



The Broward Centurion

The Official Publication of the Broward County Police Benevolent Association

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 2007

Contract Updates

By Pat Hanrahan, Senior Vice President

Hillsboro Beach PD

The PBA and the Town met for the first time on December 8th. Attorneys Julie Klahr and James Cherof represented the Town. This was the initial meeting between the two parties. Mr. Cherof's law firm is very experienced in law enforcement contract negotiations. The PBA explained its major concerns of pay increases, longevity pay, the number of pay steps, medical for retirees and life insurance increases for the pending negotiations. The next negotiation session is scheduled for January 11, 2007, at 1:30 pm with additional meetings already scheduled.

Special Investigations Unit (School Board)

The PBA and the School Board's negotiation team met for the first time on December 21, 2006. Since this was the initial meeting the basic ground rules for negotiations were set up. The PBA did inform the School Board's team that our priorities for successful negotiations were pay grade 26 with the 6.45%

wage increase, the step pay plan reinstated as it previously existed with a ten year top out, time and a half after 40 hours, and additional wage increases for a three year contract. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2007 with additional meetings scheduled for February.

Wilton Manors PD

The PBA and the City met on December 19, 2006. The City has now offered a new three-package deal. This new deal includes a retroactive pay raise of 2% for 2006 – 2007, a 1% pay raise for 2007 – 2008, and a 1% pay raise for 2008 -2009. The new pay plan also includes a new pay for performance evaluation plan which is conditioned on a "Satisfactory" or better rating. An "unsatisfactory" rating is subject to discharge without a right to appeal and there is a provision that lateral hires can be placed anywhere in the pay plan at the discretion of the Chief. The City further offered a new pension article. The City now wants to close the current pension plan by offering the members to choose between staying in the old plan (which had the 3% COLA removed) or joining the Florida Retirement System (FRS). For those who choose the FRS, the City will purchase five years of prior service (by FRS

rules this is at 2%) and for those who choose to stay in their current 3% pension, they get nothing. Those members with at

least ten years with the City who enter the DROP or retire can get a 2% COLA on the fifth year anniversary date of their retirement and those who do not retire or DROP get nothing. For

those who remain in the current pension plan, the City wants the PBA to waive future impact bargaining.



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The Broward Centurion

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The Broward Centurion is published by the Broward County Police Benevolent Association for the sole benefit of its members. *The Broward Centurion* is dedicated to the advancement of the law enforcement profession through better and stronger community relations. The opinions expressed in the publication of *The Broward Centurion* are not necessarily those of the Broward County PBA, its Executive Board or the Board of Directors.

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*Broward County PBA
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- Letters or articles must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address.
- All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by a statement giving permission to publish.
- All submissions must be legible.
- The Broward County PBA reserves the right of the Executive Board or Editor to amend or to add an editor's comment to any article or letter submitted.
- Advertisement in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Broward County PBA unless otherwise specified.



President's Message

We are into a new year and have many items on our agenda. We are preparing for upcoming negotiations with BSO, the cities of Miramar and Coconut Creek. With other jurisdictions getting decent pay raises and the difficulties agencies are having hiring from a small pool of candidates, it seems that employers have no choice but to agree to lucrative collective bargaining agreements in order to be competitive.

With the new governor we hope that many of our legislative agenda items can be put into law. Some of these items will directly effect our members in Coconut Creek (the purchased time with FRS from the present 2% to 3%) and adding language to the Bill of Rights that would make an IA investigator swear under oath that everything he/she puts in the final case affidavit is true. The law will enable an investigator to be charged with perjury if he/she lies about an investigation. We believe that this will put an end to investigators putting their opinions into a final charging document, causing the employee to be terminated or charged criminally based on that opinion rather than the facts of the case.

There are other issues the PBA is pursuing for 2007; we'll keep you updated about those during the legislative session.

Have a happy and healthy 2007.

Dick Brickman

Order Your PBA License Tag

Available at the main county tag office.
Ask for the "Support Law Enforcement" tag.



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Welcome New Members

New

- Albert Michael Anderson—BSO
- Alexander Briz—BSO
- Shakera A. Bucknor—Hollywood
- Clinton K. Castillo—BSO
- Carol M. Cepeda-Soto—Wilton Manors Sup..
- John B. Gronna—BSO
- Chandra P. Jefferson—BSO
- Amy Lynn Johnson—Pembroke Pines
- Daniel E. Justus—Hollywood
- Juan C. Mantilla—BSO
- Stephanie L. Newton—BSO
- Nathaniel C. Penney—Miramar
- Christian Peralta—BSO
- Jaime A. Ramirez—Wilton Manors
- Mary Kay Seith—BSO
- Mario C. Sparacino—BSO Sup.
- Andrew G. Taylor—BSO
- David W. Turner—Wilton Manors
- Algeniz J. Vargas—BSO
- Giovani Zamora—BSO

Retired

Clay B. Hewett—BSO

Reinstated

- Donald Harris—BSO
- Scott F. Lukas—Coconut Creek
- Miguel A. Martinez—Hallandale Beach
- Victor M. Rivas—BSO
- Mary Kay Seith—BSO
- Victor T. Thompson—BSO

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The Retirement Lies We Tell Ourselves

The biggest -- and most risky -- assumptions that people make when planning for the future

By GLENN RUFFENACH
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

How much of your retirement planning is based on wishful thinking?

It's a question more people need to ask themselves as they approach later life. Developing a successful retirement plan is both an art and a science: sketching out how you wish to spend your time after leaving the office, and estimating what your income and expenses might be. Some information is relatively easy to find; Uncle Sam, for instance, sends you a letter each year that forecasts the size of your Social Security check in retirement.

It's hard to know what sort of parting gift or bonus is appropriate when a caregiver's services are no longer required. Plus, a writer describes how her dream life as a retiree is rich with job stress.

But some answers -- about nest eggs, taxes and long-term care -- are harder to come by. And that's where people can end up deceiving themselves.

"We're not exactly a nation of savers," says Rande Spiegelman, vice president-financial planning at the Schwab Center for Investment Research, a division of Charles Schwab Corp. Thus, "we are in denial, to a certain extent, about retirement planning," Mr. Spiegelman says. "Maybe we need a reality check."

We asked financial planners, educators and economists across the country to share with us some of the most risky assumptions -- or outright lies -- that people are crafting as they approach retirement. The thinking usually goes something like this: "I might not be in the best shape when it comes to planning for later life, but that's OK because..."

"I'm going to work in retirement."

The idea of working in later life is one of the most prominent features of what's frequently called the "changing face of retirement." A number of surveys have shown that about two-thirds to three-quarters of baby boomers expect to work for pay after retiring. It certainly sounds good; staying active as we age can promote mental and physical health. And the added income, obviously, could help patch any cracks in your nest egg.

The problem is that you might not be able to work in retirement. You might develop health problems; you might not find the kind of work you want, or jobs in your area could be in short supply. Indeed, many workers in their 50s and 60s are having a tough time keeping the jobs they have -- never mind finding new jobs in retirement. A study published this year by McKinsey &

Co., a consulting firm, found that 40% of surveyed retirees had to stop working earlier than planned, a consequence primarily of layoffs and poor health.

Predicting what boomers actually will do as they age is always a chancy exercise. But one way to gauge expectations about working in retirement is to look at the experiences of people who have already collected their gold watch. A survey published earlier this year by the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington

found that just 27% of surveyed retirees had ever worked for pay while in retirement. A similar study published in September by the Pew Research Center, also in Washington, found that only 12% of current retirees are collecting a salary.

REALITY CHECK: For the moment, "there's a big disconnect between what people say they will do, or might do, versus what people are doing," says Cary Funk, senior project director at the Pew Center.

Yes, that could change: The sheer size of the baby-boom generation could mean that more boomers, in contrast to their parents, will end up working in retirement. But if you're counting on a paycheck in your 60s and 70s to help compensate for inadequate retirement savings, you could be in for a nasty surprise.

"My home is my safety net."

To listen to many people in the 50-plus crowd, they have little to worry about when it comes to financing their retirement. That's because they can always turn to the equity in their homes.

A recent study by Spectrem Group, a consulting firm in Chicago, found that almost two-thirds of affluent baby boomers (with investable assets of at least \$500,000) intend to finance their retirement by selling their homes. That should come as no surprise; housing prices in many locales have skyrocketed in recent years. (The median value of the primary residence among Americans age 55 to 64 rose to \$200,000 in 2004 from \$139,000 in 2001, according to the Federal Reserve.) The home-as-piggy-bank strategy, though, may not be as easy or attractive as it first appears.

Most people have two options: trade down to a smaller, less-expensive home, or borrow against their equity. The first option, in theory, will result in lower annual expenses and a nice addition to your nest egg (if you walk away with a profit). Most Americans, though, wish to remain in their homes and communities as they age. Selling might sound good today, if you're several years from retirement. But when the time comes, will



you actually want to pack up and move? And will you be able to adjust to a smaller residence?

Borrowing against your home, meanwhile, could be tricky. If interest rates rise in coming years, the value of your property could fall, meaning you may not be able to pull as much money from your home as you wish. Reverse mortgages are attracting more borrowers, but fees are high, and many loans are capped. (Depending on your age and where you live, a \$300,000 home might yield \$115,000).

REALITY CHECK: "A home is not a panacea for shortfalls in retirement savings," says Andrew Eschtruth, an associate director at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. At best, "you can tap only a portion of your equity," he says.

If you decide to trade down, the sooner the better. Given that many retirements today will last 20 years or more, it's never too early to reduce expenses and shore up savings. If you plan to apply for a reverse mortgage, think of those funds as a last resort -- to help pay for medical bills or long-term care -- and not as money for groceries or vacations.

"I can live on 70% or 80% of my pre-retirement income."

It's among the most frequently heard maxims in retirement planning -- and among the most misleading.

Ask yourself: Will you be able to live the life you want in retirement on 20% to 30% less income than you have right now? The key phrase in that question is: "the life you want." Beyond generalities ("I plan to travel more"), most people don't think about how they want to spend their time in retirement, and thus have no idea how much income or what size nest egg they will need to support themselves in later life.

Yes, some expenses -- like commuting and wardrobe costs -- will drop off after we leave the office. But many costs will increase in later life -- for travel, home improvement and, most important, health care. All of which means you could be spending just as much, if not more, in retirement as when you were working.

(There is one group of people who can safely follow the 80% guideline: "If you're saving 20% of your paycheck, then the 80% rule works fine," says Mr. Spiegelman at Schwab. "But most people aren't saving anything close to that.")

The most telling evidence regarding income needs in retirement comes from current retirees. Fully 55% of surveyed retirees, according to research published earlier this year by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, said they were living in retirement on 95% or more of their pre-retirement income.

REALITY CHECK: Adolph Neidermeyer, professor of accounting in West Virginia University's College of Business and Economics, who has studied income needs

in retirement, says the most important step would-be retirees can take is to put pencil to paper.

"There needs to be a detailed projection of spending in retirement," Dr. Neidermeyer says. "It has to be documented. And it should take place as early as possible -- ideally, by your mid-50s."

"My taxes will go down in retirement."

They might. But chances are good you'll end up in the same tax bracket, if not a higher one, once you leave the office.

The explanation is tied to the likely source of your income in retirement. With fewer employers today offering pensions, many people in later life will turn to their 401(k)s and individual retirement accounts for the bulk of their money. Any dollars withdrawn from these accounts (with the exception of Roth IRAs and Roth 401(k)s) are taxed as ordinary income, which means you could be paying as much as 35% to Uncle Sam.

In short, "if you need as much money in retirement as when you were working, you could end up in the same tax bracket," says Barry Kaplan, a certified financial planner with Cambridge Southern Financial Advisors in Atlanta. The numbers "don't go down as significantly as people think they will."

Other factors may conspire to keep taxes in retirement higher than you imagined. If you pay off your mortgage before retiring -- normally a prudent move -- you may find that you no longer can itemize deductions on

your income-tax return, Mr. Kaplan notes. As much as 85% of your Social Security benefits could be taxable. After age 70½, you're required to withdraw funds from your retirement accounts, generating still more taxable income. And in many areas, property taxes may continue climbing.

REALITY CHECK: We always hear about the importance of diversifying our investments. But it's

just as important to think about diversity in terms of taxes -- having several different accounts you can tap for retirement income, says Clark Randall, a certified financial planner with Lincoln Financial Advisors in Dallas.

"Putting all your money in a traditional IRA or a 401(k) is risky," Mr. Randall says. "You could end up a 'tax prisoner' in retirement -- stuck with one source of income." That's why it's important, he explains, to invest in Roth IRAs and Roth 401(k)s, among other products, to help minimize the tax bite in later life.

To be continued in February....

--Mr. Ruffenach is a reporter and editor for The Wall Street Journal in Atlanta and the editor of Encore. Write to Glenn Ruffenach at encore@wsj.com



How Did We Become So Tolerant Of Lies?

By Glenn Hameroff, Community Voice (Submitted by Bill Wynn)

Lies are so pervasive in our world community that truthfulness has earned a spot on the endangered species list. Politicians, clergy, teachers, our parents, our children and our selves are all guilty of employing the lie when convenient.

Imagine if President Bush had come right out and said in 2003 that we do not know if there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq; however, Saddam Hussein is a miserable tyrant and he is sitting on a load of oil. Instead, the president and his administration spun lies designed to place Saddam on the aircraft crashing into the twin towers. The president has the power to take us to war and not to fake us to war.

Lies do not only dominate the world of politics, they affect all human relationships and may even cause the end of civilization as we know it. We have just emerged from the mid-term congressional election cycle with its concurrent explosion of campaign commercials. Hundreds of millions of dollars were used to fund lies and innuendos.

However, the acceptance of lies begins in the home, not in Washington, D.C. At an early age, we are taught that truthfulness is not our highest obligation. When we speak the truth about what our brother did to the family cat, we are sent a mixed message. "Thanks for being truthful, but do not be a tattle-tale." Friendship, loyalty and tranquility may all be accepted as good reasons to lie. "Do not be a stool pigeon." Once lies were accepted in the home, their use spread like a pandemic.

As a classroom teacher for almost 30 years, I have asked students if they could survive in a world without lies. Their first response to this query was to marvel at my naivete. To the thousands of students to whom I posed this inquiry, a lie or a truthful act carried the same moral weight of obligation. Their willingness to employ a form of situational ethics to justify the employment of deception was upsetting to say the least. If they did not attempt to ethically defend their behavior, they would assert the social necessity for lies.

Lies have spread to domains where truthfulness used to reign supreme. Energy industry endowments have seduced academic researchers into joining neoconservatives in their war on science. This war is designed to discredit scientific truths by creating the illusion of legitimate academic disagreement.

6 Topics ranging from evolution to global warming

are regularly attacked by the corporate-endowed professors in an effort to reduce truth to opinion. We have lost valuable time in combating global warming and may pay a tragic price for this delay in 20 or 30 years.

Deceptive behavior is on the rise. Is anyone ready to step forward and tell the truth? As for all whistle-blowers, the risks are very great for the truthful person. He/she will be condemned and his/her physical well-being may be placed in jeopardy. But if the use of lies continue to grow unabated, we are all going to be negatively impacted.

Glenn Hameroff lives in Palm Coast.

TRUTH!

Are You Up To Date?

Be sure to update
your address and
beneficiary
information now!

More Cops Are Dying In Traffic Accidents

A report released last month by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) Memorial Fund and Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) shows that traffic fatalities claimed the lives of more law enforcement officers than any other cause, even gunshot wounds.

Traffic-related incidents killed 73 of the 151 officers killed in 2006. In 2005, 63 died as a result of traffic accidents.

The rise is attributed to the fact that many police officers fail to use their seat belts either because they get tangled in their gun belts or they feel they will need to exit the vehicle quickly.

According to Craig Floyd, chairman of NLEOMF, inappropriate safety equipment and a lack of defensive driver training have contributed to the rise in traffic deaths. Both NLEOMF and COPS say that specially-designed seat belts, fire suppression equipment and front and side air bags should be standard in patrol cars.

Also contributing to the rise in fatalities is the fact that there are more officers on the road now than ever before.

Source: Associated Press

Ex-Cop Markets A "Never Get Busted Again" Video

A former Texas drug agent plans to sell a how-to video on concealing drugs and fooling law enforcement.

Barry Cooper, who has worked for small police departments in East Texas, has launched a Web site to sell his video, "Never Get Busted Again," which will show viewers how to "conceal their stash," "avoid narcotics profiling" and "fool canines every time."



Cooper made the video because he believes that the nation's fight against drugs is a waste of resources. Busting pot users fills up prisons with nonviolent offenders. Cooper favors the legalization of

marijuana.

As a drug officer, Cooper made more than 800 drug arrests and seized more than \$500,000 in cash and assets. His former boss says he was even better than he says he was. "He was probably the best narcotics officer in the state and maybe the country..."

Source: Associated Press

It's PBA Scholarship Time

Deadline for applications is April 15

The Broward County PBA is accepting applications for its 2006 scholarships.



In order to qualify, applicants must be the son or daughter of a Broward County PBA member. The parent must have been a member for at least two years and currently be a member in good standing.

Applicants must also be or plan to be a full- or part-time student at an accredited two- or four-year college or university.

Applications can be picked up in person at the PBA office, or contact us and we can mail or e-mail it to you.

The deadline for completed applications is April 15.

J. INGRAM PEDIATRICS, PA



Hello! My name is Deborah E. Ingram, MD. I would like to introduce you to my newly established Pediatric office. I am a board certified Pediatrician. My office opened August 15th, 2006 and I have been practicing medicine for 5 years. My office provides annual and infant check-ups, vaccinations, annual flu shots, sick visits, 'blue and gold forms' and sports physicals to children of all ages: birth through age 18. I received my medical degree at The Medical College of Georgia and completed residency at The University of South Florida's Pediatric Residency Program. I have returned back to Fort Lauderdale to contribute quality medical services to the place I now again call home!

For further information, please feel free to view our website at www.IngramPeds.com. To contact our office please call:

(954) 321 - 1591

Medical II Building
(across the street from Plantation General Hospital)
4101 South Hospital Drive
Suite # 12
Plantation, FL 33317



Health & Fitness

Eat And Feel Great

12 Delicious Foods That Are Good For Your Mood

If you find yourself needing a quick mood boost in the middle of the day, here are twelve foods you can reach for that will make you feel as great as they taste.

Popcorn

Air-popped is the best option, but low-fat microwave popcorn is the next best thing. Keep the butter to a minimum.

Popcorn boosts your energy and thereby your mood—pair it with a protein like string cheese or a handful of almonds and it will work even better.

Pork

Lean pork, like pork roast, pork chops and pulled pork, will help boost your mood. It's full of B vitamins, which help you fight stress. And it contains choline, which fuels your brain.

Coffee

A cup or two will help to enhance physical and mental performance. The trick is not to overdo. You've had too much if you get the jitters, nervousness or feel jumpy and can't focus. A good guide is between 10 and 16 ounces for those who are not caffeine-sensitive.

Fat-Free Milk

Nonfat chocolate milk is a better energy booster than a sports drink, according to a study by Indiana University. Milk is a great feel-great food.

If you find you have an adverse reaction to milk, you might try confining yourself to eight-ounce servings spread out over the day to eliminate these problems.

Eggs

The egg is one of the best foods for your brain and your temperament. One whole egg per day can help boost your brain cells (via lecithin in the yolk).

Hot Cocoa

Natural, unprocessed cocoa (not "Dutched") is full of beneficial

Nuts

Nuts are food for the brain. Researchers have found that almonds and walnuts can help fight Alzheimer's and depression. They are loaded with the brain-boosting chemical choline. And a handful of nuts before a meal can help you feel less jittery, hungry and stressed.

Turkey

The tryptophan in turkey is what makes you feel so good. This amino acid leads to serotonin production, which improves your mood. It also enhances cognitive performance in times of stress. Try a turkey sandwich at lunch and see if it helps. Just go easy on the fat (don't skip it, just don't use too much).

Whole Grains

If you've been avoiding carbs, you know that it can have an adverse effect on your mood. Try the better carbs—100% whole wheat bread, whole-wheat pasta and breakfast cereals with four or more grams of fiber and less than 10 grams of sugar. This will help even your mood between breakfast and lunch. Use brown rice whenever possible to glean the fiber and

protein.

Grape Juice

Grape juice has similar polyphenol properties to red wine, which is good for healthier hearts and reduced risk of stroke. And grape juice can hold off or even reverse brain aging. The key? Drink 100% juice with no added sugar and the skins included (Welch's passes both tests).

Source: MSN Health/The Good Mood Diet by Susan Kleiner, Ph.D, and Bob Condor.



phytochemicals. A cup before bed will help you sleep, too.

Chocolate

Choose dark chocolate over milk, and look for 70 percent cocoa if possible. Many dark chocolates are now labeled with the percentage of cocoa. Keep portions to about three ounces at a time.



Inside BSO

For Our Members With The Broward Sheriff's Office

Promotions

Sergeant

Larry Akers
Craig Brown
Eric Caldwell
Joseph Capua
Lisa DiSavino
Francis Japes
Kelvin Phillips
William Weir

Lieutenant

Steven Cady
Andelo Cendeno
Andrew Dunbar
Joel Steinberg

Captain

John Nesteruk

You have the right...

- ...**to** have all interviews tape-recorded from start to end.
- ...**to** have a PBA representative present during any interview.
- ...**to** have the interview at a reasonable time and for a reasonable length of time.
- ...**to** know who is in charge of the investigation.
- ...**not** to be forced to resign.
- ...**to** know what the charges are.
- ...**to** review ALL statements before answering questions.
- ...**to** know the name of the person bringing the complaint.
- ...**not** to be threatened, bribed or subjected to offensive language.

If you need assistance, contact the PBA legal unit at 954/584-7600.

Letters & Thanks

JOHN C. RAYSON
KIA LIMITED LIABILITY

LAW OFFICES OF
John C. Rayson
SECOND FLOOR
2000 EAST OAKLAND PARK BOULEVARD
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33306
TELEPHONE (954) 966-8855
FAX (954) 966-8902
EMAIL: jrayson2000@aol.com

LELAND H. RAYSON
302 - 302

November 22, 2006

Dear Friend,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your generous support of my judicial campaign. You are getting this letter because you either made contributions, hosted events, put up signs, handed out literature, emailed your network, wrote letters, made phone calls, talked to your neighbors, worked the polls, campaigned year heart out, or all of these things. Your friendship and unwavering support made my loss, although disappointing, easier to bear. Thank you for participating in the process which is, although difficult, important. I also want to thank the many of you who have contacted me following the election. Your kind words, keen analysis and encouragement are much appreciated. I will always remember your friendship. Have a wonderful holiday season.

John C. Rayson
John C. Rayson



Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

P.O. Box 3109 • South Highway 5 • Camdenon, Missouri 65020
(573) 346-4911 • (800) 784-COPS (2677) • Fax (573) 346-1414

E-Mail Address: cops@nationalcops.org

Reaching Out to Help America's Police Survivors

November 7, 2006

Broward County PBA
2650 W. State Rd. 84
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

On behalf of over 15,000 law enforcement surviving families nationwide, Concerns of Police Survivors thanks you for sponsoring Debbie Geary's participation in COPS Walk 2006 in October with your donation of \$200. This was only the second year for this event, which was sponsored and coordinated by the United States Secret Service Employee Recreation Association, with 50 participants completing a 25-mile walk. Almost \$95,000 was raised to support COPS' programs for law enforcement surviving families.

Since 1984, COPS has provided healing, love, and life renewed for survivors whose lives have been forever altered by the line-of-duty death of their law enforcement officer. Your support of COPS Walk 2006 helps COPS continue providing grief seminars, peer-support, healing retreats, scholarships, and other resources that survivors have called their "lifeline". Thank you for helping COPS rebuild shattered lives.

COPS Walk 2006 participants all reported a great sense of accomplishment and pride in honoring their own, and all, fallen law enforcement officers. They all had a great time while raising money for COPS and plan to encourage more participation in future Walks. We hope you will consider sponsoring Debbie again for COPS Walk 2007 next October!

Sincerely yours,

Suzie Sawyer

Suzie Sawyer
Executive Director



Pat,
I want to personally thank you for your generous contribution to my Mayoral Campaign for the City of Pompano Beach.

As I expand my horizons from a District Commissioner to the Mayor's Seat, your dedicated support is extremely invaluable. I'm truly blessed.

I look forward to this wonderful opportunity to be able to serve and represent each and every resident in the City of Pompano Beach.

Please feel free to call on me anytime if I can be of service, and I look forward to a successful March election.

Sema

E:\Broward\Office Development\Forms\COPS Walk 2006\minutes\letter.doc

This Project was supported by Grant 2005-OD-84-K034 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Officer Safety Alerts

The Palm Bay Police department has pulled it's seven Chevy Impalas off the road after two of them burst into flames with officers inside.

The problem is caused by a tiny pressure valve. General Motors is aware of the problem and is paying for repairs. The part has been recalled , but there are still thousands of consumer versions of the same engine on the street.



Source: WFTV.com

The valve belongs to a 3.8-liter V-6 engine, including the 1998-2000 Buick Park Avenue and LeSabre, Pontiac Bonneville, 1998-1999 Oldsmobile 88 and the 2000 Chevy Monte Carlo and Impala.

Popular pellet guns made to resemble the real thing have been causing scares and schools around the county since the fall.

The guns are used in a game called airsoft, which is similar to paintball, but the weapons fire plastic pellets instead of paint capsules.

The problem is that airsoft guns are prized for how realistic they look. Some resemble Glocks, Smith & Wessons, Magnums and Berettas. Other mimic Kalashnikov assault rifles. Although toy guns, including the airsoft guns, are required to have a bright orange tip to identify them as toys, some consumers remove or blacken the tip, making the airsoft weapons indistinguishable from real ones.



Airsoft Gun

A year ago, 15-year-old Christopher Penley was shot to death by a SWAT officer in Seminole County because he was brandishing an airsoft pistol whose muzzle had been painted black. Other incidents this year, including a lockdown at two high schools in Apple Valley, Minn. after a 14-year-old used an airsoft gun to shoot at other students, have prompted some cities to consider a ban on the weapons. Scot Johnson, police chief in Apple Valley says, "We're running into about one of these guns in the possession of a juvenile per week."

Source: Associated Press

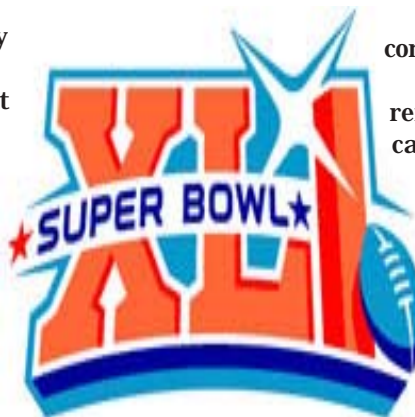
Wanna Go To The Super Bowl?

Are you going? On Sunday, February 4, 2007, Super Bowl XLI will take place at Dolphin Stadium. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet but would still like to attend, we know how you can. And it's free.

41 Productions, which puts on the pregame and halftime shows, is looking for 600 local volunteers to be part of the stage crew.

Volunteers will assist in moving stage units on and off the field and will be part of the field audience during the halftime show, where Prince will be performing.

If you want to volunteer, you can go to www.superbowlproductions.com for an application. Volunteers must be over 18 and in good physical



condition.

If you are chosen to volunteer, please remember to take pictures (if possible) so we can print them in *The Centurion*.

PBA Attorneys Shine In 2006



PBA attorneys **Rhea Grossman** and **Al Milian** were recognized for their hard work on behalf of our members at the December Board Meeting. Broward PBA President Dick Brickman presented each of them with a special award to show the gratitude of the membership for being tireless advocates for officers in need.

Attorneys Grossman and Milian worked together defending BSO Deputy **Chris Zapata** in connection with the BSO exceptional clearance investigation. Zapata was acquitted on all counts against him in July 2006.

Rhea defended

Hallandale officer **Mary Hagopian** against use of force charges; Officer Hagopian was found Not Guilty on those charges. And Al represented another Hallandale officer, **Talous Cirilo**, on charges stemming from the same incident that brought Officer Hagopian to court. He, too, was found Not Guilty.

We're proud to be associated with these two fine attorneys. Thank you for helping our members!



Member's Daughter May Be The Next "Apprentice"

Most people, when they come to you for advice, want their opinions strengthened, not corrected.

—Anonymous



While you're watching "The Apprentice" this season, keep an eye out for a member of the PBA family.

Marisa DeMato, daughter of BSO rep **Jim DeMato**, is one of the contestants on NBC's "The Apprentice."

Marisa, 28, has a B.A. in Political Science from FAU, and she earned her law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

She specializes in securities fraud, consumer fraud and antitrust litigation.

We wish Marisa much luck. We are already very proud of you!

Source: Palm Beach Post



Dear Friends,

Last week, I was honored to be chosen by Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, the committee in Congress with jurisdiction over the federal budget. I am also thrilled to have been selected by Speaker-Elect Pelosi and Majority Whip-Elect James Clyburn as a Chief Deputy Whip. I look forward to working with Majority Whip-Elect Clyburn as we begin the 110th Congress.

These positions will help me make a greater impact for my constituents in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Since elected, I have worked hard to address the issues facing our community, the State of Florida and our nation. I will continue to do so in the new Congress and look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you for your continued support and friendship.

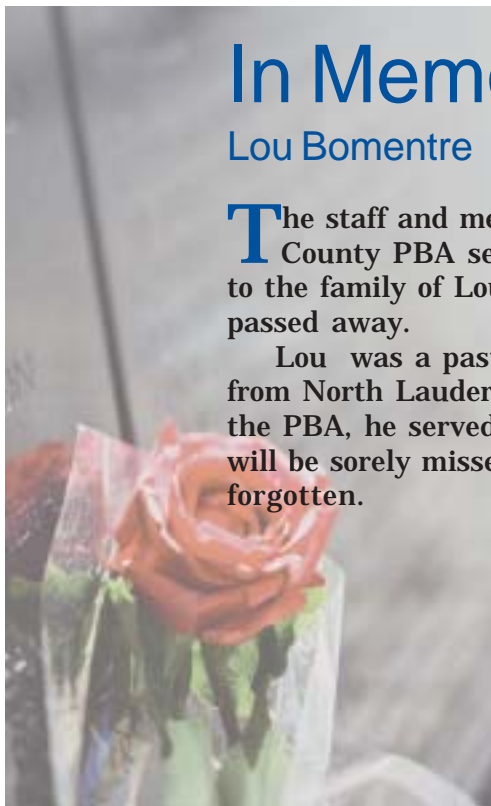
Sincerely,

In Memory

Lou Bomentre

The staff and membership of the Broward County PBA send our sincerest condolences to the family of Lou Bomentre, who recently passed away.

Lou was a past elected PBA representative from North Lauderdale. During his tenure with the PBA, he served the membership well. He will be sorely missed, but he will not be forgotten.





Money Matter\$

Tax-Free Distributions for Public Safety Retirees

New law means changes for LE retirees

In 2006 Congress passed The Pension Protection Act (PPA). There are provisions in the act that will affect our members. This month and next month, Matthew Oppedisano of Law Enforcement Retirement Advisory Services explains what these provisions mean for our members.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides that up to \$3,000 of otherwise taxable distributions from governmental retirement plans may be excluded from income annually if used to pay for qualified health insurance premiums and/or qualified long term care insurance for retired public safety officers, their spouses and dependents.

Distributions from a qualified plan under Code §401(a), whether it is a governmental defined benefit plan – usually termed a pension plan – or a governmental defined contribution plan, such as a money purchase plan, a governmental tax-sheltered account under Code §403(b) or an eligible deferred compensation plan maintained by a state or local government under Code §457 qualify for the exclusion treatment provided by PPA.

A public safety officer must be separated from service by reason of disability or attainment of normal retirement age to be eligible for this exclusion. A public safety officer includes the following individuals serving a public agency in an official capacity:

- An individual involved in crime and juvenile delinquency control or reduction, or enforcement of the criminal laws (including juvenile delinquency), including, but not limited to, police, corrections, probation, parole and judicial officers;
- officially recognized or designated public employee members of a rescue squad or ambulance crew;
- officially recognized or designated members of a legally organized volunteer fire department; and
- officially recognized or designated chaplains of volunteer fire departments, fire departments and police departments.

The income exclusion is only available if the governmental plan agrees to deduct and remit the premiums directly to the insurance company providing the health or long term care insurance contract. Also, the public safety officer must make an annual election for this exclusion to apply. Of course, the distributed amounts that qualify for exclusion from gross income may not be taken into account in computing the

itemized medical expense deduction under Code §213 or the deduction against gross income allowed by Code §162(l) for self-employed health insurance costs.

The effective date of this provision was January 1, 2007.

The Law Enforcement Retirement Advisory Services can guide you towards determining the best investment strategy for your unique situation. Matthew Oppedisano, registered representative and Al Oppedisano, registered representative are licensed professionals with over 40 years of combined experience. We are dedicated to helping Law Enforcement employees reach their retirement goals. Our success is the result of a continuing commitment to provide the most comprehensive selection of high quality products and services offered in the industry.

Contact Matthew Oppedisano at 800-330-0200 to schedule a free consultation at your Department, Home, or PBA Office or visit www.FloridaRetirementServices.com

What's Up?

Oops!

In our December issue, we thanked the businesses that donated products or services for Deputy Brian Tephord's funeral. We neglected to mention Miramar Bakery. We apologize for the oversight. And thank you for your help!

Hollywood Officer Named LEO Of The Year

Congratulations to the 2006 Law Enforcement Officer of The Year, Broward County Triad:

Detective Carlos Negrón
Hollywood Police Department

Carlos was recognized for his service to senior citizens in the community. Keep up the good work, Carlos!

Don't Be Shy!

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honors...

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megan@bcpba.org

News From Our Members

Hollywood Members Band Together To Help One Of Their Own

Members of the Hollywood Police Department held a fundraiser on December 4 to benefit victim's advocate **Martha Patton**, who is battling cancer.

The fight against this disease has taken a toll on Martha, a civilian member of the Broward PBA. Her coworkers and friends in the department organized a fundraiser in order to ease Martha's burden, much as she has eased the burdens of others.

The benefit took place at Conca D'Oro in Hollywood. Owner Dominick DeLuca was happy to donate both the location and the food for the evening. A bicycle was donated by Lee's Bicycle for raffle, and there was a 50/50 raffle as well.

Hollywood retiree **Tim McKenna** and another of Martha's former coworkers picked up the bar tab so more money would go to Martha. The winner of the 50/50 raffle, **Ken Haberland**, donated his \$200 winnings back to the cause.

The event raised over \$6,000 for Martha, as well as raising her spirits. A big thank you is owed to **Cathy Marano, Ernie Candelmo, Tim McKenna, Ken Haberland, Kevin Companion** (co-organizer) and all the city employees, including the City Manager and the Human Resources Director for their participation and efforts. And thank you to everyone at the Hollywood Police Department who help make it a strong, unified, compassionate place to work.



Law Enforcement News

Items of Interest From Around The U.S.

Tyler, Tex. - A 75-year-old woman helped police catch a man who carjacked her at knifepoint while she was pumping gas. She doused her assailant with gas.

"I'm sure he was burning like mad," the woman said. "I mean, I drowned him right in the face." Police caught up with the attacker awhile later and arrested him. The suspect was found with a bag of fuel-soaked clothes and a bar of soap.

The gas station where the crime occurred offered to pay for car cleaning and repairs for the victim.

Source: Associated Press



Mesa, Ariz. - Six Mesa police officers are under investigation in order to determine whether a Taser was misused against a suspect, who is now asking the city and the department for \$500,000 in compensations for his injuries. The two sergeants and four officers have been assigned to desk duty while the investigation is under way.

The suspect alleges that he suffered deep cuts, abrasions and injuries to his wrist during the confrontation with police. The incident began when the suspect approached an officer during a traffic stop using profanities. The officer called for backup and the backup officers attempted to stop the suspect by firing a Taser at his back. The suspect was subsequently arrested for obstruction of governmental operations, but the case was dismissed.

Source: The East Valley Tribune (Mesa, Arizona)



Huntington Beach, Calif. - The Huntington Beach Police Department has suspended a training exercise that has officers hiding guns in the

cars of people they pull over for traffic violations. The weapons are hidden in order to test how rookie officers search a suspect's vehicle.

The tactic was revealed after a driver who was stopped complained that an officer had tossed a loaded handgun into his trunk. The driver was standing about eight feet away when the officer opened his trunk and tossed in a revolver. The driver claims he was terrified that the officers had planted the weapon.

Although trainers typically used unloaded guns, the chief put an end to the practice. According to a department spokesperson, "it's probably not the way we should be operating.."

Source: Los Angeles Times



Orlando, Fla. - Five members of the Orlando Police Department's antidrug unit, including a captain and a lieutenant, have been recommended for discipline after an internal investigation involving pornographic e-mails.

The officers sent e-mails with pictures of women in various sex acts with each other and sometimes with animals. The IA investigation began when a sexual harassment lawsuit was filed against the city by another officer.

Punishment has yet to be decided.

Source: WFTV.com



Bradenton, Fla. - A Bradenton sergeant was fired after he was accused of downloading pornographic videos onto a city computer. Sgt. Tim Harvey denies that the images were pornographic; some feature topless women, he says, but those videos are commercials. He claims that his firing, handed down

just days before his 10-year anniversary with the department, was timed so that he would not receive his pension.

Harvey was suspended with pay after the images in question were found on his computer by a department technician. The Florida PBA has filed a grievance with the Bradenton PD on Sgt. Harvey's behalf.

Source: Local6.com



Uniontown, Penn. - Police used a Taser to get a python to release its grip on a man's arm.

The man was feeding the eight-foot albino Burmese python a rat when it bit his left hand and then wrapped itself tightly around his left arm. An officer shot the animal with the Taser in order to free the man without permanently harming it; the snake belongs to the victim's daughter.

The victim suffered a nasty cut on his hand, and the snake was uninjured and remains in the victim's home.

Source: The Associated Press



Rock Hill, S.C. - A 12-year-old boy was arrested in early December for opening his Christmas gift a few weeks early.

The suspect's mother contacted police to report that the boy had unwrapped the present even after she expressly told him not to. The boy was charged with petty larceny. The gift in question was a Nintendo Game Boy valued at \$85.

The mother, desperate for help with her son, was seeking any type of help she could to help set him straight. She will ask for state intervention at his court appearance.

Source: The Smoking Gun



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Alejandro Recio

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The City of Miami Gardens Police Department will assume policing responsibilities on December 1, 2007. Prior to this date we will hire 150 experienced *Police Officers, Detectives, Sergeants* and *Captains*. In order to recruit and retain these employees we have put together an attractive "Pioneer Officer" incentive, benefits and salary package. Below are a few of these incentives. *We will start accepting applications on January 2, 2007.*

Pioneer Officer Hiring Incentives

Signing Bonus*	\$12,000
Detective Signing Bonus*	\$14,000
Miami Gardens Resident Bonus (annually)*	\$2,000
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Police Officer	1 year experience	6 years of experience	13 years of experience <i>(Top Pay)</i>
Police Officer I	\$45,100	\$53,852	\$65,498
Police Officer II	\$50,169	\$58,160	\$70,737
Police Officer III	\$54,183	\$62,813	\$76,396
Sergeant	1 year in grade	6 years in grade	13 years in grade <i>(Top Pay)</i>
Sergeant I	\$56,140	\$65,082	\$80,042
Sergeant II	\$60,631	\$70,288	\$86,445
Sergeant III	\$65,481	\$75,911	\$93,361

The salaries listed above are a small example of the salary ranges for officers and sergeants.

For more information

e-mail Recruiter@MiamiGardensPolice.org

or visit our new Police web site at www.MiamiGardensPolice.org

For additional career opportunities with Miami Gardens visit www.MiamiGardens-FL.gov

(305) 622-8000, ext 2501

*Conditions apply.

The City of Miami Gardens is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages residents to apply for career opportunities. This advertisement is not intended to supersede the official benefits package of the City of Miami Gardens Police Department.

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Broward County Police Benevolent Association

Greetings to all PBA members and families. It is with great pleasure that we are informing you of something special that your PBA Special Projects office has been working on this year for all PBA active officers, retired officers, Associate members and their families.

As many of you may know, special projects works hard selling advertisement in your yearbook to raise money for the PBA. We have many wonderful friends and sponsors in Broward County that support us year after year. Because of our many special friends, this year we will be adding something extra for all of the membership.

We sent a representative from our office out in the field throughout Broward County to meet in person with management in the fields of Automobiles, Legal Services, Real Estate and Money Mortgage Lending. In the meetings we have arranged that all PBA members will be warmly welcomed with great discounts on their services and goods and will be giving not only to you but also all your family members. Fields we concentrated on are big ticket items and often needed services. It is our sincere hope that you and your families may greatly benefit from this program.

We at the Special Projects office would like to thank our sponsors for their kindness shown to us. Below is a list of businesses that have made this offer possible for you. In our 2006 and 2007 year book coming out in a few days you will find a special discount book inserted and attached featured in the front of our publication in full color. Here you will find further information and more details on the businesses and the people that have made the offers possible and who look forward to working with all PBA members and their families.

Listed below is a list of our generous supporters:

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3. Gold Coast Lending - Pat Cray PBA Associate Member
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- *§72(t) explanations*

The Law Enforcement Retirement Advisory Service can guide you towards determining the best investment strategy for your unique situation. **Matthew Oppedisano**, registered representative and **Al Oppedisano**, registered representative are licensed professionals with over 40 years of combined experience. They are dedicated to helping Law Enforcement employees reach their retirement goals. Their success is the result of a continuing commitment to provide the most comprehensive selection of high quality products and services offered in the industry.

Contact **Matthew Oppedisano** to schedule a **free consultation** at your Department, Home or PBA Office

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