



▶ MBPD RETIREE NEWS ◀

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 0 8

Unity is strength for a better retirement

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Luncheon report

This month's lunch at the ARK went well with the ratio of old timers and new retirees about even. Present were President Billy O'NEIL, Vice President Lynda VESKI, Secretary Vinny APRILE, Treasurer Charlie SERAYDAR, Trustees Joan DONNELLY-OCHOA and her son, Bernie WINER, Shelly GOLDSTEIN, Art SCHICKLER, Stanly STEINBRECHER (in a wheel chair), Chief Rich BARRETTO, Chief Charles PRESS, Fred WALDER, Bobby MOOREHEAD, Frank AZCARATE, writer Alan SKOLNICK, Past President Carl WARD, Author Sam GAM, Chris PALLIS John VAN VEANKEN,, Mike GRANT (son now training officer in Pembroke Pines) Priscilla GRANDAGE with escort Patrick, Jason PSALTIDES, Bill THRALL, Bill ROSENSTEIN, Tony SAMMARCO, myself, and FOP President Bobby JENKINS (35 days left) short form of business meeting.



Lunch was opened with pledge to the flag, Secretary's report given and accepted, Treasurers report shows \$10,000 plus. SERYDAR explained a White Officers organization within the department no longer needs to be and their funds must by state law be given to charitable organizations. That group has said their moneys will be divided three ways with PAL, and the retirees being two that will receive funds. Charlie has been in touch with their Treasurer and expects to receive our share, which will be used to improve on our yearly holiday gifts to widows earning less than \$600 a month. Last year we donated \$100 and the FOP matched it to ten widows.

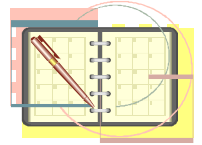
Discussion on having a separate part of our Wall OF Honor for the Auxiliary Officers who have honorably served twenty years. Meeting told we will continue to have our Holiday dinner at Hollybrook. The mid-state will continue to be in Orlando at the Embassy Suites if no other hotel matches the perks were allowed. One other hotel will be met to see if we can carry over the perks. Under New business Bernie WINER nominated JENKINS for President saying he won't have anything to do in a month. Meeting closed with a prayer by Carl WARD.

Happy Birthday

Bud DAWSON, Paul DINKINS, Pricilla GRANDAGE, Bert GREENBERG, Howard GROSS, Zell HALL Garth HAMMON, William LAMB, William LOWE, Jack LYNCH (hold on Jack), William MAXWELL, Don McGAVERN, John MILLERICK ,Eliz NEWLAND, Dave RICHARDS, Regina SIEDENTOPT, Jeff SCHAEFER, William SKINNER, Leo WEBER and Tevey WOOLFE Bud

Of interest

For old-times, I found some 35 mm slides and had them put on a disc. It shows a lunch held in 1999 in Coral Gables. Five retirees shown have died. The disc is being sent to Gerry MacKEY to print on his web site. About the middle of the month they should be available on <http://community.webshots.com/user/rockdog.2007>. Also our directory is updated almost monthly, for addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses go to XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.



Florida Law Enforcement Games

Retired MBPD Captain Dan REID anchored the D Division MBPD Bowling team to a bronze medal in the recent Florida Law Enforcement Games which was held in Sarasota this past June. The team consisted of Current Officers Wayne THOMAS, Garry LARKIN, Kareem AZIM and retiree Dan REID. In addition Kareem AZIN and Dan REID, won gold medals in the D division bowling venue. After the success of the bowling team was made known, plans were put in the works for MBPD to send at least three teams to the games next year in Port St Lucie. Dan REID said he would be happy to assist with training and anchoring his team to another medal next June. Dan was proud of what the teams were able to accomplish in only the second year in the games.

News from members...



I have learned of some names regarding the shooting of the three Metro Detectives. Shelly GOLDSTEIN held one in his arms assuring him he was going to be alright while the arm bleed to death. Alan SOLOWITZ a motorman came from the station in record time and attempted to set up the command post. Sgt Ed YOUNG did organize the search of the underbrush and Bob ACUNA went into the tree to pull out the body of the suspect. DEATH Jason BERKMAN, who served as Justice of the Peace on the Beach until that position was eliminated, then served as a City Judge. His obit revealed he served in the Air Force in WW2 receiving the Air Medal and the purple heart.

Calvin E KEEL known only as Calvin to patrons of Joe's Stone Crab restaurant. Calvin started as an 18 year old busboy, went to work in the kitchen working himself to be the kitchen manager, then floor manager. His death at 69 years of age ended fifty years of service to Joe's.

Lou SUGAR (1961-1985) now 72 years old was in his whirlpool when I called. Storm Fay had dumped 11 inches of rain in his area, filling the lake behind Sugar's house and forcing him to lower the water in his pool twice. Lou enjoys good health but adds as we get older the aches and pains come. With his wife, they visited Alabama and New Hampshire this summer. One daughter living in Winter Haven has a plane and will fly Lou where ever he wants to go. Always a fisherman Lou's second daughter lives in New Orleans where the oil companies own property and Lou fishes the bijous. He claims he always catches the limit. At home he fishes with a friend who owns a boat and last time out he caught a 45 lb amberjack off the reefs.

Jack WEBB, one of 13 of us who went on the job together, is now 83 years of age. His older brother Jesse is five years older at 88. They can probably trace their longevity to their mother who died at 92 years of age and was sharp her full life. They also sound like brothers both saying "I'm the luckiest guy alive. I worked on a job I loved and married the most wonderful woman in the world". In past years Jack spent his summers in North Carolina where they owned property and built their own home. However JACK fell, injuring his back that resulted in 3 operations, now he can't sit or stand alone for more than 30- minutes at a time. So they sold everything in Carolina and now are content in living in Melbourne in a gated community with age restrictions that offers different perks, (pool hall, cards, dinners etc). Jack's wife Mickie, also has had health problems, had heart by pass operations about five years ago. Now she slipped, broke her hip and currently is in rehab. They have two sons; both living in other states who are doing well and Jack's bragged about his one granddaughter who recently joined the Marines. Although storm "Fay" dumped 25 inches of rain on Melbourne, Jack's complex never flooded as they have run off ponds within the complex. Some streets were flooded but not for long.

Last month under Vinny's breakfast we reported that Thomas WESCHLER, hired by the Naples Police Department to head up Training and other functions had been named Acting Police Chief. At the time we didn't have his Naples address 266 Fairway Circle, Naples, FL 34110, phone 239 431 6986, email Wesch@hotmail.com.

Jim Casey, Part 3

There was a theft of two jeweled plaques from a safe deposit box at the Fontainebleau Hotel which were valued at \$250,000. Over thirty hotel personnel were interviewed, interrogated, and polygraphed. Descriptions, drawings and photographs were sent to numerous pawn shops in the county. Information on two possible suspects turned up. One of the plaques and some of the jewelry were traced to them. They were Fontainebleau desk personnel. They were arrested, pled guilty and continued to cooperate in the investigation. Phone taps were obtained and a fence and his wife were discovered in the case. They were followed to a North Miami bank and search warrants were obtained and bank cameras were utilized. Additional contraband was recovered from s safe deposit box. In all about 98% of the original theft was

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Jim Casey, continued from page 2...

recovered. The fence and his wife pled guilty and were sent to prison. I was nominated for "Officer of the Month" in February 1980 by my supervisor Lt Richard PROCYK in reference to this case when the two suspects were arrested and a partial recovery was made. I didn't make that honor in February but the investigation had continued for a year and a half.

In November 1981 I did make "Officer of the Month" after being nominated by Lt Lou REILLY and in December 1981, Chief Emmit MILLER nominated me for Dade County Officer of the Year. At the Award Ceremony I came in second and received a \$500 reward. The winner of the "Officer of the Year" award for Metro Dade County arrested his suspect, but he lost the case in court.



In 1985/86, I became the Sergeant of the day shift Major Crimes Squad. There were no detectives on duty from 2 30Am to 7 30AM. If a major crime, such as homicide, kidnapping, or shooting call came into the dispatch office after 2 30AM, our squad was called. My Lieutenant was Julian QUAROS and my detectives were Bob DAVIS, Tom HOOLHAAN, and Robert HUNDEVADT. We were one detective short so I continued to supervise as well as investigate cases with my detectives. In my year or so in that unit we investigated and cleared several kidnapping cases and all our shootings, sexual battery, and homicide cases. I wrote letters of commendation on each detective at various times as they deserved it. They were a very competent and performed well. Detective HUNDEVADT is now a Captain on the department.

In 1987, assisted by a female clerk, I was assigned to an office in the Justice Building in Miami and was responsible for the transportation of all the evidence in the Miami Beach Property Room to the Metro Crime lab. It was my responsibility to contact all officers for upcoming trials and organizing and transporting subpoenas to the various offices at the Miami Beach department. Many of our Officers were not getting all their subpoenas and notifications from the District Attorney's office.

In my last two years 1988/89, I was assigned to the Report Control Center as Station Supervisor on the day shift. Lt Arthur GANZ was my supervisor. There were two other Sergeants assigned to the afternoon and midnight shift. Lt GANZ and I worked together one day a week on the four/ten plan. We were both fortunate that we were able to work a great deal of overtime our last two years. Lt GANZ retired at Captain's pay and I retired at Lieutenant's pay. I retired on December 18, 1989, with thirty years and four months service. In February 1990 I moved to Lake Placid, Florida where my wife and I presently live.

In 1993 I joined the Highlands County Sheriff's Department and worked part-time until December 9, 2006 when I decided to retire again. While there I became qualified to work as a part-time general law enforcement instructor and firearms instructor at the Criminal Justice Academy in Highlands County. I truly enjoyed my many years in law enforcement and the comradely that only police officers, fire fighters, and military personnel have for each other. In our careers, we depended on each other like no other profession.

I love my wife and family and will always cherish our many years we have spent together through little league, boating, fishing, hunting, and all the good things families do together. I also enjoyed teaching people to fly and wish that I would have had more time to do that. I pray we all continue to have good health and live to be at least 100 plus and meet again someday in heaven.

THANKS!

Dean Adler contributes website design and maintenance services for www.mbpdretirees.com (see Dean's ad on page 5 of this newsletter) from Cops and Firefighters in Business (CFB) as well as his mortgage business in Plantation, Florida. Dean also donates the graphic design and printing services for this newsletter.

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Meet Sam Gam

Samuel Gam was born on September 22, 1959 in Havana Cuba (yes I couldn't believe it either). When about 9 months old, his family fled Cuba due to the revolution, with his father leaving behind a successful souvenir business. The family originally settled in Marathon but later moved to Miami Beach. Sam advised his father supported the family by doing odd jobs and working as a waiter at the Grande Hotel (located in the 1000 block of Meridian Ave) under ground dining room. Sam would help out after school serving meals with his dad. His father finally saved enough money to buy a house in North Miami Beach in 1969. The house was a 3 bedroom/2 baths for \$19,000. Sam's father worked in a deli until his death; Sam went to Greynolds Park Elementary the Hebrew Academy and graduated in 1977 from North Miami Beach Senior High.

When 16 years old Sam decided he wanted to be a police officer. During a career day at the high school, he was able to do ride along with North Miami Beach Officer Manny Tortora. He also rode on patrol with that department's Officer George BOUCHER and was able to fly in a police helicopter which convinced him police work was what he wanted to do. A friend helped him become an Auxiliary Police Officer in Pembroke Park and that City sent through the police academy in 1978 (104 hours). He put in a card for 911 operator at Miami Beach PD and was hired in January 1979. He was cross trained as dispatcher. He worked days at MBPD and nights for Pembroke Park PD. When Sam's friend went to work as an officer at Biscayne Park, Sam became an Auxiliary Police Officer there. Biscayne Park Pd sponsored Sam and he went through the Police Academy in Broward County during the day and dispatched for Miami Beach PD midnights. He would be so tired some days he would sometimes fall asleep during dispatching (some things never change) Sam graduated the academy in 1980.

Sam applied to Miami Beach and Metro Dade PD and on 2/26/1981 joined the Miami beach PD. Emmet MILLER was the Chief. Sam's FTO's were Joe McCORMICK, Tommy HUNKER, Mike BAUER, Mickey KABAKOFF, Nick LOMANGINO and Doug BALES (who he credits with saving his career). Sam worked patrol, was an FTO, (his first trainee was Dave ALLEN). He also was traffic Homicide Investigator, SIU, Crime Suppression Team, and Hostage Negotiator. Eventually he became the commander of the Hostage Negotiation team. Sam made Sgt in 1996 and Lt in 2003.

While he was working he had planned to retire to South Carolina but since retiring has a different outlook and wants to stay in South Florida and possibly get another job in police work. Sam says his favorite job in police work was being a supervisor and being able to impact and assist the people he worked, with. He spoke of an officer he was able to assist who was having trouble with his girlfriend and he was able to get them in touch with a counselor through work. Sam's e-mail is sam0444@yahoo.com.

SAMS CORNER-A COLLECTION OF DISORGANIZED THOUGHTS SEPTEMBER 2008

Now retirees, most of you know me already, but please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sam GAM, recently retired with the rank of Lieutenant after proudly serving 29 years with the Miami Beach Police department. For many years, I didn't like being called Sam GAM, I preferred "Samuel". More formal you see. But I gave up the fight and now I'll have to live with this name forever. What were my parents thinking? Sam's corner-A collection of disorganized thoughts". One of the things I enjoyed as a Miami Beach cop was writing. Every thing but reports of course. I was the one who over the years wrote those goofy memos, sometimes disguised as directives or orders, with the Chief's name to them. The reader would get about halfway down and realize something was terribly, terribly wrong. I never got into trouble until technological that brought our department into the world of e-mails. I was in heaven. I loved e-mails. Didn't much like getting them. One thing about e-mails is that the "brass" dumping them out. Sewage in, sewage out. And there was hardly any good news, it was negative stuff. I tried to go to work angry. I would log in from home and read the 90 plus e-mails I received over my three days off. Aside from the Bolo's, flyers, and various statistics, there was a never ending flow of watch orders, complaints, inquiries, complaints and more complaints. I had the ability to type so fast, that I responded to some of these negative e-mails and sent them out before my brain was able to say "stop you idiot, you're gonna get in trouble". So what happened? I got into trouble. A lot. But no more, the day I retired, they cut off my e-mail. I know, I checked.

One thing I enjoyed was writing commendations. Even writing them for other officers. They knew that my write ups got results. Medals of Valor, Officers of the Month, Letters of Appreciation, and Runner up (sorry) for Officers of the Year and so forth. If I tried to, I could get someone awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, if that's what they deserved. Thankfully for many of my peers, my skills did not extend to writing reprimands, I hated those things, and fortunately, I didn't have to worry about those too. I will use my love of writing to author a monthly column for my fellow retirees and the good thing is I can't get into trouble doing this, and I promise to try to be light and hopefully get a chuckle out of all of you. Vinnie APRILE is to be thanked with helping me come up with the idea for this column. I would also like to thank the members of the board who gave it the "green light". See you folks around and read my column next month.