member with a minimum of five years membership or have prior Board approval. Children of retirees are not eligible to apply.

2. Applicant must be, or plan to be, a part-time or full-time student at an accredited two-year or four-year college. Graduate students are not eligible to apply.

3. Applicant must include an essay, of no more than 500 words, about themselves, their college and career goals, and about their family and background. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font only.

4. Send application, essay, Letter of Acceptance (first-time applicants only) and an official transcript with GPA in one package to: South Florida PBA Scholarship Committee, 10680 PBA Memorial Blvd. (NW 25th Street), Doral, FL 33172.

DO NOT submit any photos, resumes, letters of recommendation. DO NOT bind in any way.

To obtain an application, go to <http://dcpba.org/scholarship> or contact Kim Gregson at (305) 593-0044 or e-mail: [kim@sflpba.org](mailto:kim@sflpba.org).

## From The Desk of The EVP



**By John A. Jenkins,  
Executive Vice  
President**

As you all may or may not know, your PBA not only fights for your benefits and rights locally in South Florida, but we also fight at the state level. The South Florida PBA is the largest charter in the Florida PBA, and we work closely with them to assist with ensuring our voices are heard, collectively benefiting approximately 30,000 members throughout the State. This past legislative session has been busy, and I wanted to share some of the issues we have been working on. As you know this process isn't easy and change doesn't occur overnight. Some benefits take years to fight for like the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) and the Heart and Lung Bill to name a couple.

The following are a few items we are working on, but not limited to, getting passed or amended at the time of this writing.

### **Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers Bill of Rights:**

Legislative language was added to include part-time law enforcement officers and clarification to the meaning of a complaint

regardless of the origin of the complaint being internal or external, and the mandatory completion of the investigation within the 180 day rule, which was being misinterpreted by some. As you can understand this misinterpretation, with no remedy or ramifications, was causing some of our members to be in limbo for many months and possibly years with no closing date in sight and no recourse for non-compliance. Additional language also provided for smaller agencies (with 35 officers or less) the ability to seek support from outside agencies when a conflict exists within the investigative division.

### **Peer to Peer Counseling:**

Working with other law enforcement, corrections and firefighting organizations to create "Peer to Peer" legislation to assist in combating mental health issues facing our first responders. This legislation will provide properly trained peer support to compliment other resources within the prospected agencies such as Employee Assistance Programs.

### **Mental Health Task Force:**

Creation of the task force to examine what is plaguing police officers, corrections officers and firefighter suicides. What is an increasingly disturbing fact is first responders are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

### **Florida Retirement System:**

Working toward comprehensive pension reform requesting relief from the FRS COLA suspension for Special Risk Members hired prior to July 1, 2011.

This also includes restoring Special Risk's retirement years of service to 25 from 30 for those FRS members hired after July 1, 2011. If there is any small chance of light at the end of the tunnel, it is the new incoming legislative leadership that's open to working and dialoging with the PBA. We will continue to make this a priority for our members.

The legislative sessions and processes are very interesting, and it takes a team to fight for your interests. There are many lobbyists, organizations, agencies, departments, and big businesses that are fighting for, against, or with you for what they believe to be in the best interest for their clients. As PBA members, you are our clients and as I mentioned in the beginning of my article, we will continue to ensure your voices are heard.

There are many who are working hard behind the scenes for you but I want to personally thank the Florida PBA Executive Director Matt Puckett, and PBA Lobbyists Ken Kopczynski, Gary Bradford, and Mick McHale for all the hard work they do on our behalf and for continuing to teach and educate me on the legislative process.

If you have any questions, concerns, or developing issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at (305) 593-0044 or via email at [jenkins@sflpba.org](mailto:jenkins@sflpba.org).



SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

# Saltwater Fishing Tournament



**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020**

**MANDATORY**  
→

**Captain's Meeting**

**7 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**

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- Did you know that the **Heart and Lung Bill** was passed to protect first responders; **police, correction and probation officers**, and **firefighters**.
- Did you know that **High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)** and most **Heart related diseases** are covered conditions under the Heart and Lung Bill?
- Did you know that **ALL** of your **medical treatments** and **medications** are covered for these conditions under the **Heart and Lung Bill** for the rest of your **LIFE!**
- Did you know that **OPN** is a specialty pharmacy that caters to our first responders and **delivers your medications** directly to your home or office **at no cost?**



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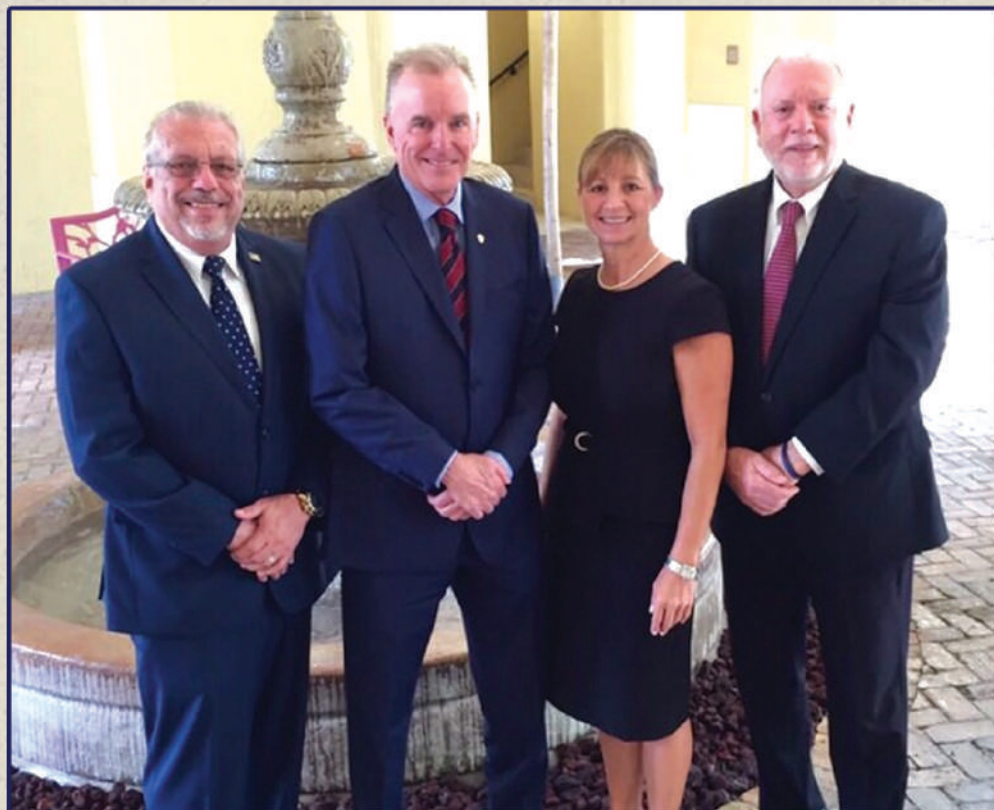
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# The Dish From Ish



## By Capt. Nizam "Ish" Ishmael, Treasurer

Back pain (BP) is a common ailment in the United States. Lower and chronic BP is something that Law Enforcement Professionals (LEPs) are no strangers to. The top two contributors for this condition are wearing a duty

belt and the vehicles we drive. We wear the duty belt while sitting in the vehicle, pursuing suspects, on foot patrol, during roll call, filling out reports, and sitting in court for hours at a time waiting for a case to be called. It's no surprise that we suffer from BP.

Many interventions include health counseling, back braces, patient education in body mechanics, exercise, cessation of smoking and decreasing obesity can help manage BP in most people. However, there are several reasons that traditional interventions for BP are not effective for LEPs, including the fact that work conditions are constantly changing. In addition, traditional instructions are often not appropriate for situations LEPs find themselves in and may cause further injuries instead of preventing them.

### Duty belt injuries

BP and hip injuries/conditions caused by wearing a duty belt are some of the most underreported types of injuries suffered by LEPs. Any one of us could be carrying up to 24 pounds on our duty belt. All that weight pushing right down on our low back and hips during an entire work shift causes long-term affects. Many LEPs are required to carry the following items on their duty belt: radio, gun, two extra magazines, two pairs of handcuffs, cell phone, pepper spray, baton, small flashlight, glove case, and a taser. Many LEPs arrange the equipment on their belts in different ways. Some choose to place their equipment on either side of their belts often arranged the equipment so that it is off balance. This causes compensation by leaning to the side with less weight. The detriment is that LEPs frequently have poor standing posture as a result of the pull from their duty belt.

### Car-related factors

There is evidence to suggest that exposure to vibration and jolting, such as that experienced while driving a car, increases the risk for BP to develop. According to Occupational and Environmental Medicine, driving a car for more than four hours a day increases the risk for development of BP by a factor greater than two and those who spend a moderate or high (moderate is defined as one hour and high is defined as more than one hour) amount of time in a car each day have a much higher incidence of BP than do those who spend less than one hour in a car each day.

Sitting posture in a car is greatly influenced by the seat. Those of us that have experienced the non-reclining feature due to the prisoner cage can relate. As car seats age they deteriorate and do not provide the same sitting surface and



support compared to when they were new. As the driver repeatedly gets in and out of the vehicle, the edge of the seat nearest the door gets worn down more quickly than the other edge. Given the constant use of police and prisoner vehicles, this deterioration can occur in the matter of a few months leaving the seat support in poor condition. Another consideration with sitting posture is the number of forms that LEP are required to fill out while sitting in their vehicles. The front seat of our vehicles does not have much space to work. Not to mention if you are riding two-person then the space becomes even more limited. Many of us still prop the forms against the steering wheel to fill it out or arrange our bodies at an angle to work from the computer mount. All these directly relate to the BP we develop.

### Treatment options

There are a few treatment options for BP. Health counseling can be done in a doctor's office or in an on-the-job seminar. The traditional instruction in body mechanics to correct improper movement patterns are

not effective for a law enforcement officer and may hinder them from performing their job efficiently. For example, law enforcement officers are required to be able to go from sitting in a car to chasing a suspect in a matter of seconds. If the officer were to attempt to follow the usual back care instructions, they would not be able to exit the vehicle quickly enough to apprehend the suspect.

The second most common treatment for BP is the use of a back belt or brace. This is what I wear when I wear my uniform. Those with a history of BP have been shown to benefit from the use of a back belt. Potential disadvantages of back belts include rubbing, pinching or bruising, decreased ability to sit and to drive, sweating under the belt, and a false sense of security from injury. Another option are tactical suspenders that match the equipment belts and take the load off the back and hips. Several LEP are using these with great results and comfort while wearing the duty belt. Make sure these are made for law enforcement with break-away straps for your safety. The fashion police will get you, because you should never wear suspenders with a belt. Well, this isn't formal civilian dress, but it gets the job done.

Finally, the best options are to exercise and strengthen the back musculature. Medications can be an option as drugs such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory and muscle relaxers have been found to relieve BP. In addition to drugs, topical heat sources can assist with the pain. For me I don't like medication as it simply masks the problem. When seated in a vehicle, change posture often, take breaks when possible, stand up and walk around, alter the driver's seat with a lumbar pillow to provide more support. When on foot patrol, take the opportunity to stretch.

### Conclusion

From my experience, many LEPs complain very little about pain that they are experiencing. This may be because they do not want to be labeled as a whiner or because they fear consequences and reprisals. This in no way means that LEPs do not experience pain.

Rather it means that they are hesitant to talk about the pain that they experience and as a result may not seek the help necessary to deal with the pain.

When these back and hip injuries do happen, it's vital that LEPs report these injuries to supervisors and seek medical attention. You must file a Workers' Compensation claim to ensure your medical rights are protected for the rest of your lives. The wrong response is to ignore it and hope it gets better.

Our law enforcement officers, who risk their lives every day to protect our communities and our families, should be provided every piece of equipment to make their increasingly difficult and dangerous jobs safer. After all, many of our brave men and women are going home to their own families and should not have to be living in constant BP because local governments are not prioritizing the health and safety of our first responders. Contact me at [ish@sflpba.org](mailto:ish@sflpba.org) or at (305) 593-0044.



Congrats to MDPD Sergeant Donna Colon on her retirement.



Good people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.

- George Orwell







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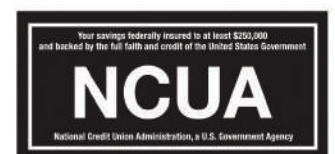
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*South Florida PBA President Steadman Stahl  
and the Board of Directors cordially invite you to the 18th Annual*

 **FEAST DAY CELEBRATION OF** 

**ST. MICHAEL**

**PATRON SAINT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

**Friday, September 25, 2020  
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**For more information, contact Al Lopez at the PBA: (305) 593-0044.**



## 2020 PENDING GRIEVANCES

**Editor's Note:** This list represents the pending grievances filed at the various departments represented by South Florida Police Benevolent Association as of February 28, 2020. The PBA legal staff receives many other complaints that are resolved by other means.

### DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT:

#### CORRECTIONS

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Association | 2 |
| TGK         | 1 |
| MWDC        | 1 |
| Total       | 4 |
| EL PORTAL   | 1 |
| FL CITY     | 1 |
| HIALEAH     | 2 |
| HOMESTEAD   | 1 |
| KEY WEST    | 1 |
| MDPD        |   |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Association         | 1 |
| Property & Evidence | 1 |

Total 2

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| MIAMI GARDENS      | 2 |
| MONROE COUNTY S.O. | 1 |
| NORTH BAY VILLAGE  | 1 |
| NORTH MIAMI        | 1 |
| OPA LOCKA          | 4 |
| SWEETWATER         | 2 |
| WEST MIAMI         | 2 |

**TOTAL GRIEVANCES 25**

## IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

If you need to update your member information and/or make a dues payment, contact Margarita Vasquez at [membership@sflpba.org](mailto:membership@sflpba.org) or (305) 593-0044.

Every year, during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. This week-long event, initially set up in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California, is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week that should be set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication. The South Florida PBA thanks all telecommunications personnel for their dedication every day. We see you and we thank you.

**TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK**  
**April 12-18, 2020**

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# The Correction's Corner



**By Sgt. Jermaine Lawson**

April is already here, and this is my first article as the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR) liaison, so I just want to share a few things about my brief time with MDCR.

I became a member of the MDCR family in 2006 and I spent a great deal of this time at the rank of officer. I worked every facility on various shifts, so I know what you guys are going through. I can relate to just about every problem that you guys are encountering in the facilities. As a Corporal, I worked at Metro-West Detention Center, the Intake Release Bureau, and the Mental Health Unit at the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center. Upon my promotion to Sergeant in 2017, I was offered the opportunity to remain in the Mental Health Unit and I remained there until I was detached to the position here at the PBA.

I am so proud of our achievements as a group to make MHTC a better place. I just want to take this time to thank the Officers, Corporals, my fellow Sergeants, and Lieutenant S. Menard and Captain A. Yeber for the hard work and support to make the Mental Health Unit a cleaner and safer place for the inmates and employees alike. As the liaison, you can expect me to stand up for you when your rights are infringed upon as well as being your link to upper management.

I also want to give a thumbs up to Director Junior for bringing back the Promotions and Awards Ceremony which was held in January of this year. The feedback I got from most of the employees that I have spoken to was very positive, so I am hoping that this is the start of more to come.

The PBA Scholarship Fund Application deadline is April 15, 2020. The PBA Scholarship Committee accepts applications for scholarship funds between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The scholarship fund is available to (high school and college) children of PBA members. For more information, see page 4 of HEAT.

In closing, keep looking out for each other and be safe.



**Congratulations to E. Feliciano who was recently promoted to Corporal.**



**Congratulations to Officer R. Martinez-Franco who was the recipient of a Correctional Achievement Award.**



**Congratulations to Officer L. Howard who was awarded a Lifesaving Award.**



**Congratulations to A. Johnston who was promoted to Lieutenant.**

## 7 Healthy Things TO CONSIDER DOING EVERY DAY

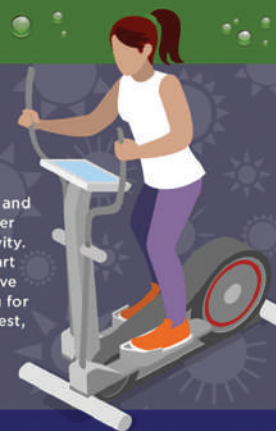


### 1 Drink water

Not only is drinking water essential, it provides many health benefits such as preventing fatigue and sickness, and flushing out toxins. It can also help you feel more alert, help you feel full, and clear your skin.<sup>1</sup>

### 2 Move

Your body was built to move, and you'll probably feel better after getting in some physical activity. Exercise can help prevent heart disease and stroke and improve cardiovascular health. Moving for at least 30 minutes a day is best, so why not start today?<sup>2</sup>



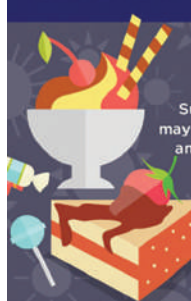
### 3 Take care of your teeth and gums

Frequent meals and snacking can leave unwanted food and sugar in your mouth. Effectively cleaning your teeth can help prevent plaque, tartar, and dental cavities. Brushing twice a day and flossing once per day is recommended for good oral hygiene.<sup>4</sup>



### 4 Eat less sugar

Sugar not only adds to your waistline, but it may also play a role in heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. The American Heart Association recommends limiting sugar intake to no more than 100 calories (for women) or 150 calories (for men) a day—think one small treat or soda a day as the limit.<sup>3</sup>



### 5 Only eat when you're hungry

We've all heard that it's important to listen to your body and stop eating when you're full. But how often do you stop and think before you begin eating? Are you really hungry? Or are you just thirsty or even bored? Respect your body and your true hunger cues by eating only as frequently or as much your body truly needs.



### 6 Be grateful

Happiness is a skill, but luckily it's one you can work at every day. Even when it's hard to see a silver lining, you can find pleasure in the simple things in life—maybe you saw a rainbow today or your child said, "I love you." Life is full of goodness, and it helps our outlook when you take time to find things that bring you joy.



### 7 Get enough sleep

Not getting enough sleep on a regular basis may lead to heart disease, high blood pressure, and stroke. It can even contribute to symptoms of depression, memory loss, and weight gain. Though everyone is different, it's recommended for adults to get 7 to 9 hours of shut-eye each night.<sup>5</sup>





# PBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

## JANUARY 2020 BOD MEETING SUMMARY



**By Mary Ann Stahl,  
Secretary**

President Steadman Stahl called the Board of Directors regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Peter Newman offered the opening prayer. Sgt.-At-Arms Robert Davis led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Steadman Stahl recognized the guests in attendance: Life Members Olga Lopez and Peter Newman, and Orlando Sosa, Mario Ferguson and Jessica Albert.

Minutes of the December 4, 2019, Board of Directors meeting were distributed for review and approval. Alkibiades Dodge made a motion, seconded by Angela Carter, to accept the minutes. There was no debate, discussion or opposition; the motion passed unanimously.

General Counsel Andrew Axelrad presented legal updates and legal assistance requests. Andrew announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> session reopener for the County will be on January 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. here in the PBA building. All are welcome to join. We continue to work together with all the unions.

Treasurer Nizam Ishmael presented the Membership Report. There was one add-on that needed confirmation. Jennifer Valdes made a motion, seconded by Joel Valdes, to accept the report. There was no debate, discussion or opposition; the motion passed unanimously. Membership continues to grow.

Treasurer Ishmael presented the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Steadman Stahl announced the cancellation of the meeting in February because the legislative sessions would be going on in Tallahassee.
- Steadman Stahl reviewed the outcome of a lawsuit against the PBA. He explained that the previous administration had obligated funds that the PBA, under the new administration, contested. There was a jury trial, and after about 10 minutes of deliberation the jury found in the new administration's favor on every count.
- Steadman Stahl asked for an approval for the allocation of up to \$25,000 for the Scholarship fund. Noel Heron made

a motion, seconded by John Jenkins, EVP. There was no debate, discussion or opposition; the motion passed unanimously.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Concerns of Police Survivors is having a "Blue" Blood Drive on January 9, 2020 at Headquarters from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild Hog BBQ sponsored by Everglades Conservation & Sportsman Club. On Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 50940 Loop Road, Ochopee, FL. Gates open at 10:00 a.m. Presale Tickets: \$20 Adults, Kids 12 & Under \$10 – Can be bought at or with Richard "Smitty" Smith (754) 204-5547.
- Toyota of North Miami is providing employee pricing for PBA members and "All Weather Floor Mats." With every car sale they will donate \$500 to the Love Fund. Please see VIP Sales Manager, Anthony Damato, or call (786) 384-9505. This pricing has been extended through December 2020.
- South Motors Volkswagen is providing employee pricing for PBA members plus they will be given a \$500 rebate to First Responders and \$500 to the Love Fund. Please see General Manager, Chris Assmar, or call (305) 882-9676. This pricing has been extended through December 2020.
- Scholarship Applications are on the website along with the Eligibility Requirements. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2020. For more information go to the website or contact Kim Gregson at (305) 593-0044.
- Municipality Representative Elections will be posted. Applications will be accepted until February 7, 2020. If you are interested or need information, please contact Maritza Landa at 305-593-0044 or email.
- BOD Meeting – March 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Closing prayer was offered by Peter Newman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

## 2020

### BOD Meeting Attendance

|                           | JAN |
|---------------------------|-----|
| <b>Exec. Committee</b>    |     |
| Steadman Stahl            | X   |
| John Jenkins              | X   |
| David Greenwell           | X   |
| Nizam "Ish" Ishmael       | X   |
| Robert Davis              | X   |
| Mary Ann Stahl            | E   |
| Al Lopez                  | E   |
| <b>Board of Directors</b> |     |
| Victor Abbondandolo       | X   |
| Nubia Azrak               | X   |
| Mike Clifton              | E   |
| Marco De Rosa             | X   |
| James Dixon               | X   |
| Alejandro Dominguez       | X   |
| Deborah Fleitas           | X   |
| Eduardo Gaitan            | X   |
| Christopher Hodges        | E   |
| Jorge Interian            | X   |
| Alex Munoz                | X   |
| Robin Pinkard             | X   |
| Anthony Rodriguez         | X   |
| John Saavedra             | X   |
| Alberto Seda              | X   |
| Brett Underhill           | E   |
| Jennifer Valdes           | X   |
| Joel Valdes               | X   |
| Jody Wright               | X   |
| <b>Representatives</b>    |     |
| Mitzie Brown              | X   |
| Angela Carter             | X   |
| Alkibiades Dodge          | X   |
| Marjorie Eloi             | X   |
| Sean Gordon               | X   |
| Darryl Hall               | E   |
| Noel Heron                | X   |
| Ronnie Hufnagel           | X   |
| Sean Klahm                | X   |
| Jermaine Lawson           | X   |
| James "Steve" McVay       | U   |
| Lisa Nesbitt-Bell         | X   |
| Frank Pajon               | X   |
| Bert Perez                | X   |
| Angel Posada              | E   |
| Julio "JP" Priede         | X   |
| Chris Rodriguez           | X   |
| Richard "Smitty" Smith    | X   |

“A society which chooses war against the police better learn to make peace with its criminals!”

- Author Unknown

KEY

X = Present

E = Excused

U = Unexcused

\* = not a Board Member at the time





A special shout-out to retired Sunny Isles Beach Police Chief Fred Maas. Although retired, Freddy remains extremely active and we thank him for his consistent support.

## Citizen Celebrates Law Enforcement with Special Edition Watch

Citizen recognizes the bravery and dedication of our service men and women, who risk their lives for the safety of everyday citizens. In celebration of these heroes, Citizen has designed a special edition watch featuring the iconic thin blue line on the watch faces, as well as unique insignia on the engravable casebacks. Each watch comes with special packaging and customizable gold tone card for an elegant presentation. The Thin Blue Line watch is a stainless steel Nighthawk Chronograph featuring a 200 meter water resistance and tachymeter scale. Powered by Eco-Drive technology the watch is light-powered and never requires a battery charge.



To thank all the brave law enforcement officers and pay tribute to their service, Citizen offers exclusive pricing to officers only. The men's watch retails for \$550 but officers are able to purchase this watch at \$295 and the ladies watch which retails at \$475 is available to officers at \$275.

Citizen is proud to announce a year-long campaign to honor Law Enforcement Officers nationwide. On January 9, 2020, in honor of National Law Enforcement Day, Citizen kicked off its "Thin Blue Line Hero Awards" campaign asking the public to submit an entry describing an officer and why they are extraordinary. You can submit stories on how these officers make a difference in their lives and/or communities by visiting [www.citizenwatch.com/thinblueline](http://www.citizenwatch.com/thinblueline).

Citizen will choose one officer each month and honor them with a customized Thin Blue Line timepiece. These special edition watches feature the iconic thin blue line on the watch face which represents the sacrifice law enforcement officers make every day. The case back will be engraved with a personal message and the rank, name and badge of the officer. In addition, a gold card will accompany the watch with the rank, name and badge number.



### About Citizen

Citizen, a pioneer in watchmaking and innovation since 1918, promotes excellence and creativity with a deep-rooted respect for craftsmanship. Citizen advocates "Better Starts Now," searching for and accomplishing goals that cultivate positive change. Driven to create timepieces enjoyed by citizens all over the world.

For over 40 years, Citizen's Eco-Drive technology has served as the prime example of how the brand is dedicated to making the world and its environment a better place. A simple yet revolutionary concept, Eco-Drive harnesses the power of light from any natural or artificial light source and converts it into energy, eliminating the need for any battery replacement.

# CITIZEN

**KICK OFF THE  
NEW DECADE**  
with a brand new car!

**2020**

TOYOTA OF NORTH MIAMI  
**VIP Sales**  
ANTHONY DAMATO *We Care*



Proud supporter of Law Enforcement Officers and their families, presents this offer to the South Florida PBA Employees and their families...



**TOYOTA OF NORTH MIAMI EMPLOYEE PRICING**

PLUS  
**\$500**  
DONATION TO THE LOVE FUND, INC

PLUS  
**Free Upgrade**  
ALL WEATHER MATS (Retail Value \$399)

Offer and donation only valid at  
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**Anthony Damato**  
**786-384-9505**

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and we will deliver  
your new car to your  
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[WWW.ANTHONYDAMATOVIPSALES.COM](http://WWW.ANTHONYDAMATOVIPSALES.COM) 16600 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE, MIAMI, FL 33169

OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20



# smile... at the next cop you see

Frustrating.  
That's what it is like to be a cop today.

We hired them to do a job. A job too rotten  
for us to do. A job too dangerous for us to do.  
Then we isolate them. Fight them. Ignore them.

That's what it's like to be a cop.  
And it's getting worse.

They became cops because they wanted  
to give back and keep our community safe.

But now, good men and women are leaving  
our police forces. And other good men  
and women aren't joining.

We can't let it happen. We have to do something.  
But what?

Here's something you can do right now,  
and it won't cost a thing...

Smile at the next cop you see.





# Social Snapshot

Here's a snapshot of some of our most popular posts on social media during the past month...



Great way to start the day off with Fla. Governor Ron DeSantis and a cup of coffee to talk about issues facing our First Responders.



Nothing to see here—just an average hump day for North Miami PD.



"Bravery is not the absence of fear, but action in the face of fear."



"Her soul is fierce, her heart is brave, and her mind is strong." Happy International Women's Day to all the fierce, brave and strong women out there!



**Wash your hands like  
you just ate a croqueta  
and need to button  
your shirt.**

As you may have heard, just this afternoon, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic! While this widespread illness is something to be aware of, let's remember to wash our hands, stay at home if you feel sick and, most importantly, keep calm. The best defense against Coronavirus, which is mild for most, is common sense—and a joke or two to keep those spirits high.



## RPOC News



### By Dennis Bambach, President

I would like to start by addressing the Coronavirus crisis and our reunion: at this time everything is proceeding as planned. As this article has got to be in to the printers by a specific date, things could be totally different by the time you read it (hopefully much better).

The hotel is taking every precaution to promote safety:

- Hand sanitizer stations in the ballroom area and at elevators
- Additional cleaning/sanitizing of all high-traffic public areas
- Hand sanitizer in all departments for staff usage
- Reminders of CDC hand-washing procedures

Cancellation policies remain in place, currently 48 hours in advance. The hotel is willing to work with our group as necessary. We advise our reunion attendees to abide by the CDC recommendations.

Our 2020 ANNUAL REUNION is still around the corner. The dates are April 16th thru April 19th. I hope you have all registered and made your hotel reservations. Last minute registrations can be accommodated but there is no guarantee that the hotel can honor our pricing at the last minute. We are once again returning to the Lake Mary Marriott. This hotel has been very good to us in previous years and I'm sure this year will be no exception. The meals are excellent, and the hotel staff is very accommodating to our group.

We will again be having 50/50 drawings and the Saturday night door prizes. Our hospitality room will be open Thursday thru Saturday, hours will be posted by the hotel. Reba Miller informed us that there are currently over 60 people going on the Saturday St. Johns River Cruise which should be a good time for all. The reunion is a great opportunity to get together with old friends and make new ones.

If you are interested in participating in the golf outing on Friday or playing on Saturday, there is still time to make the arrangements. Contact John Fraley at (954) 651-0451 or [jfraley885@bellsouth.net](mailto:jfraley885@bellsouth.net).

The RPOC Board of Directors is still accepting applications for the Otis Chambers Scholarships. We have extended the cutoff date for applications to April 30th and are not only offering the Scholarships to college bound students but also to vocational school students. If you have any questions regarding eligibility please contact John Fraley, Scholarship Committee Chairman (info above).

The Board welcomes the following new members to the RPOC: Andy Dixon, MDPD; Angelo Figueroa, Corr.; Jennifer Parker, Corr.; and Kale Benton, Corr. We are pleased to have you join our extended family and hope to see you at all of our gatherings.

We regret to inform you of the passing of the following members. Our condolences go out to the friends and families of Jeff Lazzeri, Dick Calvert, Otha Latham, Harold Patterson and Richard Price. We also extend our condolences to Frank Mussoline whose wife of 56 years, AnneMarie, passed away.

The luncheon at the Miccosukee this month will be Tuesday, April 7th.

Looking forward to seeing you at this year's reunion!

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow.  
Learn as if you were to live forever."*

-Mahatma Ghandi

## *April* **IN MEMORIAM** *of our heroes killed in the line of duty*

### **OFFICER SIDNEY CLARENCE CREWS**

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: April 25, 1929

### **DETECTIVE CLARK HAMILTON CURLETTE**

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: April 1, 1976

### **DETECTIVE FRANCIS KENNETH D'AZEVEDO**

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: April 1, 1976

### **DETECTIVE THOMAS ALLEN HODGES, JR.**

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: April 1, 1976

### **OFFICER LUIS PENA**

Coral Gables Police Department, FL

EOW: April 2, 1978

### **OFFICER ROBERT E. FITZPATRICK**

Miami Beach Police Department, FL

EOW: April 3, 1985

### **SPECIAL AGENT BENJAMIN P. GROGAN**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

EOW: April 11, 1986

### **SPECIAL AGENT JERRY L. DOVE**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

EOW: April 11, 1986

### **OFFICER JOSEPH PRESTON MARTIN**

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: April 27, 1990

### **LIEUTENANT THOMAS JAMES LEIS**

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: April 29, 1990







## POAT News

Our first Kids and Heroes Fun Walk/Run was a great success. Thank you to Bomnin Chevrolet for your generosity.

Save the Date for our Annual Remembering Our Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Outing, to be held at the exclusive Indian Creek Country Club on April 22, 2020. Golfers throughout South Florida will be teeing up for a chance to assist Miami-Dade County fallen officers' families. Come help support your law enforcement community as you enjoy an extraordinary day of golf at this exceptional and restricted venue. Please contact Annette McCully at (305) 970-2776 for further information.

The Board of Directors of the Police Officer Assistance Trust is proud to offer seven scholarships this year. The following \$2,000 scholarships are available to the son or daughter of any full-time law enforcement officer employed by any agency in Miami-Dade County. The Board of Directors of the Police Officer Assistance Trust is proud to offer seven scholarships this year. The following \$2,000 scholarships are available to the son or daughter of any full-time law enforcement officer employed by any agency in Miami-Dade County.

Paul Janosky Art and Criminal Justice Scholarships  
(two separate scholarships)

Mike Byrd Crime Scene Investigation Scholarship

Christopher W. Todd Law Related Majors Scholarship  
(also available to officers)

Roger Castillo Perseverance Scholarship

Amanda Haworth Perseverance Scholarship

Chuck Duncan Determination Scholarship

One recipient for each scholarship will be selected and will receive a \$2,000 check to use towards his or her college expenses. All applications must be

received by May 1, 2020. Please visit our website at [www.poat.org](http://www.poat.org) for specific guidelines and requirements. For further information, please contact the POAT office at (305) 594-6662 or [poatoffice@msn.com](mailto:poatoffice@msn.com).

The Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony will be held at Tropical Park beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2020. All Miami-Dade County law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty dating back to 1895, are honored at this ceremony. It is our duty to honor the memory of those officers who have died protecting and serving the citizens of Miami-Dade County. If you have never been to this ceremony, you owe it to yourself to attend.

Thanks for your support and stay safe.



## THE ALVAREZ LAW FIRM

**Alex Alvarez**

Former Metro Dade  
Detective, honorably retired.

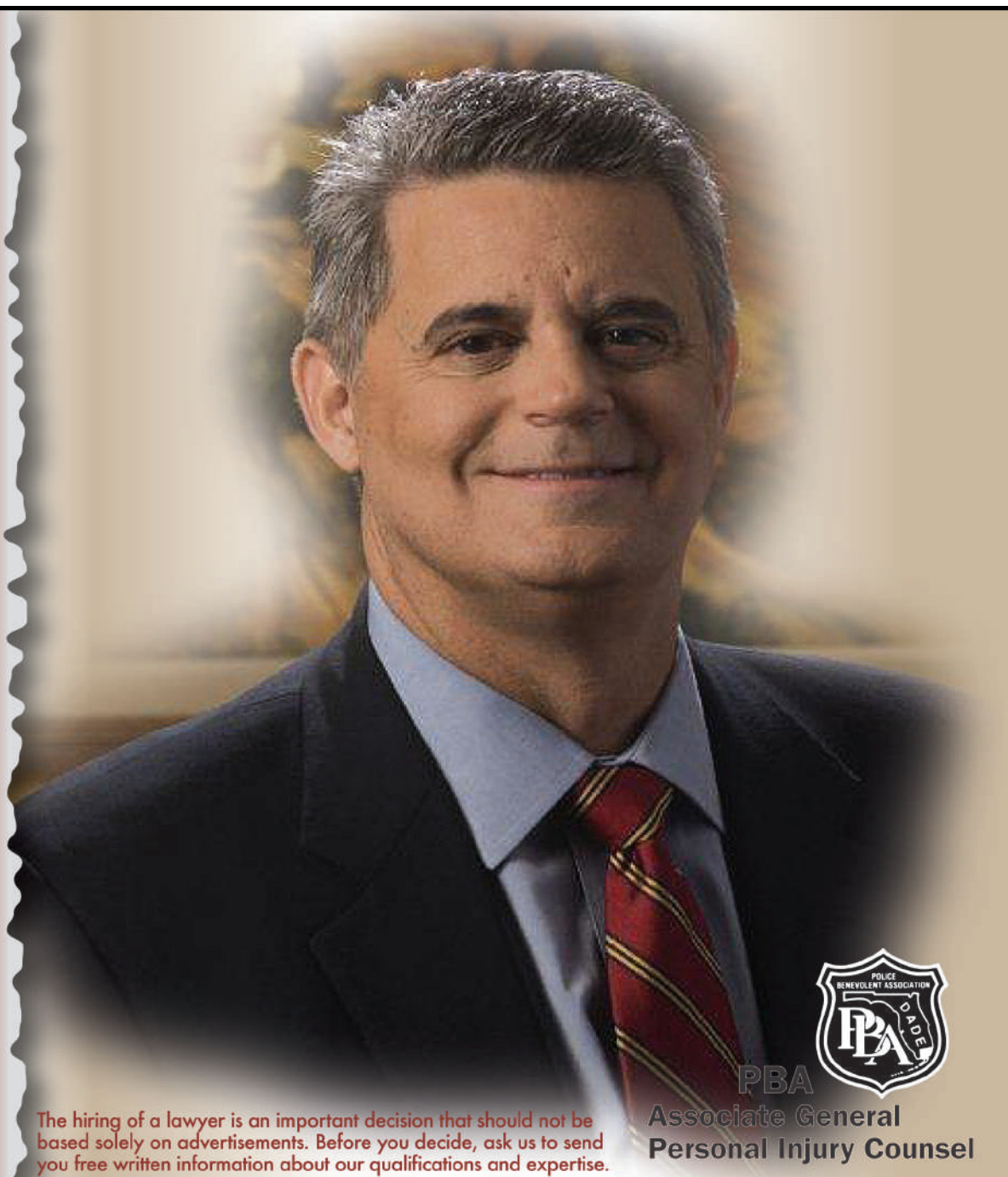
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**PBA**  
Associate General  
Personal Injury Counsel

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and expertise.



# Letters & Thanks



**ASHLEY MOODY**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Steadman,  
I enjoyed seeing you again! Thank you so much for attending the press conference in Miami. I'm very grateful.  
All my best, Ashley Moody



## Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to:

**So. Florida Police Benevolent Association**

With respect and gratitude, the  
Village of Palmetto Bay  
is extremely thankful for your support and  
sponsorship of the  
2019 State of the Village Address.

Your generous donation is much appreciated!

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.

Attest:

*Missy Arocha*  
Missy Arocha, Village Clerk



*Karyn Cunningham*  
Karyn Cunningham, Mayor  
John DuBois, Vice Mayor  
Patrick Fiore, Councilman  
David Singer, Councilman  
Marsha Matson, Councilwoman



## TOP COPS AWARDS®

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

February 24, 2020

Sergeant Steadman Stahl  
Southwest Florida Police Benevolent Association  
10680 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Doral, Florida 33172

Dear Sergeant Stahl: *Stead*

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is pleased to inform you that your nomination for:

Police Sergeant Luis Celis  
Police Officer Alberto Tellez  
Police Officer Scott Demby  
Police Officer Ralph Cuan  
Police Officer Joseph Azrakh

was selected as a winner of the prestigious TOP COPS Award®. The TOP COPS Awards® pay tribute to the men and women in law enforcement for their outstanding service to America's communities. The Doral, Florida case was one of ten TOP COPS® cases chosen from across the United States from hundreds of nominations.

The Twenty-Seventh Annual TOP COPS Awards® Dinner will take place during National Police Week. The awards dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at the MGM National Harbor Resort & Casino. I hope that you and other officers from your department will be able to attend the ceremony to help honor these heroic winners. Formal invitations will be mailed shortly. It is important that you obtain your tickets in advance so that we know how many guests to expect. Invitations will also include information for reserving hotel rooms at our host hotel and discounts on airline travel.

If you should have any questions, please contact NAPO's Director of Events, Elizabeth Loranger, at (800) 322-6276 or [eloranger@napo.org](mailto:eloranger@napo.org). Again, congratulations, and thank you for taking the time to nominate an officer for the prestigious TOP COPS Awards®.

Sincerely yours,

*Bill*  
William J. Johnson, Esq., CAE  
Executive Director & General Counsel

Michael McHale, President • William J. Johnson, Esq., CAE - Executive Director

317 SOUTH PATRICK STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-3501  
(703) 549-0775 • FAX (703) 684-0515 • [WWW.NAPO.ORG](http://WWW.NAPO.ORG)

Steadman,  
We are so grateful for all of the support we've received from Dade County PBA over the years. Your generosity has impacted many survivors across the country.  
Thank You!  
*Laurie*

*Dionne*

On behalf of the entire C.O.P.S. membership, thank you for supporting America's surviving law enforcement families and co-workers.

May the holidays bring you peace and a wonderful new year.



Concerns of Police Survivors  
National Board and Staff

*Chris*



# Letters & Thanks

January 24, 2020

Steadman -

Thanks to you and the board of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA) for the warm holiday wishes. I am grateful to the PBA and you for your past support and look forward to working with you in 2020 to advance your members' goals!

Javier



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Representative Javier E. Fernández



## CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

January 22, 2020

Mr. Steadman Stahl  
Dade County PBA, Inc.  
10680 PBA Memorial BLVD  
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Mr. Stahl:

Thank you for your recent donations of \$250 for the month of October 2019, \$250 for the month of November 2019, and \$250 for the month of December 2019, received January 10, 2020. (Total donation: \$750.00.) Each donation you make is a commitment to helping families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty and provides many opportunities to help rebuild their shattered lives. As a token of our sincere appreciation, we have added "Dade County PBA, Inc." to our *Partners in Law Enforcement* membership. Your organization can be proud to be part of a distinguished group of law enforcement organizations who support C.O.P.S. mission year after year. "Dade County PBA, Inc." will be recognized as a *Partner in Law Enforcement* in a C.O.P.S. newsletter and our bi-yearly Rapsheet.

Since 1984, C.O.P.S. has been the organization that continues to reach out to survivors in the months and years following the death of their officer. Your continuing support helps insure that C.O.P.S. can continue providing healing, love, and life renewed to America's surviving law enforcement families. Your support will be given special recognition on the *Partners in Law Enforcement* banner during National Police Week 2020 activities so that attending survivors will know that you support C.O.P.S. programs.

Again, on behalf of over 51,000 surviving family members and co-workers affected by line-of-duty deaths nationwide, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

*Dianne Bernhard*  
Dianne Bernhard  
Executive Director

PO Box 3199 - 846 Old South 5 - CAMDENTON, MO 65020  
-346-4911 - FAX: 573-346-1414 - WWW.CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG



THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

November 18, 2019

Florida Commission on Offender Review - Victim Services  
4070 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2450

Re: Pedro Rodriguez EC# 403678

My name is Steadman Stahl, I am the President of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association. We represent 6,500 police officers in the South Florida area. In June of 1988 this inmate Pedro Rodriguez murdered one of our police officers. He executed Officer Scott Rakow in cold blood, a young officer with a family and a promising career ahead of him. He gave his life in the line of duty, the ultimate sacrifice.

I respectfully request that any and all petitions by this inmate for clemency be denied. Do not release a cop killer into our streets.

Sincerely,

*Steadman Stahl*

Steadman Stahl  
President



John Kazanjian  
Florida PBA  
President

Dear Stead,  
WANTED TO TAKE THE TIME OUT  
TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ROLE AS  
PRESIDENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA PBA &  
SECRETARY OF FLA PBA. KEEP UP  
THE GOOD WORK. ALSO  
WISHING YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND  
YOUR PBA BOARD A HAPPY  
HAPPY NEW YEAR (2020)!!  
LOTS MAKE IT GREAT.  
THANKS KAZ



# GET THE RIGHT INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING FINANCIAL DECISIONS!

***DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT WORKSHOP!***

**ALL SOUTH FLORIDA PBA MEMBERS**

**SOUTH FLORIDA PBA**

10680 PBA MEMORIAL BLVD. (NW 25TH), DORAL, FL

**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM - COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED**

## **TOPICS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED:**

- 1) Current Global Economic Environment
- 2) Do I Understand How the Retirement Option I choose can have Long-Term Consequences on My Retirement Income?
- 3) Learn How To Utilize Qualified Dollars. (i.e. DROP, 457 Def Comp, IRA's, Thrift Plans & 401k Plans) to supplement my retirement income without IRS penalties
- 4) **Learn How To Create A Second Defined Benefit Plan For My Family**
- 5) The Role of Wills & Family Trusts
- 6) Legacy Planning - the Role of Life Insurance

***SPOUSES ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND, CALL,***

**Kim Gregson**

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