

# News from Around the State

## Organizational Update



*Jim Wiggins*  
 Director of Organizational Services

### PBA Bargaining Units "Take Notice:

I'm involved in contract negotiations from Marco Island in south Florida to Lake City located at the intersection of I-75 and I-10 in North Florida. I work as the Chief Negotiator or as my esteemed colleague **Jim Spearing** puts it "I'm slithering along the back wall" working the back channels trying to help a bargaining unit close the deal at the negotiating table.

During these current rounds of negotiations throughout the state, it has become abundantly clear that a lot of our bargaining units are upside down in their local politics. If you couple that with the current economic environment we're negotiating in, it creates the perfect storm for the employer.

Employers at every level of government are using this storm to demand massive across the board reductions in everything from base pay to the complete destruction of your pensions!

The solution to the "Perfect Storm" is political. You've got to be able to count a simple majority on the council, commission, or committee that holds the purse strings that impact your bargaining unit. If you're in a deputy bargaining unit, the sheriff has to know that you're a viable player in local politics, able to impact their run for office as well.

If you don't act on anything else in this edition of the *Roll Call*, decide that, from this day forward, you and your fellow bargaining unit members are going to be involved in every local political race that impacts your bargaining unit's ability to improve or protect the wages, benefits, and working conditions you currently enjoy.

Now I know what some of you are thinking, "Isn't that what the PBA is supposed to do?" The answer is that, while the Florida PBA headquartered in Tallahassee has a firm grip on the politics of the Florida Legislature and statewide office holders, it relies on you, the individual bargaining units within the various chapters of the PBA, to make the decisions about your local politics. The Florida PBA is ready to assist you in the research and screening of local candidates for public office. However, ultimately, you will decide who to endorse locally.

The most important thing to remember is that your group's involvement shouldn't end with your chapter's letter of endorsement and a check from your chapter's political action account. To guarantee long term political success, you have to take the necessary next step and become intimately involved in your candidate's run for office. A group's ability to mobilize volunteers in order to go door to door, work the phone lines, or waving a candidate's sign at busy intersections are examples of the things every candidate needs to ensure a successful run for office.

You'll know you've arrived when potential candidates start seeking you out prior to declaring for a specific office, knowing that your endorsement is an integral part of what they need to mount a successful campaign.

Sounds like a lot of work doesn't it? It is! However, the impact on your bargaining unit will be priceless. Get started today, building for a better tomorrow by contacting your PBA Chapter President, identifying those offices that need to be screened in your areas. ●

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



*Florida PBA President John Rivera presented Certificates of Appreciation to Director of Organizational Services Jim Wiggins, Staff Rep Paul Welborn and Staff Rep Linda Anthony for their dedication and service to the PBA during the Board Meeting held on June 5, 2010.*

### Hitch Receiver Cover

Florida PBA has recently added the PBA Hitch Receiver Cover to its list of items available for **MEMBERS ONLY** to purchase. It is blue high density plastic with gold printing. The cover comes with spring pin (shown) or you can use your own hitch pin. There are two sizes for either 2" or 1 1/4" receivers (please specify which size you need). Display them proudly on your vehicle or give them as a gift to your family and friends.

**Only \$10<sup>00</sup> each**

**MEMBERS ONLY:**

Send your check for \$10 each (no sales tax) to Florida PBA, 300 E. Brevard St., Tallahassee, FL 32301  
 Don't forget to specify size.



*“The hardest thing in life is to know which bridge to cross and which to burn.”*

*~ David Russell*