



*James  
"Jim"  
Baiardi*

# *A Message From the President of the* **SCO Chapter**

**A** tough year has passed and another is on the horizon. I want to thank all of you who signed our petition for fair pay raises for this upcoming year to our elected leaders. I also want to thank the officers who wrote our elected leaders professionally and voiced their concerns about the pay and working conditions of Florida's correctional officers. We must continue to stay united this upcoming year and, with your support and assistance, we will get the best possible pay raise for Florida's state correctional officers.

Last year's negotiations were not a total loss. Although I was very disappointed by the Legislature not funding the pay raise agreed to by the PBA and **Governor Crist**, they did award us three non-monetary items. The most important being that correctional officers will again be able to put in for the Administrative Shift and the senior one will be awarded the shift. The only exception to this will be speciality positions such as: lock and key, K-9, and arsenal.

Another item received is lowering the time you must be in class to not be removed from shift/days off. Currently, if

you are career service permanent status in your class for at least two years, you cannot be removed unless you request it. This will now be lowered to one year.

And last, captains and lieutenants will have their shift/days off assignments by seniority like the officers and sergeants covered the contact.

Starting in October, the PBA and the State will enter into contract talks again. All articles of the contract are open to bargaining. I would like your input again. Please mail in any suggestions you may have to me at P.O. Box 2444, Miami, FL 33157. I will read every one personally.

In closing, I am looking forward to visiting each and every member and institution. At the time we are going to press, I am touring institutions and will have a *Corrections Review* coming out in late October with the results of your mailed in suggestions, tour, and the results of the Special Session.

Stay safe, and thank you for walking one of the toughest beats in law enforcement. ●



*Matt Tyre*

# *A Message From the President of the* **SLEO Chapter**

## **2007 – An Eventful Year for SLEO's**

**T**his has been an eventful year for the State Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) Chapter to say the least. We began the year with high hopes and a realistic expectation that salary inequities and pay compression experienced by state officers would be addressed in the 2007 Legislative Session. In his 2007 budget request, the Governor proposed a significant police pay package which would have added between 8% and 24% (depending on longevity) to each officer's paycheck. I was impressed with the intense unified effort put forth by state officers, SLEO board members, command staff from many agencies, and of course the ever present PBA staff and lobbyists, in support of this package. Despite these efforts, which included a complete "full court press" lobbying effort from January on, a budgetary shortfall prevailed and "Florida's finest" were left empty handed. Sadly, Florida, soon to be the third largest state in terms of population and with some of the highest cost of living areas in the United States, now has the dubious distinction of fielding about the **lowest** paid state officers in the nation!

*"Our membership continues to grow at a rapid pace..."*

Now that the dust and disappointment of the 2007 Legislative Session have settled somewhat, we are back at full throttle again. Our top priority remains addressing the pay issue both in terms of base salary and supplemental additives. We will aggressively pursue this issue during the coming special and regular sessions of the legislature.

The SLEO Chapter has fared much better on other fronts. We have established good working relationships with command staff personnel from all of our respective agencies and have seen several longstanding issues addressed. Our membership continues to grow at a rapid pace and several agencies now have more than 50% of their sworn officers as PBA members. Contract negotiations with the state continue to progress quite well. We are meeting with the Department of Management Services again in October and will work out the few remaining issues at that time. We hope to have a ratification vote on the new contract in the near future.

The 2008 election cycle promises to be an exciting one. Accordingly, we are gearing up towards the primary and general election cycles and will play a very active role in the political process. We have experienced early successes in the special House and Senate elections held this year. Actually, all of the candidates we backed won their respective races! We look forward to working with these newly elected Representatives and Senators in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every State Law Enforcement Officer and Investigator for the professionalism they show on a day to day basis. This was perhaps best exemplified by the manner in which they responded to the tremendous blow felt by each and every one of us this past legislative session. This speaks volumes as to both the character and integrity of Florida's State Law Enforcement Officers. The people of Florida are served well by your daily efforts, commitment, and courage shown in the face of adversity. I look forward to serving you in the coming years as we work on solutions to the disparities in pay, working conditions, and other issues facing us all. ●

### **Correction Officer's Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club**



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To all C/O Biker brothers and sisters within the Department of Corrections:  
A Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club designed exclusively for the Department of Corrections, serving State & County Correction and Law Enforcement Officers. HCMC's Chapters FLA & FLA II are now operating and accepting new members. HCMC would like to encourage all C/O motorcycle enthusiasts to join. For more information on membership, please contact the above or see our National web site @ <http://www.hardchargersmotorcycleclub.com>