

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



Today @ FSA

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Dear Eric,



The first month of 2012 was a busy one for Florida Sheriffs. With session starting early this year due to redistricting, our Sheriffs have been very active at the Capitol meeting with legislators on issues important to public safety and law enforcement. One of the issues we are tracking is the cost of inmate medical costs to taxpayers, which is discussed further in this month's Capitol Update. The Florida Sheriffs Association also kicked off the year with our Mid-Winter conference in Jacksonville, which you can read about more in the article below. You will also get to learn a bit more about the woman who plans all of our conferences each year. FSA aims to provide you interesting stories and information each month, so if there is a topic you would like us to write about, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support.

In case you missed it: Mid-Winter Conference

The Florida Sheriffs Association hosts two conferences a year and last month we hosted our Mid-Winter Conference at the Hyatt Jacksonville Riverfront. FSA conferences provide those in attendance with a variety of managerial and technical training programs. The Mid-Winter conference was marked by an appearance by [Florida Governor Rick Scott](#), who gave the keynote address at the host Sheriff's dinner. "We were honored



to have Governor Scott in attendance as he has always been a strong supporter of law enforcement," said FSA Executive Director Steve Casey. During the Tuesday night banquet, the [Corrections Officer of the Year](#) was announced. This year's winner was Jonathan Bowman of the [Polk County Sheriff's Office](#). Deputy Bowman exemplified quick thinking and even quicker action when he and his partner prevented an attempted suicide. "I am proud of his compassionate and committed service - we are so gratified that the Florida Sheriffs Association has chosen to honor him," said Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd. To learn more about the heroics of Deputy Bowman please watch this short video, [Corrections Officer of the Year](#). All of our conferences are made possible thanks to our amazing corporate sponsors. To become a sponsor and gain exposure to the 67 Sheriffs and hundreds of other top tier law enforcement personnel in attendance, please visit <http://www.flsheriffs.org/conferences/corporate-sponsor-program/> for more information.



FSA People in Focus

You just had the chance to read about our recent Mid-Winter conference, now find out about the woman behind the scenes who makes it all possible. Rnee' Stockton has been at FSA since 1993 and started out as executive assistant to former FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins. She then moved on to become FSA conference coordinator and meeting planner. It is hard to imagine that all of the planning and execution of the five conferences FSA hosts every year is put together by one single individual. Rnee' is responsible for the preliminary site check of hotels, negotiating contracts, serving as the liaison between FSA and the host Sheriff and assisting with the development of the agenda for the spouse and children activities that go on at each conference.

"Rnee' has been an asset to FSA for many years, and we are so thankful to have someone with her abilities to handle all the responsibilities that go into making our conferences successful," said Peggy Goff, FSA Assistant Executive Director of Administration. Through Rnee's hard work and dedication, FSA has experienced significant growth in both the number of vendors and the sponsorship dollars collected for FSA conferences. Rnee' takes much pride in being a big part of one of the most powerful law enforcement associations in the country. The most rewarding thing for Rnee' as she performs her duties at FSA is seeing the completion of a conference and basking in the glow of a job well done. These conferences provide FSA the opportunity to showcase our most recent efforts and share the latest tools in law enforcement with our Sheriffs and other decision makers. When not planning meetings and conferences at FSA, Rnee' enjoys spending

time with her daughter, two sons and six grandchildren. Her two sons work for the family car dealership in Georgia and her daughter and son-in-law both serve the community as corrections officers in Wakulla County. Please visit <http://www.flsheriffs.org/conferences/> to learn more about the conferences that Rnee' so carefully develops.

DEA: Purchase of Oxycodone in Florida declines

Over the past couple of years, Florida has become known as the epicenter for the distribution of prescription drugs. In 2010 alone, the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) reported that, of the top 100 Oxycodone purchasing physicians in the nation, 90 were located in Florida. This was one of the driving factors that put our state front and center of the pill mill epidemic. However new



legislation has come through stopping physicians at rogue pain clinics from being able to dispense controlled substances including opioid-based pain relievers.

In 2011, with these new laws in place, ARCOS has reported a 97% decrease in the purchases of Oxycodone, one of the most widely abused pain relievers. The amount of Florida Physicians appearing on the list of top 100 Oxycodone purchasing physicians fell from 90 to 13. This is a step in the right direction to begin shutting down the pill mills across the state. Florida Sheriffs have played a crucial role to prevent these physicians from distributing prescription pills directly to consumers. A wide array of local, state and federal agencies have been working together to investigate, shut down and prosecute anyone running illegal activity through a pain clinic. Broward and Palm Beach County Sheriffs' Offices are participating members of Pill Mill Nation, which is an on-going effort to disrupt the illegal diversion of pharmaceutical drugs in South Florida. Florida Sheriffs applaud the efforts of lawmakers who are working to help rid the state of these pill mills and stop the epidemic. [Read more >>>](#)

FSA Task Force Spotlight

We have all heard the saying that there is strength in numbers. Florida Sheriffs have those numbers with available resources in each of the 67 counties across the state. There are several times that Sheriffs' offices will join forces to combat an issue too big to be handled by a single office. It was the 1984 Mutual Aid Act that originally established guidelines for Sheriffs to work together during emergency situations. Florida Sheriffs decided to take this a step further and create protocols



for Command Advisory Teams to handle specific types of situations such as hostage negotiations or civil disturbances through the Florida Sheriffs Task Force. The first statewide operation was organized to fight the crack cocaine epidemic in the late 80s and early 90s. The combined efforts of 1,500 law enforcement offices across the state netted 2,224 arrests. Today, the Florida Sheriffs Task Force continues to participate in the execution of other task forces to fight a wide array of

issues, including combating street gangs. More recently, Florida Sheriffs across the state have led to charge to catch online sexual predators targeting our children. Florida may be divided into 67 different counties but it is when we work together that we can truly make lasting impact on crime. If you would like to learn more please visit http://www.flsheriffs.org/our_program/florida_sheriffs_taskforce/ to find information about the different task forces and operations the Florida Sheriffs initiate in.



Capitol Update: Inmate medical costs, who pays?

The Florida Sheriffs Association supports [SB 452](#) to ensure that inmate medical expenses are capped, so the public does not have to pay higher taxes to cover their treatment. Without a statutory cap or a contract negotiated between the third party insurance provider and the county detention facility, taxpayers become responsible for paying full fee rates to providers for a person who would otherwise receive indigent rates. Currently, if no agreement or contract exists between a hospital and a county detention facility, the hospital can bill the county's general fund "usual and customary rates" for medical services provided to inmates or arrestees. Usual and customary rates go far beyond what individuals actually pay for medical services, often exceeding 300 percent of the true cost. In a recent [Gainesville Sun article](#), Alachua County [Sheriff Sadie Darnell](#) said, "This is an additional burden to the taxpayer, so anything that can be done would help. The important thing for sheriffs and county governments is to have some consistency throughout the state. Right now, it is very hard for counties to predict what their expenses will be." Yet Sheriffs and local governments have a constitutional obligation to ensure that these inmates and pretrial detainees receive necessary medical services. The State Department of Corrections pays 110% of Medicare for all inmate medical care, treatment, hospitalization and transportation, and up to 125% in cases that the medical provider has documented a negative operating margin with the Agency for Health Care Administration. When the legislature capped state prisoner medical expenses, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability projected a 2.5 percent savings of more than \$10 million during the first year. Florida's Sheriffs are merely asking for the same reimbursement schedule. To reduce the burden on taxpayers, the Florida Sheriffs Association supports containing jail medical costs. If you would like to learn more about this issue you can track this bill and many others at http://www.flsheriffs.org/legislative/legislative_agenda/.

We at FSA would like to thank you for your continued support. It is because of our members that we are able to provide programs and support to our Sheriffs who help keep the citizens of Florida safe. If you know of someone interested in becoming a member please share this newsletter with them, or have them visit our website, flsheriffs.org, for more information about FSA and the programs we offer.

Sincerely,

Steve Casey

Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association