



Jim Wiggins
Director of Organizational Services

Please encourage non-members to join the 36,000 officers throughout Florida who belong to the Florida PBA!

Call Toll Free: 1-800-733-3722 to join today!

News from Around the State

Organizational Update

Cruising The State...

As the economy continues to decline, many of our competitors' bargaining units are turning to the Florida PBA. They want to decertify their current representatives by electing to call on the Public Employees Relations Commission to conduct an election in order to determine who the affected officers want to have as their collective bargaining representative. Every Florida PBA chapter that represents city and county law enforcement units has interest from current FOP and Teamster bargaining units. There are examples of this move toward the PBA all across the state.

President Mick McHale and the Southwest Florida Chapter have an opportunity to make Sarasota County wall to wall PBA for the first time ever by bringing Venice PD (FOP) into their chapter.

President John Park and the Central Florida Chapter have been on quite a roll that started when the Ocoee PD (Teamsters) voted the PBA in with 95% of the vote, followed closely by St. Cloud and Leesburg PD's. Not wanting to rest on its laurels, the Central Florida Chapter is aggressively working with officers at the Winter Garden PD (Teamsters) to make the PBA their collective bargaining representative.

President Bain Custer and the Northwest Florida Chapter are making a move on the Santa Rosa Sheriff's Office (FOP). They have identified a core group of respected deputies who want a more professional method of bargaining than that offered by the current representatives.

President Brandon Kutner and the North Central Florida Chapter are exploring interest by a group of Ocala PD (FOP) officers. They are tired of the same old "business

as usual" approach. The officers preferred the political approach exhibited by the North Central Florida Chapter in last November's Sheriff and County Commission races.

Some of you may be asking yourselves why would these groups want to break with their (sometimes) decades long relationships? The answer is really quite simple. The Florida PBA is a business focused on providing professional, highly trained chief negotiators to our bargaining units; unlike our competitors who rely on an agency's own officers to act in this capacity for themselves, which could potentially put officers at a disadvantage with their employers. These agencies are learning that the PBA takes a team approach to bargaining. We have the ability to

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access legal and accounting assets when the need arises at the table, or when impasse proceedings are necessary. Something the PBA does (that our competitors choose to outsource or forego completely) is have a full-time political consultant coupled with professional publication and printing personnel available year round. They will assist with developing a multimedia message and strategies should a bargaining team find themselves in the Court of Public

Opinion asking local taxpayers to assist in breaking impasse barriers.

So if you come in contact with a fellow officer represented by one of our competitors (or no representation), take a moment and educate them about what the Florida PBA brings to the collective bargaining table. If they are interested, we'll be glad to sit down with them to discuss how they too can bring positive, professional change to their agency. ●



Officer Rick Crews and his K-9 partner - Starke PD



(L-R) Deputy McKenzie, Sgt. Bennett, Deputies Rosado, Baldwin, Strickland, Williams and Officer Parker discussing the Sheriff granting dues checkoff for the Bradford County Sheriff's Office with PBA Rep Paul Welborn (not shown.)



Officer Keith Parker - Starke PD



Sgt. Robinson and Officer Smith - Avon Park PD



FWC SOG officers prepare for their part in the SUPER BOWL security net. PBA Rep David Ham discusses the upcoming legislative session with Lts. Dunnegan, Caffin and Officer Davis.



PBA Rep Jerry Childress (L) discussing special and regular sessions with CPO Ralph Broakey.