



The Broward Centurion

Volume 10, Issue 7 | July 2007

School Board Accepts First PBA Contract

By Kathleen Andersen, School Board Rep.

The Broward County School Board Special Investigative Unit has ratified their first union contract with the PBA. The contract was presented to the Board on June 19, 2007.

It has been a long and daunting task building the foundation for this department's first contract. Our eighteen members will receive a 6.542% raise retroactive to July 1, 2006. They will now receive time-and-a-half pay over 40 hours with a minimum three hours emergency call out. Personal days increase from four to six days. Sick time will be reimbursed at 100%, at the current rate after 13 years with the board. A new pay grade was also submitted for consideration. This new pay grade is a two-grade promotion and will be addressed in the second year of this three-year contract.



L to R: Lorenzo Calhoun, Co-chief Negotiator—School Board; Pat Hanrahan; Marilyn L. Strong, Associate Superintendent/Chief Negotiator—School Board; Kathleen Andersen, PBA Representative—SIU; James F. Notter, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Beverly A. Gallagher, School Board Chair



L to R: Eleanor Sobel, School Board Member—District 1; Kathleen Andersen; Pat Hanrahan

We thank the PBA Executive Board and staff attorneys for their continued support during this process. Our sincere appreciation goes to Patrick Hanrahan, our chief negotiator. His knowledge, experience, time and dedication have made this process a positive experience. Solidarity to all.

Governor Signs IA Legislation Into Law

PBA-sponsored bills protect officers' rights

In June, Governor Charlie Crist signed into law two very important pieces of legislation that affect how Internal Affairs investigations will be conducted.

House Bill 723 requires the IA investigator to verify (by sworn statement) that he or she warrants that the investigative report is true and accurate and that the LEO Bill of Rights has been followed.

House Bill 123 provides that, whenever possible, all identifiable witnesses be interviewed before interviewing the accused officer (this can be waived). It also provides for a tolling of the 180-day rule in cases of declared emergencies or natural disasters. Finally, it clearly states that only the employing agency is responsible for the investigation of disciplinary complaints, not other entities such as citizen review boards.

Source: Florida PBA

In this issue...

Letter From The Editor	5
Representative Kiar Visits BSO Meeting	7
2007 Scholarship Winners	8

BSO Update	10
Births	11
Letters & Thanks	12

The Broward Centurion

The Official Publication of the Broward County PBA (A Charter of the Florida PBA) 2650 West State Road 84 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312 Telephone: 954/584-7600 Fax: 954/583-0405

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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.

Members or readers submitting letters to the editor or articles for publication are requested to adhere to the following:

- Submissions should be sent to:

*Broward County PBA
Attn: Centurion
2650 West State Road 84
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
33312*
- 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 Letter

Now that the state legislature has come up with a tax decrease "solution," the PBA can give our members some idea of what this means for future pay and benefits.

I do not believe the voters will pass this amendment. It will take sixty percent of the voters to approve this new system, and as everyone knows it is hard to convince a majority to accept something that the average citizen does not understand.

The problem with the proposed system is that it does not include tax relief for the business man, the second homeowner or the renter, the people who were in need of a tax break. Instead, the legislature only gave a minimal break (approximately \$174.00) to those with Save Our Homes. I don't think the amendment saves enough for taxpayers to vote for it and possibly give up certain services that they have been enjoying.

In the meantime the tax cut (about a nine percent reduction) is going to make it hard for cities and counties to balance their budgets. This will be the issue that the PBA will be fighting when we sit down with these agencies during contract talks. The good news is the legislature did not cut 50 percent of taxes. The bad news is that state leaders feel a need to cut taxes for local government, but are giving little help to offset those losses.

Dick Brickman

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James O'Brien
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Sunrise (Lts)

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Welcome New Members

Vanessia L. Baker	Seminole
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Christopher S. Williams	BSO
Marvin D. Wilson Jr.	Coconut Creek Support
Donna M. Wisecarver	BSO
Marshall J. Wolcott	BSO

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Beverly A. Buss	BSO
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Tom Sadagursky	Pembroke Pines

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Law Enforcement News

Items of Interest From Around The U.S.

Chelsea, VT. - A woman was arrested and charged with cruelty to a police animal after she stared and made faces at a police dog.

Jayna Hutchinson was arrested after police responded to a call to investigate a report of a fight. Hutchinson approached officers, telling them she had been assaulted the day before by one of the men involved in the fight. A Vermont State Police sergeant refused to take her statement because she was apparently drunk and advised her he would take the statement at another time. Hutchinson became angry and approached the sergeant's cruiser, put her face within inches of the window and began "staring... in a taunting/harassing manner" at K-9 Max.

In his affidavit on the incident, Sgt. Todd Protzman said, "While the defendant taunted my canine, Max was focused on the defendant and the perceived threat she presented to him. He was no longer focused on me and the other officers at the scene." Two days before her trial, charges against the woman were dropped. The Orange County State's Attorney Will Porter said, "I think it was going to be difficult to prove her conduct changed the dog's behavior," after viewing a videotape of the incident.

Source: Associated Press



Miami - A veteran Miami-Dade police officer was arrested and charged with animal cruelty and an offense against a police dog after his K-9 partner died.

The 4-year-old dog, named Duke, collapsed during a training exercise. According to sources, the dog had barked when he wasn't supposed to and the officer, Sgt. Allen Cockfield, became angry and kicked the dog several times. When he realized the dog was unconscious, he rushed him to the vet.

Cockfield had been a K-9 officer for 25 years with a clean record. He was placed on administrative duty with pay while the investigation was being conducted.

Source: local10.com



East Islip, N.Y. - Almost 30,000 people paid the \$100 fee to take the entrance exam for the Suffolk County Police Department.

Salary may have been the reason. Suffolk County pays new cops \$57,811. Salaries top out at \$94,417. Overtime routinely pushes earnings into six figures. NYPD starting pay is \$25,100, which rises to \$34,000 after 18 months.

The pay is so high due to several arbitration rulings in favor of the county's police union.

Many of the applicants—about 30 percent—come to Suffolk County from neighboring departments, especially NYPD.

The test was conducted to fill approximately 100 openings a year over the next four years.

Source: Associated Press

Tachoma, Wash. - A woman has apparently tied a state record for BAL—the Washington State Patrol toxicology lab measured her at .50 two hours after she was arrested for drunk driving.

Rebecca G. Lingbloom, 45, tied the highest BAL ever found by the patrol's lab: more than six times the legal limit. Another driver also registered a .50 in 2000, according to a lab employee.

Lingbloom was arrested after it was reported that she nearly hit a pedestrian and was seen swerving all over the road, according to an affidavit. She was found passed out behind the wheel later in the day.

Source: Associated Press



AP Wire - Police departments around the country are relaxing age and fitness standards in order to find officers who are more worldly and experienced.

"Being well-rounded, having some life experience, makes for a better person and patrolman—someone who is coming up on a conflict who is mature and measured, as opposed to some young kid right out of school," said Boston City Council member Michael Flaherty, who proposed an age-limit increase.

Departments are also forgiving experimental drug use in a person's past. The aim is to relieve severe manpower shortages.

Source: Associated Press

A Letter From The Editor

Not too happy with *The Centurion*? Would you like to see more relevant, informative articles?

I couldn't agree more.

But here's the thing: I'm not a mindreader. Trust me, if I were, I would be a very rich woman living on my own private island somewhere. I'm here, spending a good deal of time trying to fill this space in a meaningful way. Most of the time I'm on my own.



I've asked. I've begged. Now I'm pleading for you guys to step up and tell me what you need from me. What kind of information are you looking for? Do you have questions that I can have answered for you? Concerns?

What do you want to read here?

I'm not out there with you; I don't always know what's going on and what needs to be addressed. My job is to give you information. I can give you all kinds of information—YOU have to tell me what is helpful to you.

It is in your hands. You can reach me via email at megan@bcpba.org, you can fax me at 954/583-0405, you can call me at 954/584-7600, you can stop in and see me. I'm in the PBA from 9:30-1:30 Monday through Friday. If you can't connect with me while I'm here, leave me a message.

* * *

I am currently in the process of getting our Web site a major facelift. I hope that by the end of the summer the new, improved site will be up and running.

It will feature more interactive elements as well a sleek new layout. I am working with a designer who has volunteered his services to the PBA. He will also help to keep the site up, running and current.

I'm going to do my best to see that this revamped site will have copies of the current contract for each of our collective bargaining units and to be sure that meeting information is available to our members. Your comments and suggestions regarding the Web site are always welcome too.

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Florida is currently being represented by the Broward Co. Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Co. Sheriff's Office, Alachua Co. Sheriff's Office, Orange Co. Sheriff's Office, Palm Beach Co. Sheriff's Office, Davie PD, Sea Ranch Lakes PD, Metro-Dade PD, Tampa PD, Naples PD and several others.

LEO Spouses Support Group

**Next meeting: Monday, August 13
6:30 pm**

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10-206-05PGA

State Representative Martin Kiar Addresses BSO Reps

Martin Kiar, a friend of the Broward County PBA, recently dropped in on our BSO reps' monthly meeting. Representative Kiar thanked the deputies for their support and reiterated his commitment to supporting law enforcement both locally and at the state level.



Martin Kiar

We thank Representative Kiar both for stopping by and for his continued support.



Kiar with BSO Reps

To Our Members With Take-Home Vehicles

From Barbara Duffy, General Counsel

As the result of a recent ruling by the 4th DCA, all of you with take-home cars need to be aware that you should obtain a rider or endorsement on your car insurance policy for liability and medical coverage for the operation of your take-home vehicle off-duty. This includes driving it to and home from work.

The cost of the coverage is minimal, and it could save you a lot of money and worry.

Wanted: Sky Divers

We want you if you are an LEO who is a licensed sky diver with USPA cards and are interested in being part of the 25-way formation skydive for the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) 25th anniversary celebration. The date and location of the event will be announced as soon as it has been confirmed.

Officers with a minimum of 200 jumps and the ability to raise \$1,000 for COPS should contact PO3 Greg Knott of the Montgomery County (MD) Police Department at gkjumps4cops@comcast.net. Please respond as soon as possible; we need your commitment to proceed.

You can find more information on COPS at www.nationalcops.org.



2007 Scholarship Award Winners



This year we were fortunate enough to receive a bequest from a longtime friend of the Broward PBA that enabled us to offer every one of our applicants an award for their hard work and dedication.

The top honors go to **Michelle DeJesus**, daughter of Hollywood officer **Michael DeJesus**. Her essay was quite impressive. So impressive, in fact, that we are publishing it. You'll find it on the next page. Her parents should be very proud, both of their daughter and the job they did raising her.

The awards for the top five winners will be presented at the July 19 Board of Directors meeting at the Marriott Courtyard, 400 Gulf Stream Way in Dania Beach.

Thank you to this year's scholarship committee for reading through all the essays and making this most difficult decision: **Lynn Covet**, **Kelli Covet** and **Dianne Hudson**.

Top Five

- Michelle DeJesus
- Alexis Augusto
- Meagan Nagy
- Jennifer Hanlon
- Sean Hanrahan

Other Winners

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Justin Augustus | Ryann Wilson |
| Justin Evans | Melani Hafsadi |
| Jamie Pendergast | Brittany Behan |
| Amanda Milligan | Caitlin Reilly |
| Jerry Whited | Eric Stzalkowski |
| Josh McDonald | Tara Kinney |
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First Place Scholarship Award Winner

How Having A Parent In Law Enforcement Influenced My Life

By Michelle DeJesus

My father has been a police officer for over 25 years. I believe that police officers have characteristics that have a direct influence on many aspects of life. For example, they have an understanding that there is an order to the way in which their business is conducted in and out of the station. There is a respect for authority that is exemplified in their training. There is also the understanding of consequences to actions. They live their lives to care for and protect others and their property. They defend the weak, help those less fortunate and help hold others accountable for their actions. These are just a few of the responsibilities of their job.

I grew up watching my father uphold the law...
And I learned the meaning of *integrity*.

I grew up watching my father help those in need...
And I learned the meaning of *compassion*.

I grew up watching my father go into disasters when others were coming out...
And I learned the meaning of *courage*.

I grew up watching my father be merciful...
And I learned the meaning of *humility*.

I grew up watching my father listen to authority...
And I learned the meaning for *respect*.

Still to this day I am astounded at the bravery that a law enforcement officer has. Their willingness to help others in any situation is nothing less than amazing. So when asked the question "How has having a parent in law enforcement influenced my life," I would have to say that I have been influenced by my father's amazing example in every aspect of my life. How I conduct myself at school, work, and socially is all directly affected. I was taught that if I work hard at whatever I do, then I will reap the benefits. Knowing there are consequences to my actions keeps me in check with decisions I make. Unfortunately most people my age don't get the honor of living with a role model like I do. By being a law enforcement officer my father has taught me skills that I will cherish and use for the rest of my life, and for that I truly thank him.



Attention BSO Members

Update—June 2007

If you have been served with a lawsuit related to your job, you need to notify BSO's legal department ASAP.

We have been told that the State Attorney's office will pursue cases where drugs like steroids or diet pills are prescribed through labs without the patient first being seen by a medical doctor. If you are being prescribed medication, be sure that the doctor examines you before you get the prescription.

Your contract supercedes any policies and procedures. Anything that con-

flicts with what is in your contract does not apply to you.

Contract Negotiations

Sheriff Jenne called a meeting with the PBA and the firefighters' union to discuss the impact of the property tax situation on our membership.

The Sheriff has told us that BSO will present a united front, that he would accept no loss, no layoffs and no cutbacks and is prepared to fight the city commission if necessary to honor that commitment.

The Sheriff and his team are gearing up for contract negotiations. We are in the process of making final touches to our contract proposals. Here are some of the things we are including:

- a proposed study on an alternate work schedule in one or several districts to see how it works
- Changes to the promotional testing process
- a field force supplement
- Changes to sick leave payout requirements

As usual, we are requesting a "fair and equitable raise." What amount that will be is determined on the entire package offered. All changes to the current contract will be voted on by BSO members before any offer is accepted.

P.B.A. MEMBERS



July 2007



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Births

Miramar officer Jonathan Black and his wife, Miramar officer Julie Black, welcomed their fifth child, Emily Rose, on April 18. Emily weighed in at 8 lbs., and was 18 1/4 inches long. Her siblings—Sydney, Abigail, Jonathan Jr. and Joseph-- are thrilled with the arrival their new sister.



Zachary and Joshua DeMarco

BSO Lt. Anthony DeMarco and his wife, Donna, had their second child, Joshua Bryce, on April 19. Joshua weighed in at 7 lbs., 4 oz. Anthony, Donna and big brother Zachary are elated to welcome him to the family.

BSO deputy Kevin Taub and his wife, Kimmie, welcomed a daughter on June 16. Kyra Danielle weighed in at 7 lbs., 6 oz. and measured 20 inches.

Members Named Officers Of The Month

Congratulations to Hollywood officers Oscar Sola-Vega, Josh Czerenda and John Herl for being named Officers of the Month for April 2007.



Officers Sola-Vega, Czerenda and Herl were honored at an awards presentation held on June 20 in the city commission chambers.

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Letters & Thanks

June 15th, 2007

To: Dick Brickman
President – Broward County PBA

From: Deputy Kevin McClure
Broward Sheriff's Office
PBA Member

Re: Letter of Appreciation

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Broward County Police Benevolent Association for its support and hard work in getting my case resolved, my name cleared, and getting me back to work.

I cannot imagine there are many more situations which could hurt a police officer and his family as being terminated for "untruthfulness." During this time, I struggled both emotionally and financially. It has been a constant battle balancing the fight to clear my name with finding a way to provide for my family.

I have been a PBA member since 1999, and have really never needed any of its services until I was terminated in 2006. It was truly a comfort to see that the PBA never wavered in its belief that I had been truthful and was wrongfully terminated.

You immediately suspended any financial responsibilities that I had to the PBA, taking away some of the new financial burden I was facing. You then amazed me with the quality of legal representation you assigned to my case. I realize the cost the PBA incurred in acquiring the services of Attorney Alberto Milian to represent me far exceed any PBA dues I have paid since being a member. Mr. Milian far exceeded my expectations in both the time he devoted and manner in which he handled my case.

After a long battle, we were victorious and I have now returned to work. This is just a small expression of the gratitude I feel toward the PBA for being there when I needed them the most.

I Lost 50 Pounds!



Before (170 lbs.)



After (120 lbs.)

*Dear Dr. Besen,
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(RETIRED OFFICER – CITY OF MIAMI BEACH POLICE)
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Buying • Refinancing • Equity lines
Get your home equity line now! Be prepared for emergencies!

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WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BUSINESSES!



Any cop or firefighter (or family member) with a business to promote may do so FREE of charge at www.cfbnetwork.com. Do business with someone you can trust! Register today!

FREE EQUITY LOANS

For any purpose. No closing costs – pay off debt, build a pool, buy a car, pay for college, take a vacation.

Borrow up to 100% of the value of your home. You only make payments on the amount you borrow. An equity line is fantastic to have set-up for those emergencies or unplanned expenses. It works similar to a credit card, at generally lower rates, and the interest is usually tax deductible, **consult your tax advisor**. If you have equity in your home, set up an equity line today.

Another Benefit from Your PBA

Retirement Planning

Why go anywhere else?

Trust the ones who know your retirement options:

The Law Enforcement Retirement Advisory Service

"your partner in retirement planning"

For help with all your retirement planning needs:

- *Deferred Compensation*
- *Life Insurance*
- *Variable Annuities*
- *FRS Investment Plan*
- *DROP*
- *Mutual Funds*
- *IRAs*
- *§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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Securities offered through Legend Equities Corporation, Member NASD and SIPC.
Advisory services offered through Legend Advisory Corporation, a SEC Registered Investment Advisor.



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