

A Message From the President of the Central Florida Chapter



John Park

Déjà vu

Recently, I helped the Gulf Coast PBA and its **President Cecil Pendergrass** in their efforts to afford Lee County Sheriff's Office deputies and corporals the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining.

As I waited to speak to these deputies, I had a severe case of déjà vu as I listened to all the misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding the PBA and collective bargaining. Not too long ago, my agency (Orange County Sheriff's Office) experienced the exact same issues that led to a lot of confusion and conflict before we finally organized our deputies and supervisors. Whenever we begin to organize, it doesn't take long to identify some people who are in it for themselves as they rail against the PBA for no legitimate reason. Some (not all) people are often misinformed and agenda driven to enhance "their" pay, benefits and work conditions by selfishly looking out only for themselves! Some people even get career enhancements for their anti-PBA stance, but we won't go there! Do those enhancements sound

familiar? These are the same pay, benefits and work condition enhancements the PBA seeks for everyone, not just one individual. Even the Sheriffs who convince their employees to be anti-PBA display gross hypocrisy because they rely on their own union (Florida Sheriff's Association) to—you know by now—**ENHANCE THEIR PAY, BENEFITS AND WORK CONDITIONS!** Ironically, many LEO's are convinced by their employer's scary propaganda that they will lose everything in the process of getting the PBA union in place. If an employer is using misleading fear and intimidation tactics to convince you to be anti-PBA, that should be the most convincing evidence to be pro-PBA.

I hope that sworn LEOs throughout Florida learn from others that PBA collective bargaining and representation is a win-win for everyone. It is a victory for employees because they finally have a voice at the negotiation table and it is a win for employers because they can have a powerful partner (PBA) in their attempts to enhance pay, benefits and work conditions for their employees. ●

With the Florida PBA, you get more than just a contract!

Sure, the Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA) will be with you while negotiating your collective bargaining contract, and the PBA will have the best negotiators in the state working with you to get the best possible contract for officers... But the Florida PBA doesn't stop there.

Florida PBA has a full-time staff of trained professionals at your disposal. Florida PBA is in the business of making Florida the best possible place to work, live and retire from, by protecting you and your rights day in and day out. Should any problem or concern arise, we're just a phone call (toll-free) away. As a member of the Florida PBA you receive:

- A legal defense plan that is truly second to none, including an on-the-scene PBA attorney 24 hours a day if you are involved in an on-duty shooting, custodial death, or accident in which someone is injured;
- Representation by a trained professional at any grievance hearing, whether a contract violation, a civil service issue or disciplinary action, including certification revocation (CJSTC);
- PBA Death and Disability Benefit — This is a program through the Florida PBA Heart Fund, free to members, which provides certain death or disability benefits to the member, spouse or dependent children when the member is killed or permanently injured in-line-of-duty;
- Experienced full-time staff representatives who work closely with you when the need arises;
- Full-time lobbyists who are constantly working to ensure that your rights and needs are represented before the Florida Legislature;
- Access to PBA staff through toll-free numbers if involved in an on-duty shooting, custodial death, or accident in which someone is injured;
- Current, up-to-date information on pay, benefits, legislation, and legal issues affecting law enforcement, correctional probation and correctional officers every day.
- E-PBA E-Mail News Service bringing you breaking and timely news about what's up at the PBA, helpful information regarding legislative issues, quick tips, and best practices for members.

The Florida PBA works for you 24 hours a day, to ensure that your rights are protected and your benefits are enhanced. The PBA represents a membership of over 36,000 officers working together, so we can win together.

The PBA has got your back!

Join the Florida PBA Team Today!



A good ol' boy named Mark was stopped by Matt, the game warden, and he had two ice chests full of fish. He was leaving a small lake, well-known for its fishing.

Officer Matt asked Mark, "Do you have a license to catch all those fish?"

"No, sir," replied Mark. "I ain't got one of them licenses. You gotta understand, these here are my pet fish."

"Pet fish?"

"Yeah. Every night, I take these here fish down to the lake and let 'em swim 'round for awhile. Then, when I whistle, they jump right back into these ice chests and I take 'em home."

"That's a bunch of hooley! Fish can't do that."

Mark looked at Officer Matt for a moment and then said, "It's the truth Officer. I'll show ya. It really works."

"O.K.," said Officer Matt. "I've got to see this!"

The fisherman poured the fish into the lake and stood and waited.

After several minutes, the warden says, "Well?"

"Well, what?" says Mark.

Officer Matt questions, "When are you going to call them back?"

"Call who back?"

"The FISH," replied the Officer!

"What fish?" replied Mark.

Moral of the story: Some fishermen may not be the sharpest hook in the tackle box, but they know how to use talk a good game when they have to.