



PBA Legal Marches From Victory To Victory While Others Try To Keep Up



By Andrew Axelrad, Esq.
PBA General Counsel

As always, 2019 was a busy year for your South Florida PBA legal department. And while we generally do our jobs “under the radar” as much as possible, in this day and age, it seems that unless someone is touting their own success, the conventional wisdom is that there is no success. How far from the truth that is when it comes to the dedicated attorneys representing your best interests, day and night.

Now that we are well into 2020, the time is right to share not only the success of the legal department but to remind you of what we do and how to make the most of your PBA membership as it relates to the legal department.

PBA Legal Staff

We currently have six in-house attorneys dedicated exclusively to the representation of PBA members. In 2019, we had nearly 2,000 requests for legal assistance handled by those attorneys (not representatives or shop stewards), which ranged from phone calls for legal guidance to appeals of terminations of employment, from representation in internal affairs investigations to contract negotiations. Geographically, these requests spanned from Key West, and throughout Monroe County, and straight up through Miami-Dade County from Florida City to Aventura. The South Florida PBA currently represents almost exactly 6,500 dues-paying members in 37 of the 39 municipalities in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, along with the County officers and Deputy Sheriffs, in both Police and Corrections. Many more PBA members serve with the United States Armed Forces and federal agencies. We are the certified bargaining representative in 27 of the municipalities, including Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Of the requests for legal assistance in 2019, more than 400 resulted in some type of discipline and related appeals. Representation was needed in over 30 civil and criminal matters, almost 300 internal affairs investigations, and nearly 50 grievances were filed and pending. This does not include all the collective bargaining and filings with the Public Employees Relations Commission, or the multiple shootings our attorneys respond to no matter the time of day. None of our members had to pay a dime for their representation, and the only cost ever involved is a civil filing fee for divorces and adoptions, which are otherwise handled free of charge. No PBA member ever had to have themselves declared “indigent” by the Courts to be helped monetarily by the government.

The Daily “Grind” (Which we love!)

We interact daily with the administrations from the counties and municipalities, the sheer magnitude of the cases and interactions often establishing a rapport with those in charge, which aids in our ability to obtain successful results for our members. It does not hurt that we have represented many of the municipalities and

Miami-Dade County for so long that people who may have needed legal assistance at some point in their careers have subsequently risen through the ranks and are now in a position to right those wrongs sometimes inflicted upon others.

By being by far the largest law enforcement union in South Florida, comes the legal and political strength to both work amicably with the municipal and county governments whenever possible, as stated above, and not so amicably whenever necessary. There is strength in numbers, and while we flex those muscles when needed, just having that strength usually keeps employers in check, and for that, as PBA members, you should be proud. The bigger and stronger we all are, and the more unified we are towards our common goals directly relates to better pay, benefits, and overall treatment from your employers. We are all partners in this endeavor, and your attorneys and executive board members are always available, 24 hours a day to serve your needs.

PBA Member Benefits

Please be reminded that, as a PBA member, you can contact an attorney 24/7. When an emergency happens at 3 a.m., most commonly a shooting, we will have an attorney on the way in minutes. For the more routine requests, if an attorney is not available immediately, they will return your call or email that same day or, at worst, the very next day. I have sometimes heard the stories of attorneys not calling people back, but invariably, when researched by reviewing phone messages and emails, the calls were returned sometimes with the recipient not realizing that they had a missed call or that a message was left. However, we are not infallible, so feel free to email me directly at andrew@sflpba.org if you feel the need. Additionally, the PBA *never* makes you first speak to a field representative, steward, or *anyone* who is not a Florida licensed attorney. It should be every officer’s top priority to speak to an attorney who is obligated to maintain confidential information.

That is why we only send attorneys to subject officer internal affairs statements. How can you be represented by a non-attorney even at this first step in an investigation when they are not an attorney? How can you confide something you did that perhaps in retrospect you could have done differently, with someone who has not only no obligation to maintain that information but who, if subpoenaed, *must* divulge that information? Information an attorney would never be forced to divulge. That is why even those who may be represented by another union for bargaining, such as Miami Beach or City of Miami officers, maintain their PBA memberships as well. This way, they secure the best representation at a tiny fraction of the cost of hiring an attorney after the fact.

Why Attorney Representation is Key

I have heard first-hand one organization liken internal affairs investigations to drowning in a swimming pool, and that they throw a life preserver to help (a field rep

‘PBA Legal’ continued on pg. 4.

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HEAT

THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Official Publication of the SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

10680 PBA Memorial Blvd. (NW 25th St.)
Doral, FL 33172-2108

Phone (305) 593-0044

Fax (305) 593-1901

website www.dcpba.org

email: heat@dcpba.org

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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THE PRES SAYS



March is here and it's that time of the year where everyone becomes Irish for the day. For those of you who are wondering who the first Irish police officer was, his name was Barney McGinniskin. Barney was 42 and had immigrated from Ireland just 22 years earlier, and was hired November 4, 1851, in the City of Boston. Not three years later, Barney was fired over concerns that he would inspire others of Irish descent to go into the honorable profession of law enforcement. So if you find yourself partaking in any Irish traditions such as drinking green beer, or feasting on corn beef and cabbage take a moment to toast Officer Barney McGinniskin.

Unfortunately for Barney, at the time, they did not have the protections of a union. Here in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, we have the South Florida PBA, which has a history of fighting for the rights of our members. In 1962, the Dade County PBA was founded on a pretty simple principal — defend its members and fight for better working conditions. Since that time the PBA has done just that. In 1965, the Dade County brought in its very first Director of the (now known as) Miami-Dade Police Department, his name was E. Wilson Purdy. He, along with the then County Manager, publicly stated he was going to "crush" the PBA. The Manager said he would grant collective bargaining rights to all County employees, with the

exception of the law enforcement officers. It took the PBA suing the County to gain the same rights as all other County employees.

On October 1, 1971, by unanimous vote, the first collective bargaining agreement was passed, which spelled out their wages, benefits, and working conditions of employment. One of the first things we had to fight for was the right of overtime. Although it took a few years, the PBA prevailed. Today it's a right some may take for granted, but it's a benefit that was only earned after a fight through the courts.

In 1976, the Florida PBA was founded to strengthen our position throughout the State of Florida. Throughout the years the PBA has had a long rich history of defending its members from unjust terminations, discipline, to improving the quality of working conditions such as take home cars, the "DROP" program and the Officers Bill of Rights. The strength of the PBA comes from the strength of our membership and there is "Strength in Unity."

There are other groups who claim they can do it better, which is untrue. Here at the South Florida PBA, we are the only organization that has six full-time lawyers available to you for criminal, civil or administrative matters including the Criminal Justice and Standards (CJST) hearings. When it comes to representing you, we do not send field reps to represent you as subjects in Internal Affairs investigations. Your representation is important to you, just as your future, livelihood and taking care of your family has to be paramount. You will never have to worry about the PBA needing to set up a "Go Fund Me" account to cover your legal expenses.

The PBA is here for you the member, and as we continue to evolve with the changing times and the attacks by some in the media, know that the PBA will stand with you and will have your back. Remember, if someone asks you to sign something just so you can hear from them, feel free to contact us and we will be glad to speak to you. And you won't have to sign a form to find out more about what we offer.

Sadly, at the time of this writing, FHP Trooper Joseph Bullock was gunned down by a perpetrator that Trooper Bullock was attempting to help. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Trooper Bullock and his family. His sacrifices do not go unnoticed by this grateful community.

Congratulations to PBA Life Member, Charles Nanney, in his appointment as Assistant Chief to the South Miami Police Department. All those that know Charles Nanney know that he is absolutely a "Cops Cop" and hats off to South Miami Chief Renee Landa for hiring him.

I'll leave you with a little Irish humor. "As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way."

Stay safe out there!

Steadman Stahl, President
steadman@sflpba.org



President Stahl with a few of our top cops from MDPD.



Congratulations to PBA Life Member, Charles Nanney, on his new position as Assistant South Miami Police Chief!



You are cordially invited

27th Annual

SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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MAY 16, 2020

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7:00 p.m.

Reservation deadline is April 10, 2020.

To RSVP, contact Kim Gregson: kim@sflpba.org or (305) 593-0044.

'PBA Legal' continued from pg. 1.

or other non-attorney) as opposed to a boat (attorney). They say that you don't need a "boat" when a "life preserver" will do, defending their lack of sending an attorney to internal affairs statements. They say that if you are drowning in an ocean (more important case), then they will send the boat (attorney). I don't know about you, but it's a terrible analogy, not least of which because you can't know with certainty what a case is about or what the investigation will uncover. Having an attorney present will **always** be better than a non-attorney, and is **always** what you get from the PBA.

Beyond representation in work-related incidents, there is a great array of other benefits of membership provided by your PBA Legal Department. You will soon be receiving a PBA Life Planner, which includes a great deal of information. Contact the PBA and set up an appointment to meet with an attorney for will and living will preparation. We will represent you with family issues like adoption and divorce. We work hand in hand with worker's compensation attorneys to make sure your work-related injuries are properly handled. The list goes on and on.

In summation (and I know we attorneys are WAY too wordy), please know how exceptionally valuable your PBA membership is as it relates to the legal representation. Quite frankly, it is far better than anything else that exists in the law enforcement community. Don't think that sending a "rep" to an IA is just as good as an attorney. That defies logic, and you are all way too smart to fall for that kind of nonsense.

We are and will remain here with you 24/7, ready to respond at a moment's notice to any legal matter you have, without you having to go through *anyone* before speaking to an attorney. Some may try to imitate, but the PBA has been doing it for decades and will continue to!

From The Desk of The EVP



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

This past February we celebrated Black History Month. Did you know, per the History Channel, Black History month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history? It was started by noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. President has officially designated the month as Black History Month. Other countries

around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

In February I was nominated by the Miami-Dade County Black Affairs Advisory Board and honored in the ceremonious exhibit "Triumphant Spirits: Men of Valor" Paying Tribute to the strength and tenacity of the African American Man (see inset picture). I am humbled to have been an honoree with eleven other respected and influential men of South Florida. I want to thank the board and the Miami Urban Contemporary Experience for this honor.



This past month was a busy month for your PBA. We attended several events to represent our members and ensure our elected officials know we are always watching. We were present for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Civil and Probate Courthouse to be completed by 2024. I want to take the time to congratulate Miami-Dade County Corrections Officer Trainee Class #54 on the journey they are about to embark on. We congratulate them and wish them well. I also want to congratulate Miami-Dade Basic Law Enforcement Class #125, in which we had the pleasure of attending and witness such a fine group of men and woman ready to serve their community. Congrats to our newest family members and we wish you well. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate all the men and woman of law enforcement and support personnel who worked tirelessly in South Florida in keeping our communities safe during Super Bowl LIV festivities.

In closing, please take a moment to say a prayer for Florida State Trooper Joseph Bullock, and his family, who was a 19-year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol who was killed in the line of duty last month. May he rest in peace and his family heal from his tragic loss. Please be reminded to stay alert and back each other up and ensure all go home at the end of their shift.

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.



Executive Vice President John Jenkins presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Philip Stoddard for his ten years of service as Mayor of South Miami.



Congratulations to Basic Law Enforcement #125, and welcome to the PBA family!



The EVP with some of South Miami Police Department's finest PBA members.



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SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

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Captain's Meeting

7 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

*Pick up your
tournament
t-shirts for
your crew.*

PBA, 10680 NW 25th St., Doral, FL

FINAL REGISTRATION is at the Captain's Meeting.

Tournament & Weigh-In

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

The tournament starts at 6 a.m. from any port.

Weigh-in will be from 1-4 p.m.

at Matheson Hammock Park.

Awards Ceremony

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The Dish From Ish



By Capt. Nizam “Ish” Ishmael, Treasurer

On September 26, 2019, United States House of Representative Tom Malinowski, a Democrat from New Jersey sponsored and introduced H.R. 4527 to the 116th Congress (2019-2020).

This Bill would allow retired law enforcement and other public safety officers the option to buy into Medicare at the age of 50. It is only for the individual retiree and not their families. Coverage would be identical to that provided under Medicare. Beneficiaries could choose between traditional Medicare (Parts A, B, and D) or a Medicare Advantage plan offered in their region. The Secretary of Health and Human Services would set the rates. Individuals under this legislation would remain eligible for tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies to help them purchase insurance. These financial supports are not available for traditional Medicare beneficiaries. Beneficiaries would also be eligible for guaranteed issue Medigap coverage to help with any out-of-pocket costs. To the right you will find highlights of the proposed bill which is currently in the first stage of the legislative process.

MEDICARE		HEALTH INSURANCE	
NAME OF BENEFICIARY JOHN DOE			
MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER 123-45-6789-A		SEX MALE	
IS ENTITLED TO HOSPITAL MEDICAL		EFFECTIVE DATE (PART A) 01-01-2020 (PART B) 01-01-2020	
SIGN HERE <i>John Doe</i>		123-45-6789	

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) will continue to push and support this important piece of legislation. NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States and was organized for the purpose of advancing the interests of America’s law enforcement officers through legislative advocacy, political action and education. President Steadman Stahl is the area’s Vice President of NAPO and our concerns are being heard from South Florida at the National level. Take some time and visit www.napo.org.

Far too many of us idly sit by as the leaders of our government make major changes to our lives. It is not enough to ignore politics entirely simply to avoid a headache from the chaos. As Americans, we need to make an effort, stay informed, and get involved. Make sure you contact your Representative and voice your concern to support H.R. 4527. You can find and locate your current Members of the 116th Congress at www.congress.gov/members.

Contact me at ish@soflpba.org or at (305) 593-0044.

H. R. 4527

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Mr. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. KIM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act”.

SEC. 2. MEDICARE BUY-IN OPTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS 50 TO 64 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE SEPARATED FROM SERVICE DUE TO RETIREMENT OR DISABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“MEDICARE BUY-IN OPTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS 50 TO 64 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE SEPARATED FROM SERVICE DUE TO RETIREMENT OR DISABILITY

“SEC. 1899C. (a) OPTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Every individual who meets the requirements described in paragraph (3) shall be eligible to enroll under this section.

“(2) PART A, B, AND D BENEFITS.—An individual enrolled under this section is entitled to the same benefits (and shall receive the same protections) under this title as an individual who is entitled to benefits under part A and enrolled under parts B and D, including the ability to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan that provides qualified prescription drug coverage (an MA–PD plan).

“(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—The requirements described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) The individual is a resident of the United States.

“(B) The individual is—

“(i) a citizen or national of the United States; or

“(ii) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

“(C) The individual is not otherwise entitled to benefits under part A or eligible to enroll under part A or part B.

“(D) The individual has attained 50 years of age but has not attained 65 years of age.

“(E) The individual is a qualified first responder (as defined in paragraph (4)(B)).

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ‘first responder’ means—

“(i) a qualified law enforcement officer (as defined in section 926B(c) of title 18, United States Code);

“(ii) an employee described in clause (i) of of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 who provides firefighting services or emergency medical services; or

“(iii) a Federal firefighter described in section 8331(21) or 8401(14) of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) QUALIFIED FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ‘qualified first responder’ means a first responder who is separated from service due to retirement or disability.

“(b) ENROLLMENT AND COVERAGE PERIODS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish enrollment and coverage periods for individuals who enroll under this section.

“(2) COORDINATION.—Such periods shall be established in coordination with the enrollment and coverage periods for plans offered under an Exchange established under title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and plans under parts C and D. If the Secretary determines appropriate, the Secretary may expand such enrollment periods beyond the enrollment periods under such an Exchange or under parts C and D.

“(3) BEGINNING OF COVERAGE AND SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS.—The Secretary shall establish such periods so that coverage under this section shall first begin on January 1 of the first year beginning at least one year after the date of the enactment of this section and shall include special enrollment periods, in accordance with section 155.420 of title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, that are applicable to qualified health plans offered through an Exchange.

“(c) PREMIUM.—

“(1) AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PREMIUMS.—The Secretary shall (beginning for the 1st year that begins more than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section) determine a monthly premium for all individuals enrolled under this section. Such monthly premium shall be equal to 1/12 of the annual premium computed under paragraph (2)(B), which shall apply with respect to coverage provided under this section for any month in the succeeding year.

“(2) ANNUAL PREMIUM.—

“(A) COMBINED PER CAPITA AVERAGE FOR ALL MEDICARE BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall estimate the average, annual per capita amount for benefits and administrative expenses that will be payable under parts A, B, and D (including, as applicable, under part C) in the year for all individuals enrolled under this section.

“(B) ANNUAL PREMIUM.—The annual premium under this subsection for months in a year is equal to the average, annual per capita amount estimated under subparagraph (A) for the year.

“(3) INCREASED PREMIUM FOR CERTAIN PART C AND D PLANS.—Nothing in this section shall preclude an individual from choosing a Medicare Advantage plan or a prescription drug plan which requires the individual to pay an additional amount (because of supplemental benefits or because it is a more expensive plan). In such case the individual would be responsible for the increased monthly premium.

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Now Accepting Applications for PBA Scholarships!

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.

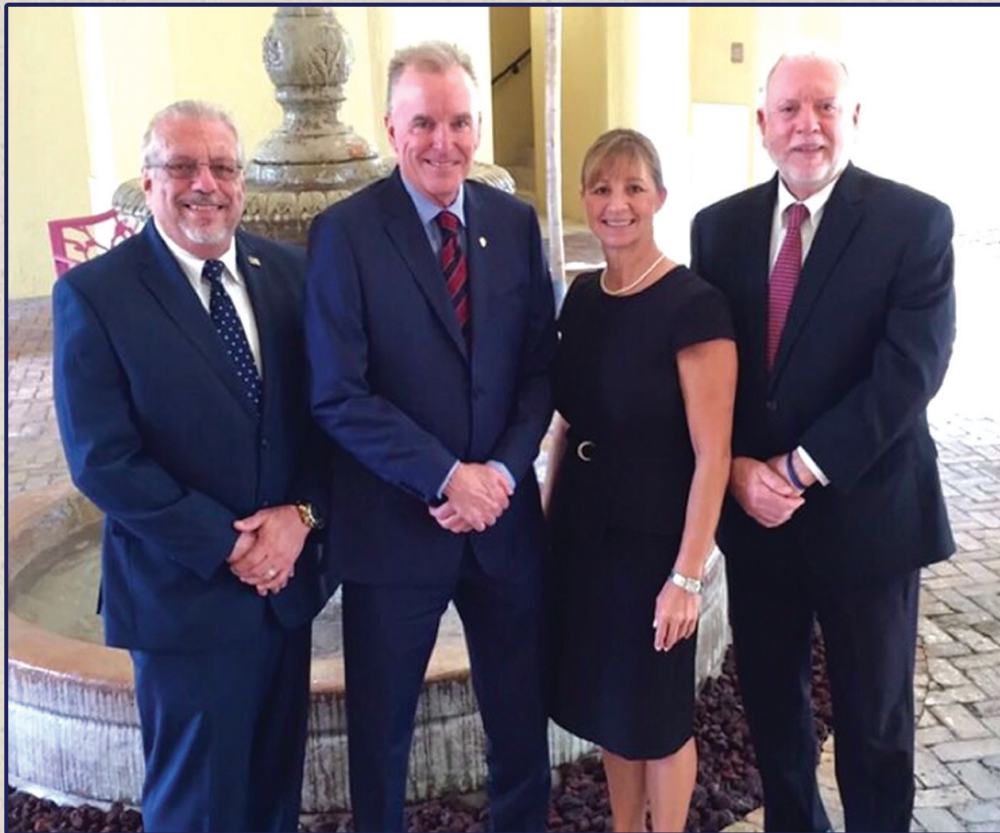
To obtain an application, go to <http://dcpba.org/scholarship> or contact Kim Gregson at (305) 593-0044 or e-mail: kim@sflpba.org.

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 or (305) 593-0044.

PBA'S ASSOCIATE PERSONAL INJURY COUNSEL

Martin, Lister & Alvarez, PLC



***Timothy M. Martin**

- Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer
- National Board of Trial Advocacy Civil Trial Specialist
- Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
 - AV Rated Martindale- Hubbell
 - Former MDPD Homicide Detective
 - Florida Super Lawyers
 - Adjunct Law Professor

Tamatha S. Alvarez

- Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer
- National Board of Trial Advocacy Civil Trial Specialist
- Former Assistant City Attorney, Hollywood, Florida
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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 experience.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



**By David Greenwell,
Vice President**

Recently I was visiting the Traffic Homicide Unit (THU) and noticed several recent fatal car crashes involving young drivers and very high speeds. It reminds me that there are groups of outstanding traffic homicide investigators that are out there 24/7/365 handling these horrible death investigations and I salute you all. People ask me if I miss the job in THU and I can say with certainty, I miss the people and the investigation part, but I do not miss the death notifications.

The only thing worse than responding to a traffic fatality is hearing that another officer has been killed in the line of duty. In 2019, 167 law enforcement officers were killed in-the-line of duty in the US. Among the various causes, 47 LEOs were killed by guns and 60 LEOs were killed in traffic crashes. Car crashes are the number one killer of law enforcement officers in America. As a matter of fact, from 2018 to 2019, fatal car crashes involving LEOs increased by 22%.

More recently, during January 2020, in total, 12 LEOs were killed in-the-line of duty, 3 by gun fire and 7 in traffic crashes, which means 58% of LEOs killed in the line of duty in just the month of January were from car crashes alone. This increasing trend in the US is disturbing, because most of these fatal crashes were due to human error and could possibly have been prevented. For more info on officers killed in-the-line of duty, visit the website www.odmp.org.

What can we do to help prevent a crash:

1) SPEED: The faster you choose to drive, the faster the event will happen, the less time you have to react, and the worse the crash will be. Everything works against you the faster you choose to drive. Please slow down.



Congratulations to Albert Rosales on his retirement after 35 years with the MDPD Communications Bureau. He received his retirement plaque from PBA Life Member Olga Lopez and Vice President David Greenwell.

2) SEATBELTS: It's the law and also Department policy. Risk Management can deny or reduce your claim if you do not wear your seatbelt. That means you may have to pay out of your pocket. But most importantly seatbelts will help save your life and reduce injuries. Seatbelts keep you in place so your airbag can work properly.

3) DISTRACTIONS: Crashes have increased due to cell phone use. Distracted driving is unsafe, irresponsible, and its consequences can kill you or someone else. Anything that takes your eyes off of the road is a bad idea, and potentially dangerous to yourself and others.

4) FOLLOWING DISTANCE: The more distance that you have between you and the car in front of you, the more time you will have to react and slow down in case someone stops suddenly in front of you. So, back off, give yourself room, and a chance to avoid a crash.

As law enforcement officers, we are trained to provide assistance as fast as we can, but we don't do anybody any good if we don't get there. Keep doing the great job that you are doing, but just make sure you arrive alive.

As always, stay safe out there, and know that no one else does as much to protect your rights, your pay and your benefits as the PBA. Call me anytime you have questions or concerns: (305) 593-0044, or email me at greenwell@sflpba.org.

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 January 31, 2020. The PBA legal staff receives many other complaints that are resolved by other means.

DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT:

CORRECTIONS	
Association	2
TGK	1
Transportation	1
MWDC	1
Total	5
EL PORTAL	1
FL CITY	2
HIALEAH	2
HOMESTEAD	2
KEY WEST	2
MDPD	
Association	1
Property & Evidence	1
Total	2
MIAMI GARDENS	2
MONROE COUNTY S.O.	1
NORTH MIAMI	1
OPA LOCKA	4
SWEETWATER	2
WEST MIAMI	2
TOTAL GRIEVANCES	27

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OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20



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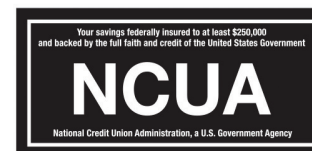
-  **Savings, Checking & Club Accounts**
-  **Free Auto-Buying Service**
-  **Free Financial Counseling**
-  **Auto Loans**
-  **Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)**
-  **Insurance Services (Home, Renters, Auto and more)**

dcfcu.org/pba

305-471-5080



Persons (and their family members) who either live, work, worship, attend school, operate businesses or other legal entities located in Miami-Dade County are welcome to join our credit union. All persons (and their family members) who work in any of our Member Groups may also join. Membership is also open to businesses and other legal entities located in Miami-Dade County, Florida.





POAT News

PBA HEAT, March 2020 13

The Homerun for Heroes Kickball Tournament was a huge success due to all of those who volunteered their time. A great time was had by all and memories made. Thank you for the wonderful turnout and for all the support.

The next tournament will be held January 15-16, 2021. The final standings for 2020 were:

1st: Straight Kickin' It – Miami Police Department (three years in a row)

2nd: Midwest Malangas – Miami-Dade Police Department (Midwest District)

3rd: Big Ballerz – Doral Police Department

Come join us for the Walk to Cure Diabetes on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

The walk starts at 9:00 a.m., with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m., at Tropical Park. To register to walk for the POAT Team, log onto www.JDRF.org; navigate to the Miami Walk and complete the registration, designating POAT as your team when that specific field appears. Remember, this is a fundraiser which requires everyone who walks to raise money for JDRF to help fund research worldwide. We look forward to your participation and support for the POAT Walk Team. If you have any questions, please contact the POAT office at (305) 594-6662.

Save the date for our annual Remembering Our Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Outing, will 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 \$2000 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 for specific guidelines and requirements.

For further information, please contact the POAT office at (305) 594-6662 or poatoffice@msn.com. Thanks for your support and stay safe.

“

You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police.

- Joan Rivers

”

THE ALVAREZ LAW FIRM

Alex Alvarez

Former Metro Dade
Detective, honorably retired.

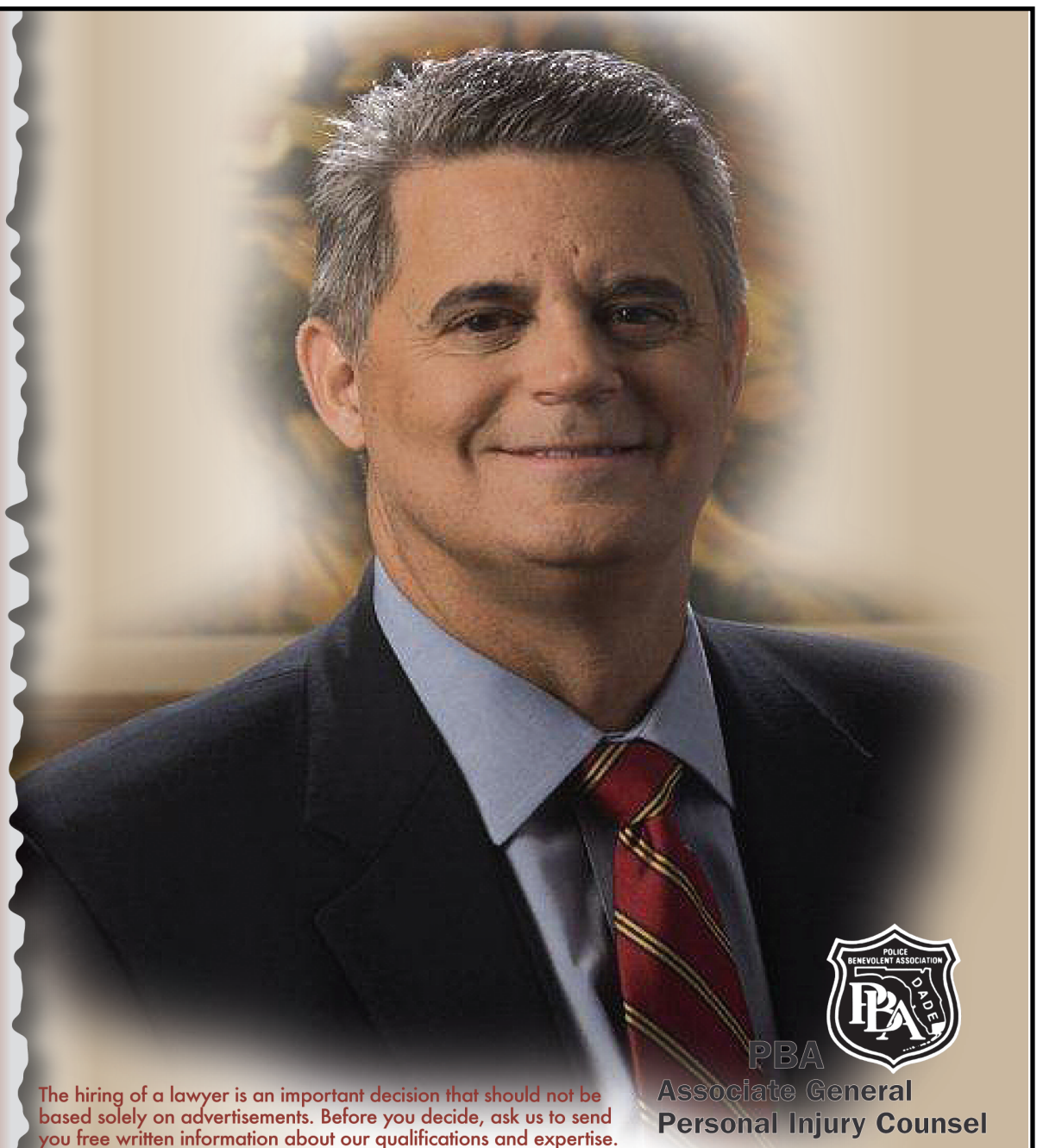
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RPOC News



**By Dennis Bambach,
President**

Thanks to the RPOC Board and members for volunteering their time to stuff envelopes and send out dues notices with registration forms for the 2020 Reunion. We have already had responses in dues payments and a significant number of members have contributed generously to the RPOC Members Assistance Fund and the Otis Chambers Scholarship Fund, special thanks go out to all.

Important date: Otis Chambers Scholarship Applications will be accepted thru March 15th. John Fraley, Chairman of the Otis Chambers Scholarship Fund and Vice President of the RPOC has asked that members be advised that the fund is available for all children and grandchildren of active members of the RPOC. The funds can be used for expenses pertaining to the education of our children and grandchildren. This is an invaluable resource for our descendants. Please forward this information to your friends and family members of the RPOC. It is essential that you be attentive to this scholarship opportunity. We find it to be a way to offset some of the expenses of a college education. Please look at our website and file the application. We are very proud to be a part of this program.

Reminder: Dues and Reunion Registration forms should be in no later than Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Our annual reunion is at Marriott Lake Mary April 16th thru April 19th and the cutoff for hotel reservations under our block is March 20th. Call to make your reservations early. Don't pass up this opportunity to reconnect with friends you may not have seen in a while. It is a fun time and if you haven't been to a reunion, I can tell you that everyone I talk to after the reunion seem to have enjoyed themselves. There is a golf tournament on Friday for those who golf, Reba Miller organized a group outing for a lunch cruise on Saturday, and there are many opportunities to shop. Universal Studios and Disney World are just a short drive away. Information is on our website www.rocpba.org.

The next Retiree Open Shoot session is Monday, March 16th, at the MDPD Training Institute, 9601 NW 58th Street, Range #2. Time is 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions you can contact Sgt. Troy Lee via e-mail at Talee@mdpd.com.

This month's luncheon at the Miccosukee will be on Thursday, March 12th. Great food, good friends and camaraderie.

We would like to welcome the following new member: Margaret Garrison, MDPD.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Harold Patterson and Dick Calvert. Our deepest condolences go out to their family and friends.

***"One today is worth
two tomorrows."***

-Ben Franklin

March IN MEMORIAM

of our heroes killed in the line of duty

SERGEANT LAURIE LAFAYETTE WEVER

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: March 15, 1925

OFFICER DAVID CECIL BEARDEN

Miami Beach Police Department, FL

EOW: March 20, 1928

OFFICER JOHN I. BRUBAKER

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: March 31, 1933

OFFICER PATRICK HOWELL BALDWIN

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: March 29, 1940

OFFICER JOHNNY YOUNG

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: March 8, 1947

CHIEF WILLIAM FRANKLIN BRANTLEY

Homestead Police Department, FL

EOW: March 17, 1952

OFFICER JAMES THOMAS BURLINSON

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: March 8, 1958

OFFICER FRANK SEARCY

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: March 27, 1974

OFFICER VICTOR ESTEFAN

Miami Police Department, FL

EOW: March 31, 1988

OFFICER JOSE TEODORO GONZALEZ

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: March 28, 1989

OFFICER RICHARD WENTLANDT

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: March 15, 1997

OFFICER RANDALL KUGLER

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL

EOW: March 10, 2000



Social Snapshot

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

Be sure to find and follow us on social media!



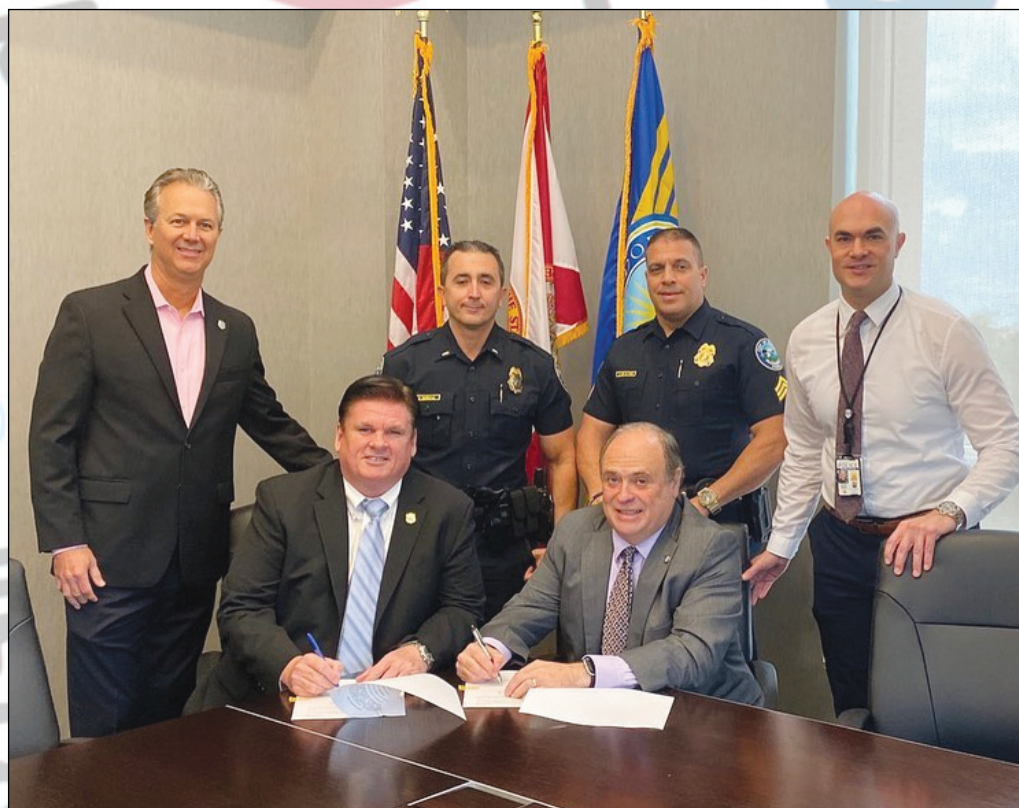
On February 5th, our Executive Board stopped by Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Training Group #54 to wish everyone luck before their dreaded pepper spray test! Sign of a good crew? They're all still smiling. You did it, team!



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOYS! These new North Miami PD officers and SFLPBA members officially joined our ranks on February 12th—and we couldn't be happier (or prouder!) to represent them. Welcome to the family, officers!



We congratulate Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III on being appointed Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department.



On December 12th, the PBA was blessed to sign a contract with the City of Doral! Special thanks to Mayor Juan Carlos "JC" Bermudez, City Manager Albert Childress and Doral City Council for joining us to make it all official. We're so honored to get to work with such great people!



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Master Trooper Joseph Bullock, who is being laid to rest today after he was killed on duty earlier this month. You died a hero, Trooper—may you forever Rest In Peace.

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

THURSDAY - MARCH 19TH

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

Kim@dcpba.org

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