

## FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



# Today @ FSA

NOVEMBER 2011

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Dear Steve,



The Florida Sheriffs Association is excited to launch our new e-newsletter that will keep you and our members updated about what FSA is doing across the state and in your community. We want to hear from you about stories or topics you would like to read about or comments you have. This first issue features our Cyber Sexual Predator Initiative and the transition of former Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey to Executive Director of the FSA Self Insurance Fund. Each issue will also feature a spotlight on a FSA staff member and a Capitol Update, discussing the legislative issues impacting law enforcement. Today @ FSA is a must read for anyone interested in their Sheriff's Office and the work they are doing to serve and protect the community.

### ***Cyber Sexual Predator Initiative***

Florida Sheriffs are dedicated to keeping our children safe from the dangers that are lurking online with this collaborative effort, which shares resources to combat the epidemic of online sexual exploitation of our children. To date, the FSA Cyber Sexual Predator Initiative, through the Sheriffs' Offices school resource officers and Attorney General's Cyber Crime Unit team, have educated more than 214,000 children about staying safe on the streets and on the Internet. Leading the FSA Cyber Sexual Predator Initiative is Citrus County Sheriff [Jeff Dawsy](#), who launched the first operation in October 2010. "[Operation Grim Reaper](#)" netted 22 arrests after 700 hours of logged chat time online. Sheriff Ben Johnson of Volusia



County, President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, is pleased to offer this cyber sexual predator toolkit to other agencies. Johnson explained, "We are sharing the FSA Cyber Sexual Predator Initiative to provide real resources to other agencies, including step-by-step instructions on developing chat room personnel, conducting undercover operations, drafting search warrants, and selecting the location that will aid in the successful prosecution of those preying on our youths." For tips on how to keep our kids safe, see the Florida Sheriffs Association Child Safety Page at [www.flsheriffs.org/child-safety](http://www.flsheriffs.org/child-safety).

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### ***Who is FSA?***

If you have ever placed a call to the Florida Sheriffs Association asking a membership question, you might have heard a distinctive voice answering the other end of the line - perhaps sounding like a radio DJ. That voice belongs to Greg Tish, membership accountant, who sometimes is heard over the airwaves in his hometown of Tallahassee. He is also the founder of Party4Purpose, which is an organization that brings people together for events with 100% of the profits earned going to a specific charitable cause. In his job with the Florida Sheriffs Association, Tish processes mail, inputs orders in the computer and takes membership calls. "Many people don't realize it, but everything FSA does is in-house, which helps keep overhead to a minimum," he says. Tish gets a kick out of seeing FSA tags on cars whenever he travels. "I think, 'I sent that to them...I put that five-year sticker on that tag for them.' It means something." He really enjoys talking to members, too. "What they say is taken to heart," Tish says. "We appreciate hearing from them." That is especially true when they pass along a compliment. Says Tish, "One woman told me, 'You're nicer than my grandson on the phone.'"

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### ***Wakulla Sheriff to Run Self Insurance Fund***

As of September 30, 2011 11:59 pm Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey was 10-47 (ending tour of duty), 10-42 (out of service at home). Sheriff Harvey served the people of Wakulla County for 35 years but will now be the Executive Director of the FSA Self Insurance Fund. The fund was established in 1978 to provide self-insurance coverage to Sheriffs, ranging from workers compensation to liability to employee benefits. The fund has saved taxpayers millions of dollars on liability claims and annual premiums. Sheriff Harvey was selected from an impressive panel of applicants, and this position will oversee the fund and provide operational and administrative direction. Sheriff Harvey brings a wealth of experience to the position, as he was a charter Board member of the liability, automotive, workers compensation and healthcare funds and was elected as chairman of the liability, auto and healthcare funds in 1993. We here at FSA are looking forward to having Sheriff Harvey here with us and excited about the knowledge and experience he will bring.



## ***Teen Driver Challenge Saves Lives***

Traffic crashes occur every 12 seconds in the United States. Vehicular crashes are the #1 cause for deaths among young adults. The statistics paint the ugly picture of teen driving but the Teen Driver Challenge wants to turn it into a masterpiece by giving teens the skills to drive safer on the road. The Teen Driver Challenge is a program established by the Florida Sheriffs Association and offered through local Sheriff's offices. FSA is pleased to announce that Broward and Martin County have recently signed on as the newest locations to participate in the program. Course offerings vary by each county and more information can be obtained through your Sheriff's Office or by visiting the Teen Driver Challenge website at [www.teendriverchallenge.com](http://www.teendriverchallenge.com).



## ***Capitol Update***

The 2012 legislative session is right around the corner and one of the bills FSA will be opposing again is already beginning to garner some attention. Last month, Representative Ari Porth presented HB 177 (SB 448) to the Criminal Justice Subcommittee for approval. The bill's language reads that inmates would only have to serve 50% of their sentence before being considered for re-entry to society. This bill was met with much opposition by the committee and Porth

conceded that changes needed to be made before moving to the next committee. FSA and other law enforcement agencies oppose this bill as it violates a state rule that requires all inmates to serve at least 85% of their sentence before being considered for release. This state rule was established in the 1990's and proved to be successful in reducing crime across the state. The crime rate has continued to fall and recently reached its lowest point in 40 years. Criminals are sent to prison to serve a sentence deemed fit by the State of Florida. Most crime is committed by repeat offenders and keeping them off the street makes our communities safe. Florida's current system is working well, so FSA believes we should not change this model that is working. Voice your thoughts by contacting your legislator and tell them to vote NO on HB 177 (SB 448). Keep criminals where they belong behind bars. To learn more about our legislative agenda visit our website at [http://www.flsheriffs.org/legislative/legislative\\_agenda/](http://www.flsheriffs.org/legislative/legislative_agenda/).

We at FSA would like to thank you for your continued support and it is because of our members that we are able to provide programs and support to our Sheriffs that help keep the citizens of Florida safe. For more information about the programs offered by FSA, please visit our website at [Florida Sheriffs Association](http://www.flsheriffs.org).

Sincerely,

Steve Casey

Executive Director  
Florida Sheriffs Association