

The Latest From The Capitol

Legislative Update



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Campaign Time

Summertime... The long hot days, balmy humid nights, volatile weather and blistering campaign attack ads. This is truly my favorite time of year. Campaign season... admit it, you love it too! We're Americans; it's in our blood. We love the intrigue and pontifications about who will win what race by how much and what it could mean to your curbside trash service. We look forward to discussions of a scandal while anxiously waiting for the tactical campaign spin that either sets the candidate back on message, or digs a much deeper hole. Sure, you may not read one word written in a direct mail piece or pay any attention to TV ads, but face let's it... you still love it. Am I right...?

Not really interested?

That's understandable. But guess what? Your employer at some point answers to an elected official. So like it or not,

politics and politicians directly affect you, your family and your bottom line.

With that in mind, we urge you to get involved with your PBA locally endorsed candidates this year. A perfect place to start is by contacting your local Chapter or Charter to learn what events it has planned to support our friends. Another good source of information is *Florida PBA Special Election Roll Call*; expect it in your mailbox in August. The *Roll Call* will list all of our endorsed candidates for each statewide race and legislative district by county, as well as local endorsed candidates.

There are 45 open seats in the Florida Legislature this year. That's a lot of new faces. Our top priority this summer is to meet with each candidate, educate them on our interests and issues, and ensure the candidates we choose get elected in the September 5th Primary and November 7th General Elections.

Session Recap

Here's a look at how we fared in this year's Legislative Session and insight on where we are headed for next year.

2006 Success Stories

The Florida Legislature appropriated a three percent across the board pay raise to every state employee for the 2006-2007 Budget year effective October 1, 2006. On top of that, the PBA was able to secure additional pay increases for our FDLE and Security Services Bargaining Units.

The FDLE Special Agents:

PBA, working closely with former **FDLE Commissioner Guy Tunnell**, secured the funding for the **FDLE Special Agents** pay compression package (Increases range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 depending on length of service), which takes effect Oct 1, 2006 along with a two percent performance pay increase available to every FDLE employee effective June 1, 2007.

| Years of Service | PAY COMPRESSION PACKAGES 2006 | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | FDLE Increase* Special Agents | FDLE Capitol Police Increase | Corrections and Probation Officers | SLEO Increase Non-FHP Officers | FHP Troopers Increase |
| At 3 years | \$3,000 | \$500 per year of service, max. \$5,000 | — 0 — | — 0 — | — 0 — |
| At 5 years | — 0 — | | 2%** | — 0 — | — 0 — |
| At 6 years | \$5,000 | | — 0 — | — 0 — | — 0 — |
| At 10 years | \$4,000 | +2% performance bonus | 3%** | — 0 — | — 0 — |
| At 16 years | \$3,000 | | — 0 — | — 0 — | — 0 — |

*Includes a 2% Performance Raise plus the regular annual payraise granted all state employees.
 **This is in addition to the regular 3% payraise granted all state employees.
 Capitol Police included in FDLE 2% Performance Raise and their Retention Plan. (Source: 2006 State Budget)

Correctional Officers, Probation Officers and Institutional Security Specialists:

The security services unit continued to build off of last year's two percent compression relief package for officers with five or more years of service. This year PBA secured nearly \$10 million to fund the two percent bump at the five year mark again, but only if the officer did not receive it last year, and we added another "bump" of three percent for anyone with ten years or more of service. The plan is to continue

funding bumps for officers reaching the five and ten year marks and add another bump at fifteen years of service.

Special thanks go out to **House Budget Chairman, Representative Joe Negron**, and **Senate Budget Chairwoman, Senator Lisa Carlton**.

By the way, Representative Joe Negron was PBA's Legislator of the Year winner for the second consecutive year.

Increased Mileage Reimbursement for Probation Officers

It took a decade, but **Correctional Probation Officers**, along with all state employees, received an increase to their per mile travel reimbursement. **SB 428** raises the mileage reimbursement to 44.5 cents per mile, the rate set by our bills sponsored by **Representative Marti Coley** and **Senator Mike Fasano**, and increases per diem to \$6 for breakfast, \$11 for lunch, \$19 for dinner and \$80 for lodging, the language in bills by **Representative Lorraine Ausley** and **Senator Al Lawson**. The increases were effective July 1, 2006.

Special thanks to our bill sponsors **Senator Mike Fasano** and **Representative Marti Coley**.

Uniform Dart Firing Stun Gun Law

The law enforcement community rallied around PBA's uniform dart firing stun gun legislation this year. **Florida PBA Executive Director David Murrell** correctly assumed that if something was not done to tighten up training and deployment standards for dart firing stun guns, the weapon could soon be banned. There is no question that the weapon is a valuable tool for an officer that not only reduces the use of force incidents, but is reducing officer injuries. Still there have been widely publicized incidents of abuse, which if continued would lead to the eventual banning of the weapon.



FDLE Special Agents President Rick Caplano and State Corrections President Jim Baiardi review the pay raises in the Appropriations Conference Committee Report.



Representative Joe Negron with the PBA Board of Directors after receiving his second consecutive "PBA Legislator of the Year" award.



PBA members and Senator Stephen Wise pose for a photo after SB 214 makes its final passage in the Senate.