

Organizational Update



Jim Wiggins
Director of Organizational Services

During the transition between the State Law Enforcement Officers election to determine who would be your collective bargaining representative and the nominations and election of the Executive Boards for the SLEO and FHP chapters of the Florida PBA, the members of the State Law Enforcement Bargaining Unit have been very busy dealing with the issues that arise every day. Aside from the Internal Affairs investigations and Pre Determination conferences that the PBA staff are handling, first of all I'm glad to report that we've added over 400 new members. We've also been meeting with various agency heads in an effort to identify issues affecting each of you in the unit. We're working with members of your Command Staffs to ensure that we show a unified front as we approach the upcoming legislative session. We are gathering all of this information so the newly elected FHP and SLEO boards can hit the ground running. Having a positive impact on the working conditions of each member of the bargaining unit, together we will make a difference.

I'm also excited about **President Jim Baiardi's** plan to hold a statewide training seminar for Unit Reps from each correctional institution around the state. These officers are responsible for working with President Baiardi and his Board of Directors to keep the members at their institutions informed

about what's going on in the State Correctional Officer's Chapter and ensuring that each officer has been given an opportunity to join the Florida PBA. So you can see why I'm looking forward to meeting and working with each of them.

Speaking of excitement, I'd like to congratulate **President Kevin Oberlin** and the North Central Florida PBA Board on a job well done for winning the bargaining election (beat FOP by over 2 to 1), and then hammering out a collective bargaining agreement with outgoing **Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich**. In addition to that, they added the Levy County Jail to their list of bargaining units.

Other chapters that have been busy over the summer are **President John Park** and the Central Florida PBA Board of Directors with their drive to bring the Orange County Jail back to the PBA, and **President Cecil Pendergrass** and the Gulf Coast PBA for their membership efforts at the Lee County Sheriff's Office and organizing efforts at the Fort Myers Airport Authority P.D. A job well done by each of you! I look forward to working with you and your boards as we work to grow and empower your chapters.


In closing, I'd like to thank each of the internal leaders the organizational staff relies on to help us get the message out and win the many certification elections that we're involved in. You're an integral part of the PBA team. Thanks for all you do!

Please encourage non-members to join the 34,000 officers around the state to receive the benefits of belonging to the Florida PBA, "The Voice of Florida's Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers!"



PBA meets with Florida Highway Patrol Colonel Knight to discuss issues of mutual concern.



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