



GENDARME




The Official Publication of the ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - LODGE 68

Vol. 40 No. 10

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DECEMBER 2010

Season's Greetings from the St. Louis Police Officers' Assn.



Remembering Our Troops

Wishing SLPOA Members Paul Drago and Randy Jemerson **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**--
We look forward to their safe return from their active duty in the military.


Addison Strehl - 1st Place

CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST WINNERS



Sean McCrary - 1st Runner-up



Emily Jauer - 2nd Runner-up



Anthony Miriani - 3rd Runner-up



Donovan McDonough - 4th Runner-up



Abby Llewellyn - 5th Runner-up

From the President

By Tom Walsh



Season's Greetings ...I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we enter into 2011, I wanted to review 2010 and look ahead at some of the issues that we will be facing in the coming year.

2010 brought us several challenges; some we overcame, some we fell short on and some are still pending. One challenge still pending is the Collective Bargaining agreement. At the December Board of Police Commissioners meeting we learned the Board rejected the agreement that was reached in principle between the negotiating teams. However, I believe in a gesture of good faith to come to an agreement, the Board extended negotiations for an additional 90 days. As such, the negotiating teams will return to the bargaining table as soon as possible. As I write this article I have not yet learned what the Board liked or disliked about the negotiated agreement.

One interesting thing occurred during the December Board meeting. Mayor Slay, felt the need to inform the news cameras and those of us in attendance that he and the

remainder of the Board were being sincere in their efforts to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. At this point, I do believe the Colonels and Chief Isom are sincere in their efforts to achieve an agreement; however, I am uncertain how sincere the Mayor is really being. During the last legislative session in testimony before the Senate Committee hearing on Local Control, the Mayor offered collective bargaining with binding arbitration to the SLPOA if the City was granted control of the Department. After the Mayor realized that his offer didn't impress the Committee, and after the House of Representatives' bill was defeated, he rescinded the offer. Time will only tell what Mayor Slay's true motives are concerning collective bargaining.

A challenge we overcame in 2010 was to defeat the most enhanced effort ever by Mayor Slay and the rest of the City Politicians to gain control of the Police Department. What at one time, according to our lobbyists, was a sure win in the House of Representatives for Mayor Slay and the City Politicians, turned into a resounding

defeat for them when the House of Representatives rejected the proposed legislation. (Even with the uncertainty in the House we believed we would have been able to beat back any legislation in the Senate.)

Rest assured; however, that Mayor Slay and the City Politicians will again try to obtain control of our Police Department in the 2011 legislative session. A bill has already been drafted by Senator Joe Keaveny. And, Representative Jamilah Nasheed, this coming session, will chair the Urban Issues Committee where the House's version of the Local Politician Control bill will likely be sent. Also be assured that Mayor Slay and the City Politicians will be much more proactive to seek control of our pension system, as well. With the turnover of Representatives in the House, we again have our work cut out for us to defeat all Local Politician Control and Pension Control legislation in the House. Everyone needs to be ready to fight this year. A collaboration of all is a much stronger message than the words of a few.

A challenge we did not accomplish was to achieve a successful election for retired Sergeant Jim Long into the State Senate. However, what we did learn from this challenge was our ability to have an effect on the political field within the

City. We scared the hell out of Mayor Slay's candidate, elected Senator Joe Keaveny. The Mayor enacted most of the Board of Aldermen to openly politic for Senator Keaveny. We as an association need to be better prepared and become more involved in the City's political venue when the opportunity presents itself. Remember, Jim, who the voting gurus thought would be annihilated, received 43% of the vote. And, 31% of the voters opposed the meaningless Proposition L "local control" referendum; a referendum that the voters essentially saw very little, if any, critique on.

Chief Isom, with the Board of Police Commissioners approval, has created a "Rapid Deployment Unit". The staffing of this unit will come from the depletion of Desk Officers and the reduction of the Traffic Division. While I don't necessarily agree with how the staffing of this new unit came about, I have no problem with the creation of the unit itself. As the Mobile Reserve Unit became more tactical, it greatly reduced the number of quality weapon and narcotic arrests affected throughout the city. This gave the degenerates of this City a feeling of comfort. The scum were much more apprehensive when Mobile Reserve patrolled the streets. This is not a criticism of any other specialized unit and we all know the chal

Continued on page 3

GENDARME

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Guidelines for Letters to the Editor: All letters to the editor must be signed and verifiable by phone or personal contact. Freedom of expression is guaranteed within the bounds of good taste and the limits of available space. Upon request the author's name may be withheld from publication and confidentiality is assured. The Gendarme takes no responsibility for the content of the letters in this section.

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Deadline for articles submitted to the Gendarme is by the first Monday of the month of the date of publication. Copyright Gendarme 2010.

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"The objective of the Saint Louis Police Officers' Association shall be to advance the moral, social and material standing of the members of the Association by honorable and lawful means. As a labor organization the Association shall endeavor to achieve Collective Bargaining with Binding Arbitration." (Preamble of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws)

PRESIDENT

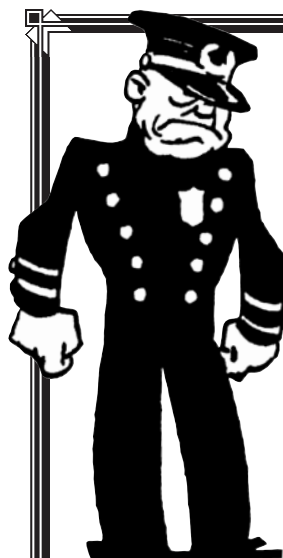
Continued from page 2

lenges the District Patrol Officers face each shift. But to have an aggressive group of uniform Officers, Sergeants and a Lieutenant that can concentrate on the 'hot spots' in this City, help support the district Officers and affect quality weapon and narcotic arrests will be invaluable.

One curious item on the December Board of Police Commissioners agenda was the hiring of a full time Internal Affairs Attorney. This hiring was approved, as it was reported to the Board that the Department spent in excess of a half million dollars on Board Trials and other Internal Affairs issues in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 and \$75,000.00 already in fiscal year 2011. I don't remember the Police Department ever having a full time attorney for Internal Affairs. If Internal Affairs would be returned to a position of integrity, the need for a full time attorney would be non-existent. The fact that specific charges

brought against an Officer are "not sustained" or "unfounded" should terminate the investigation. Instead, Internal Affairs will add a bogus charge or the catch all "Conduct Unbecoming an Officer" so they can punish the Officer. This has happened far too often. The fact that completely bogus charges are being brought against Officers just so a punishment can be assessed is wrong. These practices continue even though we have won all board trials and hearing summaries that have been held the past year. The only reason, that I see, for a full time Internal Affairs Attorney, is to correct the inadequate and unjust decisions that are being made by the Commanders of Internal Affairs. The general counsel already in place to serve the Board and the Department has been sufficient in the past; why change?

In review, that's 2010; and I look forward to 2011. Here's wishing everyone and their families a joyous, happy and healthy New Year.



Did You Know...

By Matthew Simpson,

Name tags on a Police uniform are as common as a badge. Each morning we pull our uniforms from the ironing board, and while some decorate the iconic light blue cotton while laying it on a table or a bed, others put the shirt on and style it in front of a mirror. Putting the name tag on is always an issue for me though. It has to be perfectly parallel to the stitching of my pocket. I wonder if everyone is, or was this critical. It surprised me to learn though that name tags have not always been standard. In fact it wasn't required until 1965.

That same year 1st year Police Officers pay was raised to \$6,370.00. That's about \$3.00 an hour! The Saint Louis Arch was also completed this year.

The Gendarme Board Sends Their Wishes for a Happy Holiday to Paul Drago, Randy Jemerson and Their families and a Safe Return for All Our Service Men

Paul Drago (right) of the Mobile Reserve Unit, is a Sergeant 1st Class (1SG) assigned to the 95th Division as a Combat Advisor in the general area of Kabul, Afghanistan. His job is to mentor an Afghanistan Commander and Command Sergeant Majors during training missions and while out on patrols.



Sgt. Randy Jemerson (left) of the First District is a Staff Sergeant in the Army, assigned to the 840th Transportation Battalion. He operates out of COB Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq and serves as the Operations NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge) of a Distribution and Deployment Team. His duties are to oversee and assist units in redeploying from theater.



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Veteran's Corner

By George Ratermann, SLPVA President

St. Louis Police Veterans' Association - Web: www.slpva.com Email: mail@slpva.com
 Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the Month - 11:30 a.m., SLPOA Hall



118 members and guests celebrated the Christmas season at our December meeting. After a short business meeting Dan Riley and his crew presented a dinner salad, ham, sliced pork loin, mixed vegetables, and potato casserole Christmas meal complete with a dessert tray of cookies, cake, and whipped cream.

Like our other meetings, we enjoyed the good food, the good company, and the great conversation. The SLPOA had the hall decorated for the season and we "borrowed" the round dinner tables, white tablecloths, and Christmas centerpieces for the day. It all added to the occasion.

First Quarter

2011 SLPVA Meetings

January 12, 11:30 AM at the SLPOA Hall
 February 9, 11:30 AM at the SLPOA Hall
 March 9, 11:30 AM at the SLPOA Hall

Bill Leahy, one of two SLPVA authors in residence, will have pre-ordered copies of his book at the January meeting for pickup and additional copies for sale for anyone who neglected to pre-order. (Our other author in residence, Al Wagner, was also in attendance.)

Jim Chapman, the "Will Guy", will be back at the January meeting and will work with members and their wives after the meeting to draw up wills.

Also at the January meeting the SLPVA will begin the election of officers for the next two years by forming a nominating committee. All four of our elected positions, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, will be open and any member in good standing is qualified to run for office. Any member wishing to be a candidate or any member who would like to nominate a fellow member for office should contact a nominating commit-

tee member.

February's meeting will have the nominating committee revealing its list of candidates for office and a call for nominations from the floor. Don't be bashful, step up and run for office or nominate a fellow member.

Our March meeting will feature a Corned Beef and Cabbage lunch menu. During our regular business meeting the election of officers will be held.

Each month during the legislative session we will have a report of activity in Jefferson City that could impact the SLMPD, active officers and retired officers.

Check the SLPVA website, www.slpva.com for updates on our health, dental, and eye insurance coverage and premiums. You'll also find links to our monthly meeting minutes and treasurer's reports on the

site. Members can send an email to the SLPVA (mail@slpva.com) or use our Google Voice link to leave a voice message. Just click on the "Call Me" icon and Google will make the phone connection. If no one is available to answer, a voicemail message can be left.

Sick

Louis Rizzuti
 Fran Russell

In Memoriam

Charles Shine 12/5/10
 Bill Hawkins 12/10/10

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Let's all make a New Year's Resolution to make 2011 the best year yet of our retirement and to attend more monthly meeting of the St. Louis Police Veterans' Association.

FADE OUT

The following officers have resigned:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Nolan Pour | 11/17/10 |
| Jerome Jones | 11/16/10 |
| Ronald Martin | 11/22/10 |
| Susie Lorthridge | 12/08/10 |

The Gendarme takes this opportunity to wish the officers named above the very best in the future, and may the wind be always at your back.



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Pension Update

By James Wurm, Chairman



Market Returns for the 3rd Quarter and Economic Outlook

Preliminary GDP rose at annual rate of 2.5% in the third quarter of 2010, up from the 1.7% in the second quarter of 2010. Spending climbed the most in almost four years, as household purchase rose also. We are hoping this growth will continue at a 2.5% pace for 2011. Growth stocks outperformed their value counterparts this month, while small cap equity performed better than their large cap equity this month. Looking at the International development and Emerging markets all performed in line with their domestic counterparts. However Emerging markets were still outperforming equity sectors. Fixed income markets showed strength this month while High Yield securities continued to outperform. Year to date, fixed income markets are stronger than ever. Fixed incomes posted strong returns for investors and are expected to grow during the quarter. The Fed began debating further quantitative easing to re-inflate the economy, leading to investor expectations of large-scale treasury purchases. Almost all economic sectors finished in the black. The

telecommunications transport, industrial, and basic materials sectors posted gains in excess of 17%, while healthcare and financials lagged the broader market with single-digits increases. In the private sector, the labor market struggled during the third quarter, as payrolls increased by only 274,000 jobs and the unemployment rate remained high at about 9.6%. The government payroll continued to decrease, in large part, due to the laying off temporary census workers, the threat of potential deflation persisted. The price of crude oil, as represented by the West Texas Intermediate, rose from \$76 to \$80 per barrel during the third quarter. Last year at this time it was only about \$71. Recent economic data both inside and outside the U.S. has been resilient and generally supportive of the view that a very modest, yet sustainable, recovery is underway. With information on the choppy economic data, the outlook for a double dip recession is fading.

Our investment on PRS portfolio should be better than 11% this year. Hope improvements will continue to grow.



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Bill Leahy...Coptalk's "Really old ex-cop"...636 488 1602 or wleahy@centurytel.net

New Dates for Will Preparation

By Barbara Miksicek

Jim Chapman will be returning to the Police Library at 315 S. Tucker Blvd. to prepare wills on **Wednesday, January 5th and Friday, January 21st**. If you need a will or living will, call me at 444-5581 to sign up for a half hour session with Jim. Commissioned and civilian employees and their spouses/partners are welcome, as are retirees. Times fill up quickly, so lock in your preferred time ASAP.

Chapman will also be available at the St. Louis Police Officers' Association Hall on Wednesday, January 12th after the Veterans' Meeting to prepare wills. He will meet with interested officers and their spouses after the meeting.

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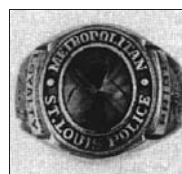
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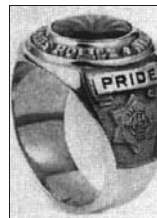
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Legislative Committee Report
 By Joe Steiger, Vice President, Legislative Chairman

Legislative Session Begins

The 96th General Assembly will reconvene on Wednesday January 5th, 2011. The November election produced seventy-eight freshman legislators in the House of Representatives and twelve freshman legislators in the Senate. We will need to make contact with these newly elected legislators and educate them on our issues. Your SLPOA has already been working hard to get our point of view out to these newly elected legislators and we have been successful in making contact with many of them. But, there is still much work to be done and it will be critical again this year for our members to reach out to their State Legislators and be a voice for the SLPOA.

Local Politician Control

Senator Keaveny has already pre-filed a local politician control bill in the Senate, as expected. Senate Bill 23, (SB23) calls for the City of St. Louis to control its own police force without state intervention. We all know that State intervention is the only way our police department will remain a professional and nonpolitical department. We also know that local politician control means a loss of benefits, a loss of pensions and a loss of services for our citizenry. A local politician controlled Police Department means a mismanaged, overly burdensome, bureaucracy-laden police department for the citizens of and visitors to our great City of St. Louis.

Representative Jamilah Nasheed was named the chairperson of the Urban Issues committee. As most of you will recall, the Urban Issues committee is where the House Bill, HB1601, was sent last session. It is expected that Representative Nasheed will again file her version of a local politician control bill. *Her* bill will then be directed to *her* committee where it will likely pass out of *her* committee and to the floor for debate. Can everyone see the writing on the wall? The fix is already in! Just like former Representative Ted Hoskins did last year, this year's version of the House bill will be railroaded through the Urban Issues committee and onto the floor of the House of Representatives for debate. SLPOA will not sit idly by and allow this to happen without a fight. We will work to defeat this bill in committee even though the cards are stacked against us. We hope we can count on our members for support.

Help is Needed

We will have an SLPOA day on Capital Hill in Jefferson City again this year. As soon as we have determined a date, I will post it for all of our members. I hope we can match and even build off of the great support from last year and flood the Capital with our members. This has a tremendous affect on the legislators and it demonstrates our strength and unity of purpose. I hope everyone will find some free time to assist in our endeavors in the upcoming year. We will need another strong, unified effort to defeat this attack on our livelihoods once again.

Finally, I want to wish all of you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Former SLMPD Officers SLPOA Approved Legal Counsel

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Metropolitan Police Department Awards Ceremony

The ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at Harris-Stowe State University. Erica Van Ross, Director Public Information welcomed the honorees and their families. The National Anthem was sung by P. O. John Leggette.



Distinguished Service Citation of Valor

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P.O. Marc D. Wasem

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John Isbell
Father of a Police Officer



Jonathan Hegger
Son of a Police Officer



Sam Ventimiglia
Former Police Officer

Christmas Coloring C

The GENDARME would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our contestants a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We want to thank you for taking the time to enter our contest.

There are so many different entries with it makes it difficult to pick a winner. Shown here are the winners and the comm



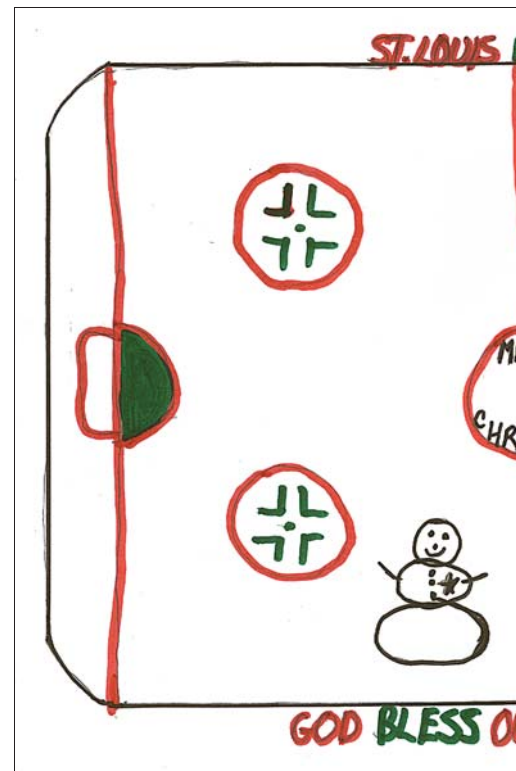
1ST PRIZE - Addison Strehl - AGE 11
A charming drawing of Santa and the artist - the colors really jump off the page



2ND RUNNER-UP
A simple drawing that



1ST RUNNER-UP - Sean McCrary - AGE 11
A glimpse inside of Santa's workshop - check out all the detail on the toys



3RD RUNNER-UP - Anthony Miria
Certainly an original idea - good job!

Contest

so many different concepts of Christmas that
 nents of the Judges.

Honorable Mention goes to:

- Chase Abel
- Jimmy Bishop
- Connor Brosnan
- Jonica Dandridge
- Hannah Hellmeier
- Bella Hilke
- Sydney Horton
- Madison Keisker
- Maddy King
- John David Lankford
- Sydney Laux
- Joseph Mc Crary
- Maeve Mc Donough
- Nick Menendez
- Makayla Parton
- Timothy Parton
- Jack Steurer
- Alayna Strehl

RISING STAR AWARD 2010

This award is for special recognition to very young, up-and-coming artists. *Congratulations and keep on drawing!*



Katie Llewellyn



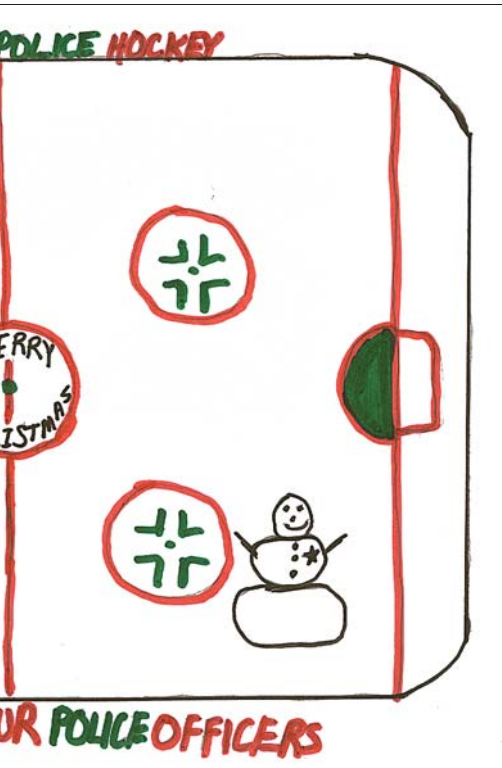
Emily Jauer - AGE 8

conveys different aspects of the season



4TH RUNNER-UP - Donovan McDonough - AGE 12

Looks like Rudolph has a personal trainer – cute drawing!



ni - AGE 9



5TH RUNNER-UP - Abby Llewellyn - AGE 8

A nice, well-executed Holiday illustration

Chaplain's Corner

By Fr. Edward Goldian



Seeing is Not Believing

Missouri, the Show Me State. How many times have we said, "I'm from Missouri, you have to show me". After all, seeing is believing. That is literally putting the cart before the horse.

Ask me if I know there is a God and my answer will always be "NO". I believe there is a God. When I die and come face to face, I will no longer believe, but I will know. If we want to see, we have first to believe. Like putting a man on the moon, we believe it is possible first. Then when it happens we know (see) it is

possible.

In difficult events in life we often say, "I don't see God in any of this." Like the surgeon in the ER saying to the nurse, "I don't see any soul in here." And she wisely answers, "You don't see the pain you're trying to cure either."

The Bible tells us, "We walk by faith, not by sight." And in Luke, Jesus said to the blind man, "Have sight; your faith has saved you. (Lk:18:35-43) So, first believe God is here working with you. Then, and only then, will you see him working with you.

Health & Fitness

By Colleen Rossomanno,
Exercise Physiologist M.S., H.F.S, A.C.S.M.

THE HOLIDAY POUNDS ARE COMING!

Do the holidays scare you? Not because of the money that you will spend on presents but because of the weight that you put on during the winter season? People tend to gain a pound per winter — with 75 percent of the gain occurring between mid-November and mid-January. While a pound might not sound like a lot, those who gain during the coldest months typically keep the extra weight on — and add more over time. In other words, what seems small could be the start of some serious weight problems. **By following these suggestions, you will be able to beat the odds and keep that weight off during the holiday season.**

Plan to eat right

- **Get a little more protein**

Dietary protein helps control appetite, which ultimately keeps weight in check. But how much more protein should you eat? The average person should have between 2-3 servings of protein a day.

- **Head off cravings for simple carbohydrates by stocking up on healthier foods**

Simple and refined carbohydrates such as: sugar, soda and sugary foods like cookies and candy, provide few nutrients, and most are paired with foods high in fat, sugar and sodium. Such "empty-calorie" foods do not satisfy cravings for very long. Therefore, it is important to stock the refrigerator and cupboards with nourishing options that are high in complex carbohydrates. These include fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, whole-grain breads and cereals and healthful, low-sodium soups. Because the body utilizes these foods — all of which are high in fiber — more slowly, you stay full and feel satisfied longer.

- **Eat more soup to stay full longer.**

In a 1999 study at Penn State University in University Park, Pa., subjects who ate soup before lunch consumed 100 fewer calories at that meal — and they didn't make up for those calories by eating more later. Researchers are not sure why, but one possible conclusion is that when water is incorporated into food (as opposed to drinking it straight), your stomach empties more slowly and keeps you feeling full longer on fewer calories. "We tend to crave warm comfort foods like soup in winter," says Kleiner. "Eating more soup when temperatures drop is a natural and healthy way to stay full and avoid overeating."

Get Out In The Sun

Too little sunlight can trigger cravings for high-calorie, fatty carbohydrates like cakes, cookies, ice cream and chips, says Kleiner. "This is because diminished sunlight in winter reduces the brain's production of serotonin, the mood-boosting brain chemical that helps suppress food cravings and overeating," she explains. "Because we do not get as much sun exposure in the winter, our serotonin levels tend to plunge, and cravings kick in to combat the blues."

Move, Move, Move

Exercise is crucial to avoid weight gain in winter. Many people exercise less during the winter months and wind up gaining weight because they eat more calories than they burn off. In the winter we also lose subtle outdoor calorie-burning activities like short walks and gardening. Although these may burn just 100 calories per day that can translate into a 3- to 4-pound weight gain over the course of a winter.

These strategies will help to ensure you don't gain a single pound this winter.

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GUNS 'N HOSES

Congratulations to all SLMPD boxers for making the 24th Annual Guns 'N Hoses Boxing event a huge success.

2010 Guns 'N Hoses Fighters:

- Officer Willie Haymon District 7
- Officer Stephanie Gillen District 4
- Master Mech. Mike LaTour Fleet Services
- Officer Brandon Johnson So. Patrol Spec Ops
- Officer William Gillen District 5
- Officer Erin Lasinski District 4
- Officer Dondrell Harris District 8
- Officer Dan Claudin District 4



We are also grateful to the other members of our Department who devoted countless hours of their personal time to make this event a tremendous victory:

Team Coaches:

Captain Jerry Leyschok Detective Sergeant Roger Engelhardt

National Anthem Performed by: Detective Eva Miller

Ring Announcer: Officer Mark O'Brien – District 1

Thanks to all who attended or otherwise supported this great event.





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Police Work 101

By Sergeant William Boyd Kiphart II

This Place Sucks?

I heard it again the other day. The sad part of the incident is, as it is in many instances, is the fact that this was from a young officer with just a couple of years on. When I asked the officer why he thought the place was so bad he stated it was because he could not take a DH (Discretionary Holiday) on Christmas. I am not sure that is so much a problem with "this place" as it is the young officer's lack of understanding what this job is and his place in the grand scheme of things. While I could quickly get sidetracked on how many years I was a policeman before I had a Christmas off, which is certainly not my point this holiday season.

As is usually the case when I hear this infamous police phrase, the statement can generally be linked back to a specific incident that is its own entity. When I say that I mean just as discussed

above, the source of the frustration is generally just a symptom of the lifestyle and the profession. As I stated in my email that I sent out to many of you from the sergeant's desk on Thanksgiving; "For those of you who are working the streets today, protecting those at home with their families, never forget what a privilege and honor it is to hold the line and serve on a holiday so that others may be safe and enjoy theirs." Again, while pertinent to the discussion, it is not my main point this holiday season.

So what is the point here? My observation and point today is that when we hear "this place sucks" what, exactly is "this place". The general and initial perception may be that perhaps the Metropolitan Police Department sucks. I am sure that is not what is meant when someone makes this statement. It may even be what they say, but lets figure

out what they really mean and think about that for a moment.

I know they do not mean that the Department "sucks". How do I know that you may ask? I know that because in a very difficult financial time and a very limited job market they have a profession to come to. They have a job, a profession if you will, that puts money in their pocket, a roof over their head and food on the table for them and their family. While it may not be best or the least expensive insurance around, this Department provides medical coverage for them and their family. Again, at a time in this countries history when more than 255 million people do not have health insurance.

How else am I sure that is not what they mean? I know because of how hard they worked to get here. The journey through the application process, the academy and the field-training program assures me of this. The fact that they

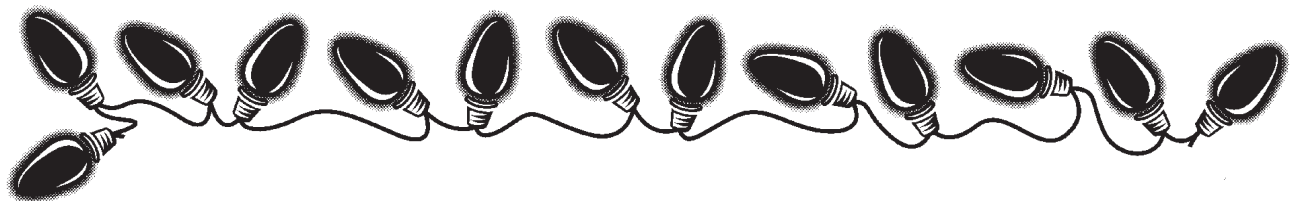


know they are standing a line that means the difference between life and death for some. Because they have either directly or indirectly put someone in prison that would have harmed or killed someone or by this act, although usually we do not know it, saved a life, a child or a family.

I also know this because if someone truly believed the Department sucked, they would simply leave and find an easier job. A place of employment where you could not get shot or killed, where an error in judgment or a bad decision could not get you arrested or prosecuted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations. I also know because I hear them brag, off duty, about being a big city cop.

So let's think about what

Continued on page 13



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St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department—**

We appreciate the job you do for us!

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& happy Holiday Season
from all your friends at**

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POLICE WORK 101

Continued from page 12

exactly is "this place". I have to start with the premise taught to my by a very good friend; life is simply about relationships. I fully agree with that. It is about our family, friends, and our relationship with those we protect and those we protect them from.

With that in mind, then what is "this place"? For me "this place" is the North Patrol Division. It is the Sixth District, the Eleventh Precinct and the sergeant's room. It is my people, my friends and my chain of command. And, it is the best place I have ever worked. I love going to work and there are days I almost hate to leave. "This place" is my daily environment. It is my friends in the sergeant's office, the funniest place I have ever worked. It is the North Patrol Division, the most hands on policeman I have ever seen or worked with. It is the people on the street that need us and in general some of the best people I have ever met. These relationships, years old, are more valuable to me than anything. I know how much these mean because I know what it is like to be away from here too long. When I was out earlier this year, I missed my people and "this place" more than I thought possible.

As you know, I make a very concerted effort to steer clear of politics and procedural issues and controversy in this column. With that as a disclaimer, there are many things I disagree with in this Department. There are policy issues and procedural practices that just do not make sense to me and actually make my job harder and in many cases less effective. For those things, I make the best attempt possible at making those concerned aware and hopefully move



towards changing and improving them. There are also some of these things I recognize that I cannot change; for those, I do not overinvest. They are perhaps a policy I do not agree with and may not be able to change. I respect the fact that I am obligated to follow the procedure; I just reserve the right to not like it.

You have probably heard me say before, the only time you are ever going to like and agree with every policy will probably be when you are the Chief; although I would be willing to bet, even then it will not be the case.

Here is the fact of the matter and my point today. Police work, for the district officer, the entire reason the Department exists, is not a warm dry office well stocked with food. Regardless of what someone may have told you, a good working policeman is going to get cold, wet and hungry on occasion. You are going to catch a late caper on the one day you wanted to get out on time. You are going to get second-guessed and Monday morning quarterbacked for weeks over a decision you had a split second to make. And, that is just the job. It is

what we do and who we are. If that does not sit well with you then quite frankly you are in the wrong profession.

My dad likes to tell a story about him and a couple of his buddies from the old Third District Lynch Street Station, back in the day. It was the mid to late sixties when he and a crew that will remain nameless, headed to the tavern after a particularly rough tour. During the course of the evening a couple of officers from the county or one of the municipalities showed up as well. After a few too many drinks, one made colorful and derogatory comment about our Department. My dad and the other City coppers responded in due form and settled the matter the way such matters were settled back then showing these fellows one of the reasons why the City's Finest were just that. While I am not suggesting such recourse in our day and time, I do point out how passionately these guys felt about "this place".

If you cannot see "this place" and what we do here for what it is, get out now while you can. Although be forewarned, the grass is always

greener on the other side of the septic tank.

I love "this place", my friends, and my people, the Sixth District, North Patrol and the Metropolitan Police Department. I am blessed and thankful, particularly this Christmas season, for all of them. For all "this place" has given to my family, my career, my chosen profession and my life. I am thankful to all it gave my father as the starting place for more than four decades of police work and the fact that after so many years and a few different departments, the stories he is most proud of come from his time here in "this place" during the sixties and seventies.

I wish for each of you to see "this place" as I do: to see the honor and privilege of perpetuating two hundred years of protecting St. Louis. To see all "this place" has done for my family.

And the next time I hear "this place sucks" from some young policeman, I just may have to go "Lynch Street Station" on his young butt.

God bless, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year for you and yours.



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**Fraud Prevention
Taskforce**

By Dan Rechtein, Coordinator



The Fraud Prevention Taskforce is a free service offered by Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce. Retired SLPOA Member Dan Rechtein is available to provide answers to all fraud-related questions and can be reached by telephone at (314)612-1412 or via email at rechtiend@stlouisco.org. Informational seminars on a wide range of topics related to fraud prevention are available to any group living in, working in, or providing services to the City of St. Louis. Contact Dan Rechtein to schedule your free Fraud Prevention Seminar.

The start of a new calendar year is often a time for reflection on the past year and resolutions for the new. The Fraud Prevention Taskforce would like to offer some suggestions to help you protect yourself from frauds, scams, and Identity Theft in 2011.

Your Purse and/or wallet;

Thieves are more interested in your personal financial information than in your cash. Go through your wallet and purse, remove the following and lock them up at home:

- Any document containing your or any family member's social security number
- Your checkbook
- All but one credit or debit card
- Any PIN or code numbers

Credit/Debit cards;

- Sign all debit/credit cards as soon as you receive them
- Never use a debit card when traveling
- Xerox the front and back of all credit/debit cards and keep that info locked up securely.
- if card(s) are lost/stolen, report this immediately to the issuing company
- Contact the bank/credit card company immediately if your statement is late.
- Use your debit card in the 'credit' function, without entering your PIN whenever possible

Computer Safety;

- Always have a secure browser, virus and firewall protection
- Use strong passwords, consisting of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. Keep these passwords stored on a "flash drive" locked in a secure container.
- Never respond to an email
- from an unknown source
- asking you to click on a link
- from a known company with a vague greeting
- threatening negative action

Home and Vehicle Safety;

- Purchase a crosscut or diamond shredder, shred any document with your name and/or a number on it before it goes into the trash.
- Always lock your car and set the alarm, even in your garage. Do not leave a garage door opener in a car parked outside the garage.
- Carry your insurance card and registration in your purse or wallet, not in the glove box.
- Ask for copies of your credit report yearly (877-322.8228 or annualcreditreport.com)

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MONTHLY DRAWING**

Every month fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be awarded to one member attending the General Membership Meeting.

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**NEXT GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 26, 2011**

CALENDAR

JANUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 NEW YEARS DAY |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 WILL PREPARATION | 6 | 7 PAY DAY | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 VETERANS MTG. POLICE WIVES MTG. | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRHTDAY | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 PAY DAY WILL PREPARATION | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 GROUNDHOG DAY | 3 | 4 PAY DAY | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 VETERANS MTG. POLICE WIVES MTG. | 10 | 11 | 12 VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE |
| 13 | 14 VALENTINE'S DAY | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 PAY DAY | 19 BARWICK/NEWTON TEXAS HOLD-EM |
| 20 | 21 PRESIDENTS' DAY | 22 | 23 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 BARKUS DAY PARADE | 28 | | | | | |

MARCH

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---------------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 PAY DAY | 5 MARDI GRAS GRAND PARADE |
| 6 | 7 | 8 MARDI GRAS FAT TUES. PARADE PRIMARY ELECTION | 9 VETERANS MTG. POLICE WIVES MTG. | 10 | 11 | 12 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & RUN |
| 13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY HIBERNIAN PARADE | 18 PAY DAY | 19 |
| 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 31 CARDINAL HOME OPENER | | |

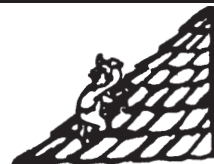


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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We gladly welcome the opportunity this Holiday Season presents,
to extend our warmest Season's Greetings to you.

On behalf of the entire SLPOA Executive Board,
we sincerely wish you and your family a Merry Christmas,
and may the New Year ahead be filled with success and happiness.

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