

THE SHERIFF'S STAR



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE 2009

Welcome Aboard!
Conference Brings Together
New and Returning Sheriffs
to Tackle Tough Issues

From the desk of....

Gary Perkins

Executive Director

Florida Sheriffs Association



It's hard to believe that it was one year ago this April that our Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters burned to the ground... a total loss.

The word devastating just doesn't quite cover it. To so many of us, our office was like our second home – and our co-workers like an extension of our family. As we stood there together that awful morning, we recognized a blessing: as bad as it was, it could have been much worse. We could have lost one or more of our FSA family, had the fire occurred during business hours.

If you had told me on April 15, 2008 that we would be where we are now a year later, I would not have believed it. Truly, when you're standing there watching a building that contains everything you need to do your job – and more than 115 years of Florida Sheriff history – being consumed by flames, it's a real challenge to think you'll ever recover.

What our FSA staff and some visiting Sheriffs did the morning of the fire, however, showed what we're made of. We immediately created a game plan and I can honestly say our response that very day laid the groundwork for where we are today. And I'm happy to report that we not only survived, we have since made up for much of the momentum lost during that transition time.

Looking ahead

Once operations were stabi-

lized, we were able to talk about re-building. The Sheriffs selected a Construction Committee to guide us in the re-building process and we retained a professional in construction contract management to oversee the steps. We have since selected an architectural firm and are now in the design phase for the new building. We received proposals from several general contractors and hope to be awarding the job before summer.

Of course, there are still many more hurdles to clear, including site planning and permitting, but construction itself should take about six months. That means, if all goes well – including the weather cooperating – by this time next year, we could be moving into our new headquarters.

We are grateful to all of the members who have expressed an interest in helping to offset costs of this re-building effort. It was the generosity of members that allowed FSA to build our previous headquarters on a main thoroughfare in Tallahassee. Members made our annex possible, as well as our Law Enforcement memorial – both of which survived the fire. Truly, everything FSA has today is attributable to those who believe in going the extra mile to support law

enforcement in Florida.

As we get a better handle on our construction timeline, we will be sure to give details about special opportunities for support. Until then, please know how much we appreciate your good wishes and offers of assistance over these last 12 months. *You* are the reason we made it!

Winter conference

This issue includes some of the faces of people who gave their time to bring updates to the Florida Sheriffs at the Mid-Winter Conference in February. Many saw it as a great opportunity to meet the 21 new Sheriffs who came on board after the November election. An extensive list of VIPs dropped in to express their support for the Florida Sheriffs, including Florida Governor Charlie Crist. After all these years, it's good to see that the work of Florida law enforcement is still respected at all levels of state government.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors and exhibitors at the conference. We would never be able to enjoy the caliber of venue we have, if not for your support.

See you in the summer.

Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association

Florida's Silver Alert Program provides a coordinated local and state response to missing elderly person cases

By Kristen Perezluha

On February 26, 2008, Mary Zelter signed out of her assisted living facility in Largo, Fla., for a short trip to the grocery store. Though the 86-year-old suffered from bouts of dementia, her family said her health had been improving, and trips to the store in her Chrysler Sebring were not unusual. However, on this particular day, Zelter never returned home to the facility.

Largo Police immediately issued a BOLO for Zelter, and family and friends gathered a group of volunteers and began distributing thousands of fliers throughout the area. For six days, the search for Zelter continued. However, on March 3, the family received news that no family wishes to get. On that day, Zelter, whom the family knew as "Cappy," and the vehicle she was driving, were found in the inter-coastal waterway, about nine miles from her assisted living facility.

Following her death, Zelter's daughter, Mary Lallucci, joined with

the Largo Police to push for a state-wide alert system – similar to the Amber Alert – that would allow for law enforcement and citizens to quickly be alerted when a person like Zelter goes missing. On Oct. 8, that came to fruition when Governor Charlie Crist signed an Executive Order enacting Florida's "Silver Alert Plan."

The alert is a standardized system to aid local law enforcement in the rescue of an elderly person with a cognitive impairment who goes missing. The plan enhances local law enforcement's response by providing coordination between local and state law enforcement to quickly broadcast important information to citizens.

Under the plan, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), activates the dynamic message signs on roadways in situations where the elderly person is driving a vehicle.

"In a missing person situation, getting the word out – and getting it out quickly – is key to a swift and safe recovery," said FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey. "Florida's plan ensures a prompt and comprehensive response without compromising the privacy and dignity of our elders."

Florida is home to more than 4.3 million Florida residents age 60 or older, and there are approximately

501,000 Alzheimer's cases. According to the Alzheimer's Association, 95 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease who wander away are found within a quarter-mile of their place of residence or the last location seen.

Local law-enforcement agencies are encouraged to develop policies and procedures that will work best in their respective jurisdictions to broadcast information to the public in a quick and effective manner. Local agencies may also contact FDLE to request use of the FDOT dynamic message signs if the missing elderly person is in a vehicle and meets the criteria.

In addition to the dynamic message signs, the Department of Elder Affairs immediately shares the Silver Alert information with members of Florida's aging network at the regional and local levels.

At the time of this writing, more than 30 Silver Alerts had been activated in Florida, with seven of those recoveries being a direct result of a citizen hearing the alert and contacting law enforcement with pertinent information.

For more information on the Silver Alert Program, contact FDLE's Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse at 850-410-8585

Kristen Perezluha is the Communications Coordinator for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

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Walton County Sheriff Mike Adkinson Jr.



Charlie Schaeffer
Florida Department of Law Enforcement



Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean

Welcome Aboard! Mid-Winter Conference 2009 Mixes New and Returning Sheriffs



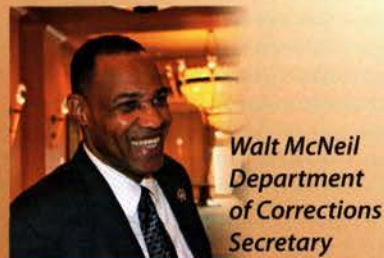
Alex Sink
Florida Chief Financial Officer



Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd



Ken Tucker
Ass't Commissioner, Florida Department of Law Enforcement



Walt McNeil
Department of Corrections Secretary

With 21 new Sheriffs, the FSA 2009 Mid-Winter conference recorded strong attendance, both by law enforcement and exhibitors. Held at the San Destin Golf & Beach Resort Baytowne Conference Center, February 15-18, the three-day conference provided a good blend of business meetings and networking. A good number of VIPs dropped in, including Gov. Charlie Crist, who socialized with the Sheriffs at the Host Sheriff's Monday evening barbecue.

These challenging fiscal times call for an even greater commitment by Sheriffs to work together and assure public safety is not compromised. Besides each Sheriffs' Office feeling the pinch, our partners such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement reported their struggles. Addressing Sheriffs at the conference, FDLE Assistant Commissioner **Ken Tucker** said they lost 96 positions in a \$5.6 million cut back last fall. Now, they're being asked to cut the agency budget by 15 percent, which represents about 300 positions.

"We remain committed, as we look at reductions," he said. "We're still meeting requests



Lt. Colonel Bruce Buckson
Deputy Director Boating, Waterways and Field Services, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission



Jacksonville/Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford



Frank Messersmith
FSA Governmental Consultant



Karen Oehme, J.D.
Director, FSU Institute for Family Violence Studies



Deputy Kendall Jackson
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Florida Sheriffs' Explorers



Lt. Steve Harrelson
Leon County Sheriff's Office



Detective D.T. "Rusty" Russell
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office



Major Mike Pruitt
Polk County Sheriff's Office



John Hunt Jr.



Peg Gant
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation



Ed Hudson
Special Agent Supervisor
Florida Department of Law Enforcement



Scott Hunt
Hunt Insurance Group, LLC
Willis HRH

made of us. To date, we haven't reduced much in the crime lab, but with the 15 percent, we'll be looking at everything." Tucker said the agency would look at areas that would least affect services related to violent crimes.

Florida CFO **Alex Sink** returned to address the Sheriffs and told them that she had recently hired a Deputy Chief Financial Officer with law enforcement background. **Brian London's** responsibilities will include oversight of the Divisions of Insurance Fraud, State Fire Marshal and Worker's Compensation,

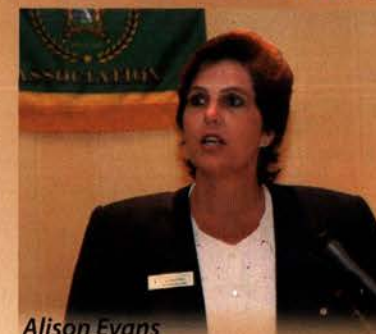
London served as Executive Director and CFO of INTERPOL, the world's largest international Police Organization. In his 25 years of law-enforcement, he has also worked with the U.S. Customs Service (Homeland Security), the U.S. Secret Service and CIA.

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Orange County Sheriff Jerry Deming



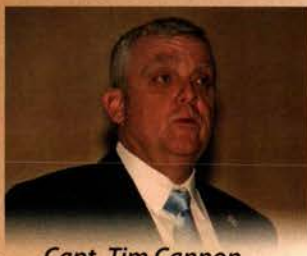
Alison Evans
Vice President
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches



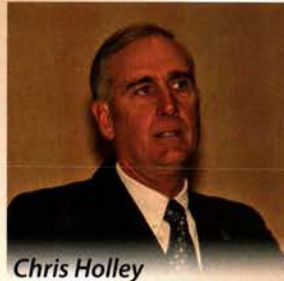
Chief Frank Fabrizio
Uniform Patrol Division East
Orange County Sheriff's Office



Dr. Dennis Bellehumeur
Sober Steering Sensors



Capt. Tim Cannon
Orange County
Sheriff's Office



Chris Holley
Executive Director
Florida Association of
Counties



Michael Rozos
Homeland Security
Immigration & Customs
Enforcement



Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean
With Elaine Mills, AFLAC Insurance



From left, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Major
Larry Ashley, Sgt. Charlie Nix, Captain Greg
Gaddis and Lt. Ted Pecot



From left, Franklin County Sheriff Skip Shiver,
Retired Sheriff Jamie Adams, Steve Roberts, Florida
Surety Agents; Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler.

Continued from page 5

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE 2009 continued

During her talk, Sink also encouraged Sheriffs related to their budget issues. "Times are tough and that's when good leadership is important," she said.

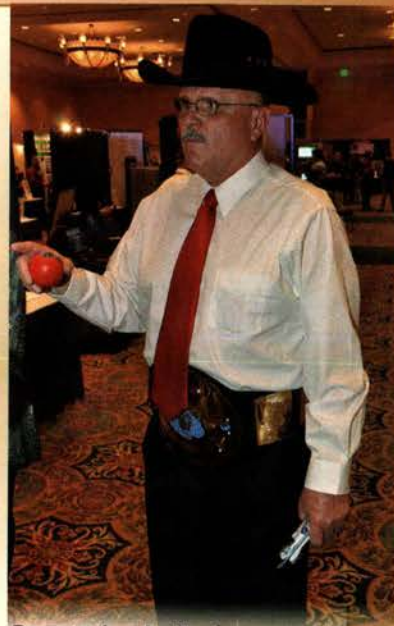
Lt. Steve Harrelson, with the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), appeared before the Sheriffs to introduce a coordinated effort to get Sheriffs' Office employees supporting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches (FSYR). He helped spearhead a payroll deduction program at LCSO in 2004 and raised \$24,000 for the Youth Ranches. The number has continued to grow and last year reached \$50,000.

There are other methods for fundraising, he said, including pancake breakfasts, gospel sings and fishing tournaments. Harrelson said he would be contacting the Sheriffs about appointing a liaison to coordinate Sheriffs' Office events to help the Youth Ranches.

The FSA conferences are an ideal venue to introduce new technology and this year the Sheriffs heard from **Dr. Dennis Bellehumeur**, inventor of the "Sober Steering Sensor." A Neuro Clinical Psychologist, Bellehumeur had seen numerous brain injuries and learned that 80 percent were related to drunk driving. In a sad twist of fate, he became personally affected when his then 16-year-old son drove drunk and sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury. He said, "I felt there must be a purpose," following his accident.

Bellehumeur invented a steering wheel that senses the level of ethanol in your body and can prevent an impaired driver from starting their vehicle. He said he'd like to see the \$500 steering wheel issued as a standard feature to "separate drunks from driving."

Continued on next page



Deputy Jamie Meeks
Leon County Sheriff's Office
Florida Association of School
Resource Officers (also a
former World Champion Bull
Rider)

Alcohol related crashes costs the U.S. an estimated \$300 billion annually, he said – 13,000 lives in 2008. Economic issues increase drinking, he said, so those numbers could climb.

Another technology introduced at the conference was the capture of palm prints through FDLE's Bio-metric ID System. **Charlie Schaeffer**, project manager for FDLE, told the Sheriffs that 30 percent of criminals don't leave fingerprints – only palm prints. By the end of 2009, they expect to have a searchable database of 1 million prints. With upgrades, they'll be providing Sheriffs mug shots to go with fingerprints and palm prints – an even quicker way to solve crime.

According to FDLE Special Agent Supervisor **Ed Hudson**, Florida has the strongest laws in the nation against methamphetamine. There's been a drop in labs seized since June of 2005. With the Combat Meth Act in 2006, medicines containing pseudoephedrine are kept behind the pharmacy counter and quantities are limited for purchase. To continue the fight, FDLE has launched a pilot project called the Statewide Meth Precursor Database that tracks who is purchasing, from Gainesville north to Pensacola. The agency is pushing for a national database on purchases that would block the sale if a person has purchased over a set amount, using various pharmacies. Currently the chains are the popular purchasing points for Meth manufacturers because they are less likely to get caught.

Attorney General **Bill McCollum** spent time with the Sheriffs and, among other things, talked to them about gang reduction. He said there are an estimated 1,500 gangs in Florida and 65,000 members. There seems to be a rapid increase, as our state posts the fastest growing gang rates in the country.

Their impact on drug distribution is huge – as that is a primary income generator. Gangs also are the largest source of non-domestic violent crimes. McCollum complimented the Sheriffs for working with his office in gang reduction and committed to continuing the efforts at reduction.

In addition, McCollum warned of a trend in the current economic turmoil – so called "debt eliminators." These outfits take their money up front and promise to save people from losing their homes or to help them get out of debt. Many are fraudulent. He asked the Sheriffs to stay vigilant and warn their communities, as well.

Polk County Sheriff **Grady Judd**, chairman of the Florida Sheriffs' Statewide Task Force, brought the new Sheriffs up to date about its purpose. Orange County Sheriff's Office Capt. **Tim Cannon**, agency coordinator, said, "The Task Force is about Sheriffs taking care of Sheriffs." Mutual Aid agreements are in place to cover Sheriffs legally and financially. The Command Advisory Teams provide subject matter experts, which are especially useful when a Sheriff's Office needs additional resources. Instead of hiring outside consultants, they just consult the Task Force.

At the Sheriffs' business meetings, Department of Corrections Secretary **Walt McNeil** introduced a re-entry effort that will smooth the release of prisoners back into society. A pilot project that Jacksonville Sheriff **John Rutherford** has helped initiate has social service organizations meeting with the prisoners one year prior to release. Called DISMAS, after the patron saint of reformed prisoners (he was the "good criminal" on the cross next to Jesus Christ), the prisoners will transition more smoothly and may be less likely to



Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell and "The Mayberry Deputy," David Browning

fall back into a life of crime. The re-entry program will use outreach from the community where the prisoner was convicted. So those convicted in Jacksonville/Duval County will be matched with social services there, and released in that community.

During the month of May, a number of ceremonies are held around the state and nation to honor those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. **John Shanks**, with the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, wanted to remind Sheriffs of the efforts to add a museum adjacent to the blue-grey marble wall with more than 17,500 officer names dating back to 1792. They have raised \$38 million of the needed \$51 million to build the museum. Approximately one-third has come from the ranks of law enforcement.

The Department of Justice issued a waiver so Sheriffs can use their asset forfeiture funds for the museum. The Seminole and Orange County Sheriffs' Offices have already donated. Said Shanks, "Wouldn't it be great to think that this museum was built with money confiscated from crime and drugs?"



er for one purpose – to peacefully resolve the issue, with no harm done to the subject or anyone else.

What does it take to be a Hostage Negotiator? "Obviously you have to have good communication skills," Coughlin says, "and to use them effectively."

The Life of a Crisis Negotiator



By Julie S. Bettinger

You've seen the images on television and dramatic scenarios portrayed in movies. A group of militants storm a building and take hostages. They make demands of the government – threatening the lives of their captives – unless those demands are met. Communication between the group and the responding law-enforcement agency is carefully controlled. It usually boils down to two people on the phone – one hostage taker and a negotiator.

The person chosen for the job of negotiating the law enforcement end is on the hot seat. And it's a *really* hot seat.

Closer to home, and much more common, are similar situations, but they usually involve a person barricaded in a home and threatening suicide. The person commonly has relationship problems or some type of domestic instability. The subject may even be mentally ill and off their

medications.

Like the international hostage event, these require careful negotiations, too, and it's that voice on the other end of the line that can have the greatest influence on the outcome. It's life or death – and the negotiator knows it.

Life on the hot seat

At Sheriffs' Offices and Police Departments, this person is usually called a Hostage or Crisis Negotiator. Their role is to try to bring calm to an out-of-control situation, primarily through listening and responding to the barricaded person's demands.

This has been a secondary job for Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Captain Brent Coughlin, Criminal Investigations Bureau Commander, for 21 years. The Crisis Negotiator always has another job title, but when a crisis hits – whether it's a hostage situation or barricaded person – he and the other specially trained team members come together

"A good hostage negotiator has the ability to listen more than talk," says Tallahassee Police Department Criminal Investigations Lt. Chris Summers. "And they need lots of patience."

Training is a must

Coughlin and Summers, who both have served as president of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN), agree that training is a critical component for the job. At their annual conferences, FAHN provides a lot of scenario-based training to test and build critical thinking skills. Individual agencies also provide training throughout the year. The LCSO team holds monthly training and at least three times a year, they do joint training with the SWAT members. Recently, they held training at a church, as there has been a rise in violence at churches. This summer, they plan to train for school shootings.

Debriefings on real cases are just as important. A crisis negotiator can

learn what seems to work with subjects and what to steer away from. For example, it's common for a barricaded person to want to talk to a family member, such as an ex wife. But what law enforcement has found is that often interaction with that person is what led to the event, and that can be dangerous.

Instead of encouraging communication with a family member, the crisis negotiator will try to build rapport with the person and earn their trust.

"So many times, it is just having somebody on the other end of the phone that expresses empathy for their situation," Coughlin says. "Someone who indicates that they understand what they're going through."

Once that groundwork is laid, the negotiator can start working on a solution – having them come out in some sort of peaceful surrender that is beneficial to everybody.

A lot of times, a subject may feel like their family is against them. They may have lost their job and don't think anyone understands their position. Once the negotiator has made that connection, they can start offering options to them for a resolution. If the person is suffering from a mental health disorder, they can't see the options themselves so when presented with some, they latch on.

But you never know what's going to resolve the event. It's mostly an art, not a science, says Summers. "Like fishing, you keep casting and try to find the right hook."

Coughlin recalls one all-nighter they assisted in Jackson County that involved a guy being served papers. He started shooting at the deputies when they arrived. At one point, LCSO dispatched a robot to reach into the windows and remove blinds that were obstructing the view. The man inside finally gave up in the early morning hours because he was afraid the tear gas was going to kill



Leon County Sheriff's Office Captain Brent Coughlin, Criminal Investigations Bureau Commander.

his parakeet.

The longest incident in which Coughlin was the primary negotiator lasted almost nine hours. The man had mental health and relationship issues. He'd been to a mental health facility in Tallahassee and had a bad experience. Coughlin was able to finally bring it to a close by saying, "What if I can promise you we'll take you somewhere other than that place?" That's what finally worked.

"I was mentally drained," after the event, Coughlin says. "I had examined so many options with this guy and covered so much with him about his life and what he was going through. I didn't eat the whole time; I was just wiped out at the end."

How it works

With a typical crisis negotiation event, law enforcement makes a quick assessment and determines what's needed. SWAT and the Crisis Response Team are often dispatched together. A negotiator team – primary and secondary – is chosen. The primary speaks directly to the subject, while the secondary is mostly a scribe and coach.

"You can get so intent as the primary, just listening," Coughlin explains, "you are excluding all activity around you. Sometimes you might miss a key phrase and it's the sec-

ondary's job to make sure you pick up on cues and use them to your advantage."

Once communication is established with the subject, whether using a bullhorn or cell phone, the person is immediately asked to come out. If they refuse, negotiations begin to find out what they want.

The goal is to establish goodwill. Once established, the negotiator will start asking for small concessions.

"It's an evaluation process," says Coughlin. "We're trying to figure out what we can do to peacefully resolve the situation."

Lying is a definite no-no. "The foundation of negotiations is not to lie to them," Coughlin says. "If you get caught in a lie, your credibility is ruined."

Assessment is a big part of the process, says Summers. It boils down to "hooks and triggers." Hooks are things they identify that might be used to get them out. Triggers are things like words that tend to upset the subject.

More training needed

With the current U.S. economic crisis that is expected to increase domestic violence, and military returning with an anticipated increase in Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome cases, crisis negotiators are looking to step up their training. Because of budget cutbacks, manpower or staffing allocation, however, many Sheriffs' Offices and policing agencies have put a freeze on specialized training for secondary jobs. That means negotiators might be paying their own way to FAHN's June conference and taking vacation to do it.

Understanding what the crisis negotiator has riding on their next assignment, thankfully many seem willing to make the sacrifice.

For more information on the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators, visit their Web site at: www.fahn.net/.

Sheriff Finds Savings On Correctional HealthCare

By Capt. James M. Pogue
Information Services
Marion County Sheriff's Office

Correctional healthcare has been a topic of serious discussion for many years due to its cost factors and more recent issues involving the quality of healthcare. The common goal for all correctional facilities should be to deliver quality care and improve public health while being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars.

Just over a year and a half ago, the Marion County Sheriff's Office was faced with a dilemma on this topic. While contracting medical services to an outside vendor, the office experienced a 6-percent cost increase every year. They also saw a staggering increase in inmate grievances and complaints from family members regarding medical treatment at the jail. After attempting to negotiate the 6-percent increase, negotiations failed, and because of restraints in Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean's budget, the Sheriffs Office was forced to look at other avenues for providing inmate medical care.

Sheriff Dean then organized a community-based panel of experts in the field of medicine to explore the idea of forming a not-for-profit organization to provide quality medical services to inmates without cost increases. After several meetings that started with comments such as, "it cannot be done," then "it can be done but certainly could not be ready for implementation in the six-month window of time before the current contract expired," The Ocala Community Care (OCC) Board was formed.

January 2009 marked one year from the beginning of the OCC providing inmate health care at

The Marion County Sheriff's Office sought solutions to increasing costs for inmate care. The agency created its own not-for-profit to provide care. The result: cost containment and improvement in quality of care.

the jail, and the result has been overwhelmingly positive. The greatest achievement has been the improvement in quality of care that inmates have received. In addition to the cost savings, data indicates a marked improvement in quality of care rendered to the inmates. This is evident by a substantial decrease in inmate grievances and customer complaints as well as a noticeable increase in compliance to health-care standards. Because of a quality assurance measure that has been put in place, proper health care protocol and follow-up is assured.

Inmate grievances have decreased from 24 complaints in a month to one, and rarely does a family member have to call because of concerns for their incarcerated family members. A partnership between the hospital physicians and OCC staff has increased the level of care and helps expedite processes, such as access to inmate medical records.

This collaboration has proven

its worth by not only saving money and controlling cost increases, but also by improving the quality of pre-existing health care. It also allowed us to integrate mental health care into the program.

This new health care model makes the Marion County Jail one of the few correctional facilities in the nation to succeed with such a program. Because of its success, Ocala Community Care is preparing to seek accreditation with the National Commission Correctional Accreditation Health Care.

Forming the OCC Board is yet another example of how a Sheriff's Office can apply creative thinking in the face of budget cutbacks and not only come up with a workable solution – but one with multiple benefits.

For more information on this program, contact Capt. James Pogue via email: jpogue@marionso.com, or call: 352-368-3594.



Deputy Saves Life, Wins Award

A Columbia County Deputy has a new nickname – Guardian Angel – after he answered a call about a “suspicious vehicle” in January.

The vehicle was stopped at an intersection and was reported for obstructing traffic. When Sgt. James Coonce arrived, he saw the female driver slumped over in the driver’s seat. He attempted to wake her, but she didn’t respond. Noticing that the woman’s face and lips were turning purple and that she did not appear to be breathing, he broke the passenger window, removed her from the vehicle and immediately began CPR. He continued until the Columbia County Fire Department and EMS arrived.

Amanda Elliot of High Springs was transported to the hospital and was later listed in stable condition. She called Sgt. Coonce her “guardian angel.”

Sgt. Coonce credited training he received through the Sheriff’s Office and his service as a Medic in the U.S. Army Reserves for his skill in providing life-saving measures.

Because of his actions, Colum-



Sgt. James Coonce

bia County Sheriff Mark Hunter awarded Sgt. Coonce with a Medal of Distinction.

Said Sheriff Hunter, “By his actions, Sgt Coonce has shown that our Deputy Sheriffs are not just there to make arrests. They are first responders and are committed to the service of our community.”

For more information, Contact Sgt. Ed Seifert, Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, via e-mail: eseifert@columbiasheriff.com, or by phone: 386-867-3244.

What’s On the Web

The Sheriffs’ Offices are finding innovative ways to catch criminals, solve crimes and prevent victimization. If you haven’t looked on your county Sheriff’s Web site recently, go check it out.

For example, the Broward Sheriff’s Office investigators have created “Operation Found and Forgotten.” Their Web site (www.sheriff.org) features information on cold cases that might help bring closure for families and/or solve a crime. You’ll find details about the crime scene, description of the victim, details about the investigation and clues that can help in identification. Some are ruled homicides, others accidental deaths.

Each case comes with a slideshow containing jewelry, tattoos, maps and other identifying features. You can contact Crime Stoppers direct from the site if you have clues to share.

Use a search engine like Google to find your Sheriff’s Office or visit FSA’s Web site: www.flsheriffs.org and click on “Meet the Sheriffs.”

Family of Former Sheriff Newmans Offers Gratitude

The family of former Baker County Sheriff Joe Newmans expressed their gratitude to all who sent their condolences from around the state, following Sheriff Newmans’ death in January. They also wanted to thank those who contributed to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Sheriff Newmans’ name.

Sheriff Joe Newmans served Baker County for nearly 20 years. He died January 11, at the age of 77, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

A member of Jacksonville Local



Former Baker County Sheriff Joe Newmans

234 of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union for 57 years, Newmans had worked as a superintendent for the W.W. Gay Construction Co. in recent years.

He is survived by his wife, Yvonne; two daughters, Barbara Fish of Macclenny and Jenni Gonzales of Glen St. Mary; a son, Joey Newmans of Nashville, Tenn.; two stepsons, Tim Nunn and Scott Nunn, both of Macclenny; a sister, Irene Prevatt of Macclenny; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Cards or letters may be sent to Sheriff Newmans’ family at P.O. Box 336, Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040.

Leon County's Jared Lee Wins Correctional Officer of the Year

At the beginning of each year, Florida Sheriffs review nominations for the Correctional Officer of the Year, based on the previous year's performance. This person is honored at FSA's annual Winter Conference banquet, in turn helping to spotlight the unsung heroes in county jails throughout Florida.

While many of the stories behind past award winners describe heroic feats, our Correctional Officer of the Year committee made a statement in their selection of this year's winner, who was introduced at the banquet.

They pointed out that the role of Corrections is to try to correct people's behavior. And that means that sometimes the most heroic deed is that a Correctional Officer has been able to maintain order and control, in spite of the volatile nature of the job.

The committee agreed that Leon County Sheriff's Office Correctional Officer Jared Lee stood out for that reason. When you hear his story, it's not difficult to see that he is worthy of recognition.

In nominating Officer Lee, his supervisor described him as the "model of dedication and professionalism."

Other statements about Officer Lee included:

- He consistently sets and meets high standards for performance
- He always has a smile and an encouraging word for everyone he meets
- His "can do" attitude and positive disposition is unwavering and this characteristic sets him far above most of his peers
- His motivation, loyalty and community involvement are an excellent ex-

ample for others to emulate

- He always puts forth 100 percent, no matter what tasks he is assigned.

On a personal note, Officer Lee has been married for three years to his wife, Deandrea, and they have three children. He attends Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ in Gadsden County, where he is a Bible study teacher. He also is involved in several charitable organizations.

Officer Lee started his career in Corrections nearly 15 years ago at Liberty Correctional Institution. He was hired by the Leon County Sheriff's Office in 2003 and was most recently assigned to the Case Management Unit where he managed the classification of high-risk and

special-needs inmates. Always seeking self-improvement, Officer Lee is finishing his AA degree and plans to earn a Bachelor's degree in Criminology from Florida State University. He recently became a certified law enforcement officer and has joined the Uniform Patrol Division in Leon County as a Deputy.

In making the nomination for this prestigious award, his supervisor said Officer Lee has gained a reputation for his professional demeanor, natural leader-



Above, Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell congratulates Jared Lee at the Florida Sheriffs Association Winter banquet. Now a Deputy, Lee was honored for his accomplishments as a Correctional Officer at the Leon County Jail in 2009. At right, Deputy Lee shares the spotlight with his wife, Deandrea. Photo by Thurgaland Mktg.



ship and enthusiasm toward his work assignments. This has earned him respect from inmates, peers and supervisors.

Specifically, he stated that Officer Lee's ability to communicate and pick up on changes in the behavior of inmates is "nothing short of amazing." On various occasions, medical staff have said that Officer Lee's ability to recognize and identify inmates' changes in behavior has prevented them from severely harming themselves.

Officer Lee consistently scores high marks on performance evaluations, and in at least two of those evaluations, supervisors have talked about cloning Officer Lee.

Last year, especially, Officer Lee's performance stood out, as his evaluations note.

In one disturbance, two inmates had barricaded themselves in a room and threatened staff with shanks. Officer Lee was assisting when the pepper spray they used began affecting some of the responding officers. Officer Lee remained calm, confident and in control throughout the incident, and it ended with no injuries.

In a note that followed the incident, a Lieutenant remarked, "I was impressed with the leadership qualities and courage that Officer Lee displayed in a very volatile situation." His actions and demeanor helped him to stand head and shoulders above the rest.

In another report, a relatively new Case Management Supervisor said Officer Lee projects self-confidence, authority and enthusiasm. She added, "During the short time I've been here, I have heard several supervisors give rave reviews of Officer Lee's work performance."

One of the supervisors noted another situation in which an inmate that Officer Lee had dealt with previously entered the facility. Knowing that this person was violent and combative, Officer Lee utilized his interpersonal skills to talk to the inmate, which avoided a physical altercation.

In another incident that occurred last year, Officer Lee was responding to

a man-down activation. He arrived to find that his Sergeant had to use Pepper Foam and was taking an inmate to the floor. Officer Lee didn't hesitate...he jumped right in, restraining the inmate with handcuffs and decontaminating him.

Officer Lee also has been noted for his interest in problem solving and willingness to do more than what was required of him.

After being asked for his assistance in developing questions to better ascertain an inmate's risk under the Prison Rape Elimination Act, Officer Lee researched the Act, learned what other agencies were doing and provided a set of questions that more than met the Lieutenant's expectations.

"I wish I had a whole team of Officer Lee's...my job would be much easier," the Lieutenant said.

Officer Lee also took the initiative to help solve another problem. He researched and recommended a method

for inmates who display self-injurious behaviors, to safely shave.

At another critical time last year, Officer Lee's professionalism made a difference in re-certification. While the jail was undergoing an accreditation assessment, Officer Lee assisted committee members during the three-day inspection. Afterward, the accreditation team recognized Officer Lee, saying he displayed high standards of professional conduct, projected a positive image of the Sheriff's Office and made an excellent impression on the committee.

It's clear that the Correctional Officer of the Year selection committee's choice in recognizing this year's winner for more than just one dramatic incident was a good idea. Officer Lee undoubtedly deserves this award.

On behalf of the law-enforcement community of Florida, we recognize former Correctional Officer – now Deputy – Jared Lee for winning FSA's 2008 Correctional Officer of the Year.

FSA Names Two Honorable Mentions

With the number of Correctional Officers in Florida, there are numerous men and women worthy of recognition each year.

The Florida Sheriffs wanted to also recognize Deputy Brian Jordan, with the Pasco Sheriff's Office Detention Bureau, and Corrections Sgt. Brian Seeley with the Brevard County Jail.

Pasco Sheriff's Corrections Deputy Jordan was described by his supervisor as a positive influence who "does his job by the book." He deals well with the mentally ill, convincing them to follow orders without use of force. Deputy Jordan also was observed on camera being struck by an inmate and narrowly avoiding a head butt. He applied only the force necessary to control the inmate and remained calm and professional, using his training to overcome his emotions.

Deputy Jordan was honored with two lifesaving awards last year – one for helping save an inmate who was attempting suicide and another for an incident at his home. A 16-month-old child had toddled through an opened safety gate and fallen into a pool. Deputy Jordan heard his neighbor, the child's father, yelling for help. He gave the child CPR, and the boy survived with no permanent damage.

Brevard County Corrections Sgt. Brian Seeley, who is assigned to the Tent Facility, was recognized for his life-saving measures related to an inmate who was found not breathing. He began rescue breathing, tried to clear the airway, and had to perform aggressive rescue breathing for 15 minutes until Brevard County Fire Rescue arrived, and continued while they prepared the inmate for transport. The inmate was breathing on his own and was alert after being taken to the hospital. Later, the Sheriff's Office determined that the inmate had taken a drug overdose after returning from working at a mental health/medical construction site.

Congratulations, Deputy Jordan and Sgt. Seeley. The Sheriffs of Florida appreciate all you do on behalf of Corrections in our state.

We Stand Corrected

The January/February Annual Guidebook, once again, has received rave reviews. And, once again, our alert readers have pointed out where we erred. Our apologies. The sheer volume of information included in the 70-page issue has its challenges. On top of that, with 2008 being an election year, we had less time to compile our information.

We do our best to be accurate, but sometimes our systems for compilation and editing fail. Again, our apologies to those who were misrepresented and to our readers.

We want to make good. Please note the following changes:

Page 38, University Police, we should have included Wesley K. Walker, Chief of Police, New College of Florida Police Department, 5800 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34243, phone: (941) 487-4210. Web: www.ncf.edu/police

Pages 41-43, our Public Defender and

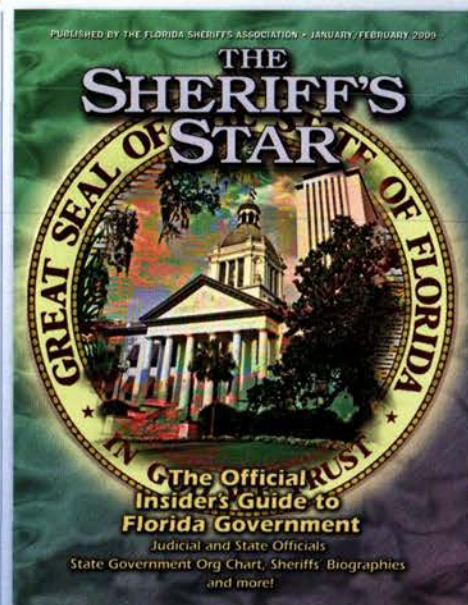
State Attorneys were not updated. Please note the following corrections:

Public Defenders:

1st Circuit - James Owens - Pensacola
4th Circuit - Matt Shirk - Jacksonville
11th Circuit - Carlos J. Martinez - Miami
12th Circuit - Lawrence Eger - Sarasota
20th Circuit - Kathleen Smith - Fort Myers

State Attorneys:

3rd Circuit - Robert L. "Skip" Jarvis - Live Oak
4th Circuit - Angela B. Corey - Jacksonville
7th Circuit - R. J. Larazza - Daytona Beach
14th Circuit - Glenn Hess - Panama City
15th Circuit - Michael F. McAuliffe - West Palm Beach



The Sheriff's Star
(January/February 2009)

16th circuit - Dennis W. Ward - Key West

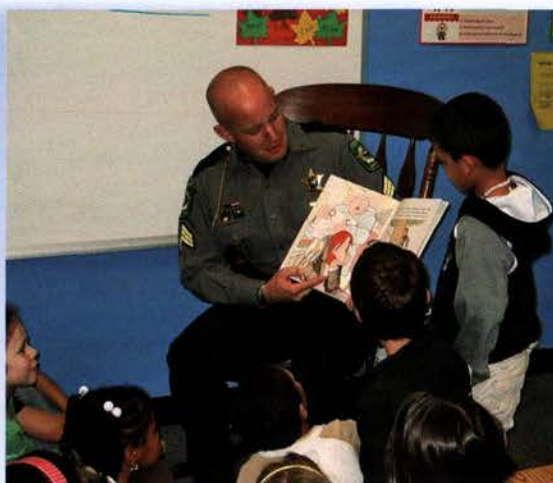
Page 52, Department of Environmental Protection, Inspector General is Rick Lober, phone: 850-245-3151.

Page 56, caption under photo on the right should be Honorable Mike Fasano

STAR BRIEFS

Books and Badges Helps Kids Connect with Deputies

Pasco Sheriff's Office Deputies recently headed back to school with lighter reading than the statutes, regulations and case law that makes up the majority of their on-duty load. The Deputies visited two elementary schools to read to students in their classrooms. The "Books and Badges" program pairs the Deputies with students in kindergarten, first and second grades to emphasize the importance of reading. The Deputies seemed to enjoy the visits to the classrooms as much as the kids,



including answering the children's many questions about their jobs.

According to the Sheriff's Office, future visits to four other county elementary schools are scheduled.



Pasco County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Gary Raulerson enjoyed reading to an attentive elementary school class recently. His visit was part of the Pasco Sheriff Office's "Books and Badges" program to encourage children to read and provide a positive influence through getting to know the Deputy Sheriffs.

A Different "President" on Capitol Hill

FSA President, Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer, was invited by members of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT) to visit Capitol Hill in support of the "Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act." The CABT was seeking sponsors for the legislation, which was authored by Rep. Jim McGovern, and Sheriff Farmer was asked to tell his story.

On March 11, Sheriff Farmer and CABT's Thyme Gadson met with members of the Florida delegation, including Representatives Kendrick Meek, Kathy Castor, Bill Posey, Allen Boyd, Ron Klein, Suzanne Kosmas and Mario Diaz-Balart.

With brevity and clarity, Sheriff Farmer expressed his concern about heavier trucks' degenerative effects on Florida's valued roads and bridges. He explained that 1,994 bridges in Florida are determined by the USDOT to be structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. He also reminded legislators that 4,615 bridges in Florida are over 40 years old and that a single 80,000-pound truck has the equivalent effect on a road as 9,600 cars. Sheriff Farmer warned that he did not wish to see a repeat of the I-35W bridge collapse,



FSA President Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer's trip to Washington DC influenced U.S. Reps Jamie Meek (top photo, center) and Kathy Castor to sponsor a bill on behalf of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. CABT State Director Thyme Gadson (top photo, right) hosted the Sheriff.



which fell in Minnesota during the summer of 2007.

Upon briefing legislators on the merits of the bi-partisan supported SHIPA bill – which would limit truck weight on the National Highway System at the current 80,000 lbs. and would not roll back any truck weights that are currently "on the books" and legal – Sheriff Farmer asked them to cosponsor SHIPA.

The next day, Reps. Posey, Meek

and Castor agreed to co-sponsor the legislation – with others to follow. By all accounts, Sheriff Farmer's visit on the Hill was a grand success and the CABT credited him with making a difference with the legislators.

For more information on the "Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act," visit the CABT Web site: <http://www.cabt.org/>

CCSO Shooting Competition for Law Enforcement

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is kicking off its "First Annual CCSO Shooting Competition," scheduled for May 30. Hosted by Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Cameron, the event is open to all active law-enforcement officers in the state of Florida. The competition will include three events, different from a typical shooting scenario. Competitors will be timed on speed and accuracy to be announced the day of the competition.

Shooters are responsible for providing all ammunition, duty guns with

factory sights, duty holsters or thigh holsters and must be dressed appropriately.

The competition will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hansen Gun Range, 27700 Zemel Road, Punta Gorda.

Winners will be announced at a BBQ Dinner beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, 7474 Utilities Rd., Punta Gorda. Medals and trophies will be awarded.

Registration is \$75/person and includes all shooting events, plus the BBQ dinner. Additional dinner tickets

are \$15/each. All proceeds will go to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

For travelers, a special \$80 rate is available at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel in downtown Punta Gorda. Phone: 941-639-1165. You may also contact the Wyvern Hotel, also downtown, for rates: 941-639-7700.

For more information, or to receive registration forms, contact Corporal Liz Smith at (941) 833-6283 or DFC Bill Maymon at (941) 833-6282. You may also send an e-mail: elizabeth.smith@ccso.org/



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



HONORARY & BUSINESS AWARDS



LEON COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to James Magee, Masonry, Inc.

These awards programs give special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association. Certificates are given to those who have been Honorary Members for 25 years or more. A special "Lifetime Honorary Member" plaque is reserved for those individuals who give \$5,000 or more and for law enforcement personnel who have served at least 40 years. Business leaders who support the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities are recognized with plaques and yearly renewals at the following levels: Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) and Bronze (\$50). For membership information, please email us: membership@flsheriffs.org or visit our website: www.flsheriffs.org



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Dennis Haycook, Haycook Construction Co.



Elizabeth Buntrock, The Pantry of Broward



Dan Campbell, Aqua Toy Store



Don Difrisco and Luis Nadel, International Surveillance Technology, Inc.



David Flynn, SRTechnologies, Inc.

BROWARD COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Broward County Sheriff Al Lamberti to Elizabeth Buntrock, The Pantry of Broward; Dan Campbell, Aqua Toy Store; Don Difrisco and Luis Nadel, International Surveillance Technology, Inc.; James Stubblefield, Mills Electric Service; James Whitehead, Institute of Global Management, Inc.; and David Flynn, SRTechnologies, Inc.



James Stubblefield, Mills Electric Service



James Whitehead, Institute of Global Management, Inc.



HENDRY COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by former Hendry County Sheriff Ronnie Lee to Oscar L. Langford, Jr.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – 25-year certificates presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Dominick Bracco and his wife, Seminole County Sheriff's Office Lt. Judith Bracco, Corrections Operations.



POLK COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Phillip Ordono (left photo) and Mr. & Mrs. Earl Hartman (right photo).



LEON COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Mork.



MADISON COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by retired Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher to Pat Lightcap.

continued on page 18



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES



HONOR ROLL



New Lifetime Members from 12/30/08 to 4/13/09

Florida Crystals Corporation
Sheriff and Mrs. Robert E.
Hansell
The McCune Family Foundation

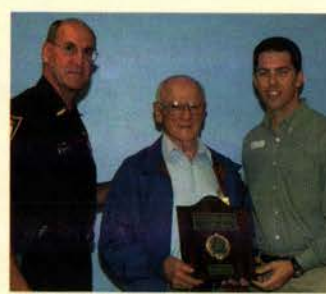
On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association through their gifts to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a membership card, a Youth Ranches magnet, lapel pin and lifetime subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines. Lifetime Honorary Membership with the Florida Sheriffs Association is reserved for those individuals who give \$5,000 or more to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Additional stars are awarded to recognize additional giving in increments of \$5,000 up to \$25,000.



LAKE COUNTY – Presented by FSA President Bill Farmer to Lake County Sheriff Gary Borders for personal giving to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



BAY COUNTY – Presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Jimmy Davis and Cyndi Davis, (left photo) on behalf of Kelli Wireless Communications, and Daniel Post (right photo).



MANATEE COUNTY – Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube and FSyr Donor Relations Officer Joe McLeod to Arsiero Antony.



MANATEE COUNTY - Presented by FSA President Bill Farmer to Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, and his wife Debbie, for personal giving to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



Jim Blocker, Blockers Furniture



Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Curtis



Foundation Services: Keith Seller, Bobby Hardin and Daryl Hampy



Jerry Hammett, Mid State Electric of Ocala, Inc.

MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Curtis; Jerry Hammett, Mid State Electric of Ocala, Inc.; Jim Blocker, Blockers Furniture; Jonny Heath, Geo Tech; Edward Sims; James D. Ray and Foundation Services, represented by Keith Seller, Bobby Hardin and Daryl Hampy.



Jonny Heath, Geo Tech



James D. Ray



Edward Sims



MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Tom Wilder to Rick Eubanks.

continued on next page

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES continued...



HONOR ROLL



POLK COUNTY – Presented by FSA President Bill Farmer to Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd for personal giving to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



SANTA ROSA COUNTY – Presented by FSA President Bill Farmer to Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall, and his wife Karen, for personal giving to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (center) to NASCAR Driver Mark Martin and his wife Arlene.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson and FSJR Donor Relations Officer Debi Girard to Judge Sylvan Davis (left photo) and Christine Shakeshaft (right photo).



BROWARD COUNTY – Presented by Broward County Sheriff Al Lamberti to John S. McLaughlin.



SUMTER COUNTY – Presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer (right) to Mr. and Mrs. George Lehor.



PUTNAM COUNTY – Presented by Putnam County Sheriff Jeff Hardy (center) to Retired Capt. & Mrs. Larry Winkleman.



POLK COUNTY – Presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Judith Darby.



HONORARY & BUSINESS AWARDS



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

continued from page 16



BAY COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Jimmy G. Warr, Sr.



BROWARD COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Broward County Sheriff Al Lamberti to John B. Mayer.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – 40 and 50 year certificates presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Mr. & Mrs. Asa McMillon.



Introducing....

FSA Membership at a Whole New Level...or Two!

Your Florida Sheriffs recently voted to expand the Florida Sheriffs Association Honorary Membership program to better accommodate the needs of supporters.

In addition to the traditional \$25 **Honorary Member** level, we're offering **Honorary Silver** (\$50) and **Honorary Gold** (\$100) levels (available to new members or as an upgrade).

Here's what's included:

Honorary Member (\$25 annually): Honorary Member I.D. card, window decal, bumper sticker, plus annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines.

Silver Honorary Member (\$50 annually): Honorary Member I.D. card, window decal, bumper sticker, annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, PLUS an official Florida Sheriffs Association license tag and lapel pin your first year of membership.

Gold Honorary Member (\$100 annually): Honorary Member I.D. card, window decal, annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, PLUS an official Florida Sheriffs Association license tag and tag frame your first year of membership.

Be sure to spread the word...and don't forget - Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association makes a great gift!

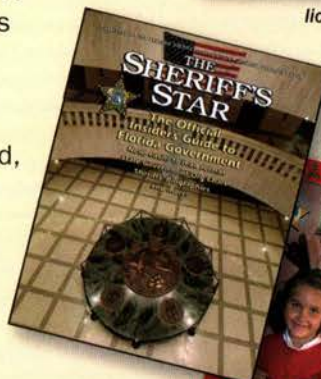
Find more information online at: www.flsheriffs.org, choose the "Membership Info." icon.



window decal



license tag



Magazines



1 inch
lapel pin

tag
frame



Attention Members:

Are you moving for the season? Please send us . . .

. . . your new address so that you'll continue to receive *The Sheriff's Star*. And please remember to let us know again when moving again.

We don't want to lose you as a valuable member, but if your address has been changed, you may not be receiving your FSA mailings.

Please take a moment to check the mailing label on the back cover of this magazine. If your address is different in any way, let us know.

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Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (850) 878-8665

E-mail: ktamel@flsheriffs.org

Or call us at (800) 877-2168

Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org>

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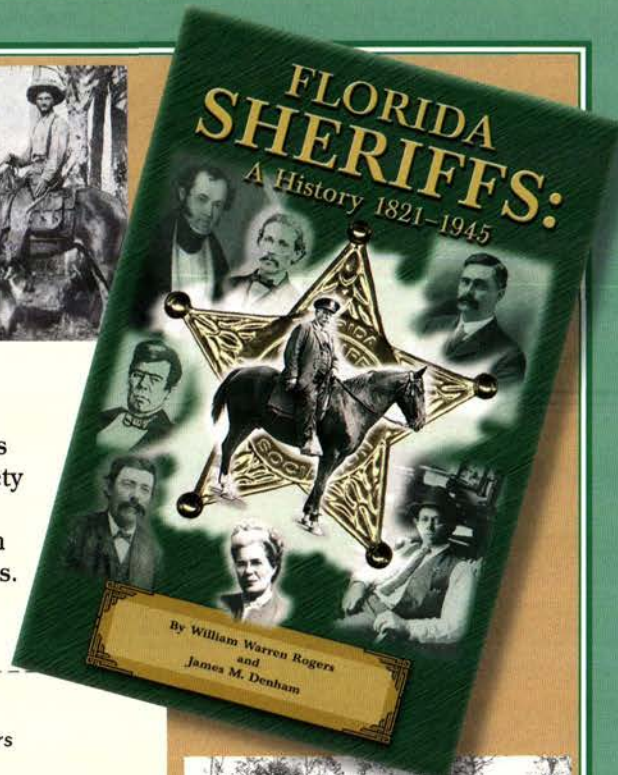
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You Can Own A Part of Law Enforcement History

A book about the history of law enforcement in Florida is a rare find. And that makes, "Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945" a real gem.

This book carefully documents the history of early law enforcement in the Sunshine State. In fact, shortly after it was published it received acclaim from the state's Historical Society as one of their "Outstanding Books on Florida History."

Co-authors William Warren Rogers and James M. Denham are not only accomplished historians, but talented storytellers. Don't miss their printed documentary of the chief law enforcers in our state.



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