Message from the Sheriff

Dear COP Members:

As you know, on January 8, 2013, Sheriff-elect Scott Israel will be sworn in as the new Sheriff of Broward County. As the New Year begins and a new administration takes the helm of one of the nation’s best public safety agencies, I would like to commend the dedicated Citizen Observer Patrol members to Sheriff-elect Israel. Your hard work and selfless commitment to the community is unsurpassed and it is important that you all know how much your support and loyalty has meant to me.

I have truly been honored to have served as Sheriff of Broward County for the last five years. I wish all of you a safe, happy and prosperous New Year!

Al Lamberti

A Message from your COP Coordinator

I would like to thank all of our COP members for the tremendous service they give to their local communities and to BSO. You all do so much in giving back and assisting others. I offer you my thanks for choosing the COP program with the Broward Sheriff’s Office.

As a reminder, when working as a COP and in uniform, please remember the section of the COP Handbook that talks about identification cards. ID cards “must be displayed on the left breast pocket while working assigned duties.” Further, “the identification card will not be displayed except in the course of the member’s duties.” Please remember that anytime you are not on official duty and you have law enforcement contact with any agency, BSO or otherwise, it is never acceptable to use your ID card or uniform to enhance your position or influence an event. The ID may not be displayed in vehicles or other generally public areas. Your uniform should not be displayed when not in use.

If you do have contact with any law enforcement when not on duty, you are merely a civilian at that moment. Please never take any actions that could be interpreted as leveraging your position.

Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated in this area. The compliance of everyone will enable our program to remain strong and function with integrity.

Deputy Alan Barnes – COP Coordinator
A Long Time Observing

September was Service Award month in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Recognition was given to COP members who have accumulated 500 hours or more in the last few years. The recipients were:

- Arcidiacono, Orazio (Sgt.)
- Barbara, Louis (Maj.)
- Del Pozzo, Louis (Sgt.)
- Dubois, Pat
- Johansen, William (Col.)
- Lassel, June
- Reichenstein, Margaret
- San Miguel, Mike (Maj.)

For Mike San Miguel, this is the tip of an iceberg. Mike was in the Charter COP Class for LBTS in December, 1996. Mike’s wife, Dolores, was also a charter member and is still an active COP today.

Also, note the leader of the group whom many of you will remember: Sgt. Doug Brown of the LBTS Police Department.

Mike has patrolled the streets of LBTS for more than 3,500 hours. His experience and dedication has resulted in numerous aid to citizens, very helpful information to deputies and great admiration from his community. Mike was invited and served as the Grand Marshal of our Fourth of July Parade last year.

Mike San Miguel receiving his latest Service Award

Mike feels the COP program is very positive for the community in which he lives and enjoys keeping the town “alive and safe.” Chief Oscar Llerena, Sgt. Pete LaGana and the entire town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea thank Mike for his tireless efforts and hours of support!

COP - COOPER CITY DISTRICT

The Cooper City district would like to highlight COP volunteer Bruce Druckerman. Bruce began his COP career in December 2004, and he has been happily serving the community since. While Bruce liked his patrol duties, he soon found his niche working at our annual city events, as well as assisting other districts with their seasonal events. Bruce always offers a cheerful demeanor, has an aptitude with people and is never at a loss for words. He enjoys working with new COP members and helping them discover the joys of volunteering.
Despite considerable injuries sustained in April 2011 during a motorcycle crash, Bruce pushed through his lengthy physical therapy and rehab time with the determination of a man on a mission. He dedicated himself to recovering from his injuries to return to his responsibilities as a father and to his career as owner/operator of AC Doctor & Appliance Repair in Cooper City. He also had in his heart a desire to return to his volunteer COP duties with BSO. Bruce succeeded in reaching that goal by returning to volunteer in March 2012 at our “Garage Sale Sweep”, and again the following month at our “Founder’s Day” events.

Bruce’s dedication to the BSO COP program is commendable. We are proud to call him one of our own. He is an able mentor and prime example of how valuable our volunteers are in assisting at BSO and city functions.

Central Broward Does It All
The past few months have been extremely busy for the Central Broward COP members, they received recognition for their participation at the city commission meeting in August.

The COP Unit assisted with the distribution of “Alert Flyers” for a homicide that occurred in Lauderdale Lakes.

In September, COP members attended the COP State Convention in North Miami Beach. Following the convention, COP members assisted with traffic during Deputy Christopher Schaub’s memorial. Recently, they took part in a “Crime Walk” sponsored by the City of Ft. Lauderdale, as well as the “Halloween Spooktacular” sponsored by the City of Lauderdale Lakes.

On a sad note, Mr. Stanley Hinds, a member of the Lauderdale Lakes COP, passed away in October. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and three grandchildren. Their youngest daughter, Heather, was also an active COP member for several years.

Weston COP Members Shine
By Kari Pallatto, Weston District
I am the Crime Prevention Practitioner in the city of Weston and I am in charge of the COP program. I have two very special COP members that I have had the pleasure of working alongside, they are Marty Rubinstein and Al Cresap.

Fourteen years ago Marty moved to Weston from California. He heard about the COP program, and being a retired reserve deputy from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office he felt that this was a great way to give back to his community. At that time Marty applied and was accepted and went right to work as a COP. He was assigned a partner named Al Cresap. Al also felt that this was the best way to give back to the community while retired and joined the COP program 15 years ago.

Needless to say Al and Marty hit it off right away and have stayed partners all these years. They have so much in common; both served our country admirably during World War II. After 9/11 they were assigned to help patrol Port Everglades as COP members. They said that patrolling the port was very interesting and got to know it well. They had one incident of a bomb scare. The Bomb Squad was called out and the dogs found what they thought was bomb making material. Thankfully, they discovered that it was just photographic material being loaded onto a cruise ship.
Marty serves as captain and Al as lieutenant in our district. Although Al is 93 and Marty is 85 they still try to go out once a week and patrol the city of Weston. Marty said he thinks the key to them staying partners all this time is they have wonderful conversations. They talk politics, even though one is a republican and one is a democratic. Marty and Al have been best friends because of the program, and as Al has said many times “I wish I would have met Marty 40 years ago.”

Parkland COP Spotlight
During the month of October, members of the COP assisted the City of Parkland with the city’s annual Parkland Dash (5K and 10 K walk/run). Proceeds of the event benefited the Tri-County Humane Society.

The Parkland District and its COP members are gearing up for the city’s Farmers Markets. Parkland’s Farmers Markets are held bi-monthly at the Equestrian Center Park between November and April. This event has grown into the largest farmers’ market type event in Broward County. Our COP volunteers play an important role with the event assisting with everything from parking to providing community policing and crime prevention tips and material to attendees.

Oakland Park COP Work Closely with Local Youth

BSO youth counselor Elizabeth Xavier, works closely with volunteers from the Citizens Observer Patrol. The volunteers are local residents who help BSO fight crime by patrolling their neighborhood, watching out for suspicious activity, and offering assistance to local residents. They act as additional “eyes and ears” to BSO’s law enforcement efforts.

The BSO Community Justice Program (CJP) is a voluntary diversion program designed to keep juvenile offenders out of the criminal justice system, while still requiring the offender to take responsibility and be held accountable for his or her actions. It provides highly structured diversion alternatives that decrease the likelihood of reoffending by incorporating counseling, family support and development activities. Youth counselors are employed to coordinate these activities.

COP volunteers assist the CJP in two of the most critical components of the program. They often serve as the community representative for the restorative justice conference, in which the juvenile must face the consequences of his or her actions by meeting with both the victims, as well as representatives from the community. In addition, COP volunteers also provide valuable assistance at the community service projects in which many of the juveniles are required to participate.

BSO believes strongly in the contribution of community members and volunteers to its overall mission of providing the highest level of professional public safety services to the community. The collaboration of Elizabeth Xavier with COP volunteers is an example of this approach, and has directly resulted in changing the lives of youth in our community. We would like to welcome three new members, Chuck Meyer, John Scott and Dan West; all working together to help guide our youths.

Huge Success in Tamarac
As was mentioned in the previous issue, the Tamarac COP Parks Patrol is a great success. Under the leadership of COP Volunteer Jackie Lekacz, the 14 member Parks Patrol patrolled an amazing 158.5 hours.

Not only do they patrol in the vehicle, but they are out in the parks meeting with the residents and spreading the word about crime prevention. The group hands out safety brochures and crime prevention materials, as well as answers questions pertaining to the rules and regulations of Tamarac City parks. Tamarac district command and Tamarac city government have received many calls and comments in reference to their professionalism and positive demeanor.

Along with Jackie the team members need to be recognized for their great dedication to the program. Parks Patrol team members are: Ken Landress, Patsy Landress, Jackie Lekacz, Sandy Ehrlich, Burton Goldfarb, Micki Endless, Cory Satowitz, Tony Curcio, Carol Curcio, Fred Faber, Pam Bushnell, Joan Klein and Jean Feuilleet.

Tamarac National Night Out

Tamarac COP members were involved in many 2012 National Night Out events. Many BSO marked units, including the Tamarac Explorers and COP units from around the city traveled from the district office to the Lakes of Carriage Hills community where they received a warm welcome. Chief Duguay addressed the group as the COP members handed out crime prevention brochures as well as great giveaway items. The group then headed west to the Concord Village Clubhouse where they received another warm welcome.

Florida Citizen Patrol Conference

On Saturday November 22nd, members of the Tamarac Citizen Observer Patrol along with several other districts attended the Florida Citizen Patrol Conference in North Miami Beach.

This all-day annual conference, which was not open to the general public, featured keynote speaker U.S. Marshal William Berger. Topics included, “How to Recognize, Protect Yourself & Deal with Mentally Disturbed Individuals,” “Pill Mills, What are they and How You Can Help Stop Them:” and “Cyber Threats Against our Citizens and Nation.”

Attendees were treated to lunch with networking and fun. A special thanks to those who gave of their time and attended.

Tamarac Remembers Long-Time Captain
Sadly, on October 10, the Tamarac COP mourned the loss of longtime Kings Point Captain Henry Podhurst. Hank, as he was known to all, was in charge of vehicle maintenance and made sure the car was always clean, serviced and full of gas. He put in many hours in Kings Point and could always be counted on to assist with city events. He will be missed by all. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.

BSO Fire Rescue also invited our COP members to a very informative Urban Search & Rescue session.

We provided support for other events such as National Night Out, Community Day and the backpack giveaway before the start of the school year.

There are many of our members who work hard and put in many hours of personal time to ensure the events we support are successful. One husband & wife team that fit that category is the Pontos. Seven years ago they retired to Deerfield Beach from Rhode Island. A. and Toni Ponto have been in the COP program for about six years and both have since reached the rank of major. Mr. Ponto has been in charged of the support of our nine vehicles, taking them for preventive maintenance and ensuring they are washed and cleaned inside and out. Toni helps out with the paperwork.

Living in Century Village, Toni is involved in many activities. In COP, Toni often times serves as the lead at events and provides backup when needed. She volunteers at the Reporter, a monthly newspaper for the Village, she is President of their building, Vice Chair of the area in which they live, Secretary of the Italian-American Club, Treasurer of the CVE Symphony Orchestra Guild and both are members CERT (Community Emergency Response Team.) A. Ponto is still driving tractor trailer part time. All this in addition to the routine activities involving COP. It's quite an interesting approach to retirement. Thank you A. & Toni Ponto for all the extra time and effort you give to your community and to the Deerfield Beach COP.

Deerfield Beach Staying Busy
The Deerfield Beach COP has been active during the summer months as we await the return of the snowbirds from the far north. During season, snowbirds add significantly to our number of road patrols so we welcome their return.

Since June, we have been involved in a number of events in addition to road patrols. The Kiwanis Golf Tournament, a prescription drug take-back event at Century Village, beach patrols on July 4th, and a special radio training session together with our CERT partners provide members with additional training in communication. The CERT team and
South Broward COP Provide 2,000 Hours of Service

One of our most dedicated COP members in South Broward is 73-year old Yoaa Serge Charbonneau. Serge joined the South Broward COP program in April of 2011 and has been actively patrolling the streets of West Park and Pembroke Park ever since.

In the past year, Serge has already volunteered nearly 2000 hours of his time to the South Broward District. On average, Serge patrols four hours a day, four times a week, every week! In addition, he attends numerous BSO Shred-A-Thon’s and community parades and events. Due to his exceptional commitment to the program and his professionalism, he has been appointed as the COP Captain for the Lake Forest Division. Whenever we have called upon Serge for COP assistance, he is ready in ten minutes!

Serge was born and raised in Nominique-Canada. As an adult, he served five years in the Canadian Air Force where he participated in many oversees missions. After his Air Force career, he became employed by Nortel Network as an engineer. Eventually, his employment with this company would lead him to South Florida where he decided to become a permanent US Citizen and resident of Pembroke Park.

Serge has lived in South Broward since 2009. He loves the outdoors and his hobbies include fishing and hunting. He keeps himself in shape by walking three miles a day, rain or shine.

In his spare time, Serge loves to travel and visit his friends in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Bahamas.

Serge's most recent claim to fame as a COP member was when he observed a suspected burglar...
enter the yard of a residence. Serge immediately notified dispatch and provided a clear description and location of the suspect. As deputies arrived on scene, Serge instructed them of the suspect's location and they were able to quickly set up a perimeter and apprehend the suspect.

We look forward to many more years with Serge on Patrol in the South Broward District. He is a great asset to the community and dedicates himself daily to perform a job well done in the COP program.

Pompano Beach Honors Fallen Hero

The Pompano Beach COP members recently visited the Walgreens located at 960 South Pompano Parkway, the site where Sergeant Christopher Reyka was murdered. There is a memorial garden that was established in honor Sgt. Reyka that required touch ups.

Breaking News from North Lauderdale

North Lauderdale COP Hyman D. Zelcer, shown in the photo below, was accused of breaking a camera after this photo was snapped outside of his home in The Village at Coral Lake. The camera used almost blew up seconds after taking the photo, but later cooled down and returned to normal. This cleared Mr. Zelcer of the possible camera break charge.

Friends of Mr. Zelcer stated they were so emotionally touched by the photo and their eyes filled with tears as they pondered the deeper meaning of COP Zelcer touching his favorite ride.

Thanks Hy for sharing the photo.

The group replaced the old plants with new plants, pulled the weeds and added new stones to beautify the garden.
Happy Holiday’s from Fleet

COP representatives from fleet: Troy McHatton, Rey Cabrera and Scott Barnett