



▶ MBPD RETIREE NEWS ◀

O c t o b e r 2 0 0 8

Unity is strength for a better retirement

www.mbpdretirees.com

Breakfast Meeting

On Friday September 26, 2008 a breakfast was held at the 84 Diner with 17 members and one retired fireman attending. Members attending were Al Boza, Paul Lupien, Jack Mackie, Lisa Newland, Jim Burnette, Pat Devaney, Don Freeman, Tom Lederman, Jason Psaltides, Bobby Bauer, Tony Sammarco, Wally Neumann, Fred Walder, Alan Skolnick, Sam Gam, Charlie Seraydar, Vinny Aprile and retired fireman Tom Columbano.

Promotional Ceremony

There will be a Promotional Ceremony on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

Chief Noriega will promote the following individuals "From/To":

- Lieutenant Richard Clements to Captain Richard Clements
- Sergeant Douglas Simon to Lieutenant Douglas Simon
- Officer Douglas Dozier to Sergeant Douglas Dozier
- Officer James Nolan to Sergeant James Nolan
- Officer Luis Corps to Sergeant Luis Corps



In Memoriam

Everyone with e-mail knows Emanuel (Bill) PEVEROFF has died. The department's announcement said he was a Lieutenant but I only remember him as a Sergeant. He served from 1948 to 1972.

I apologize for the lack of news in this month's letter, I have been sick and other matters took up my time. I also have been unable to reach any of the three persons that retired. Either their out of town or too busy to return my calls. I will add onto the letter if I can get a hold of one. I have been telling readers that I want someone to pick up the writing of this letter. This month's being so short might push someone into taking it.



Birthdays

Gene ADDIS, Joe BASLER, Andy CAPUTO, Rich CARACAUS, Mario CAPPELLETTI, John CLEMENTS, Tom DUNCAN, Norvel DUNCAN, Robert FRAME, Robert HUNDEVADT, Dennis GODBOLD, Shelly GOLDSTEIN, Mike GRANT, LeeAnn GUTIERREZ, James HARRIS, Jack MACHIE, John MOORE, Romilio PEREZ, Tony PIZZO, Dick PROCYK, John QUIROS, Tony SAMMARCO, Ellen ROELOFS, Fentress TOOTLE, Tom WILSON, and Ed YOUNG

Campaign Fundraiser for Dennis Ward

Submitted by Lynda Veski

For those of you who haven't heard, Dennis Ward is running for State Attorney of Monroe County. He is currently working as a public defender in Monroe County and has shown himself to be serious competition against the incumbent. Dennis earned his law degree while still on the job at MBPD. Since retiring, he has worked in the private and public sectors. While quite a few retirees have achieved recognition as Chiefs and administrators of other police agencies, I believe that State Attorney would be a first for us and adds honor to our organization. Let's help Dennis win this election. Let's put a friend and former coworker in office. Join us for a fundraiser for him in my home and share some food, drink and friendship.



What: Fundraiser

When: Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: 3350 SW 131 Terrace, Davie, FL

RSVP by October 12 to: Lynda 954 915-6656 or 786 367-7744, email lyndaveski@yahoo.com or Bernie Winer 786 859-6631, email bmwiner1@aol.com

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Sam's Corner- "A Collection of disorganized thoughts"

October, 2008

Hello my friends and fellow retirees! It's been about three months since I left the Miami Beach Police Department and I am just now starting to get used to the routine, or lack thereof. In last month's newsletter, my profile indicated that I wanted to go back to work as a police officer. That was very true then, a little less so now. Since then I've calmed down a bit. Yet, part of me still wants to get back into that life, but there are things I want to do and need to do. Going back to work would definitely interfere with my plans. So to all those potential employers out there, don't write me off just yet, I may be back!!

Random Thoughts

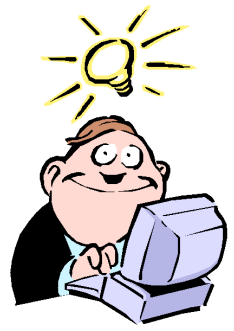
I recently went to Lieutenant George Lerra's 50th birthday party (congratulations again George!) and ran into retired fire Lieutenant Mike Timmoney. He retired a few months prior to me and we talked about retired life. He said it took him a good six months to get used to it. Now he loves it. He and I started our respective careers at about the same time. Mike spoke of the "dreams". Yes folks, I'm not embarrassed to share this with you. Mike and I had dreams. Not about each other, but about various aspects of our jobs. Not bad dreams, but good ones. Dreams about some of the things we did while we were working. When I heard this, I sort of felt a little better. At least I knew I wasn't going crazy.

As much as I loved my 29 plus years working in Miami Beach, I thought I would miss going there. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, I can't stand visiting the city. Of course, I do have to visit occasionally, but the trip is no fun at all. Aside from the fact that it takes some getting used to not being paid to drive to Miami Beach, it annoys me that I-95 is always a mess, the drivers on the beach have not gotten any better, despite all those tickets I wrote over the years (evidently it was not enough), and I sort of feel funny driving around without hearing the police radio. Makes me feel out of touch.

I do still miss most of the folks I worked with, but as time goes on, the calls become less and less. I am proud of where I've been and what I've accomplished, as I'm sure you folks are, but now I'm getting used to the fact that I've turned a page and entered a new chapter in my life. Hopefully, I'm still in the middle of my "book", if you know what I mean.

One of the great things about working at MBPD is that I've had the pleasure and privilege of working with many talented people. I'm not referring to their skills as detectives, patrolmen, K-9 officers, motormen, etc..... I'm talking about their talents outside of the job.

Few people that I know are as talented as retired Sgt. Bill Godfrey. (Still on active reserve by the way). Bill is well known to many not only as a longtime and dedicated member of the police department, but as a skilled and hardworking contractor. His specialty is concrete, but that man can build anything out of anything.



The Miami Beach Police Department is more than just a collection of cops. I have worked with plumbers, electricians, tile setters, athletes, musicians, lawyers, nurses, authors, cartoonists, painters, roofers, landscapers, computer technicians, animal trainers, chefs, woodworkers, masons, singers, songwriters, television repairmen, radio technicians, salespeople, mortgage brokers, realtors, fishermen, auto mechanics, jewelers, and much more. All wearing the same uniform.

Unfortunately, I've also worked with thieves, slimeballs, losers, and nut bags. But we'll save that for some other time, maybe.

Many of our colleagues have improved and expanded their skills into new hobbies and careers. Take my good friend and former partner in traffic homicide, Gerry Mackey. Gerry is now an author who has written at least one book and is working on a second. A former physics teacher who became a police officer, he worked for 22 years at MBPD. Gerry moved to Tennessee and decided to become an author when his wife, an RN in the Army reserves was deployed to Ft. Campbell for 15 months. Left alone on 4 acres in the dead of winter, he needed something to do. So he wrote a book. Hopefully, I'll get to read it soon.

My good friend, Mr. Bill Maxwell started working with wood as a hobby while still employed as a Beach cop. In his single car garage in Miami Springs, with his limited equipment, space and time, he created beautiful pieces of furniture, from coffee tables to jewelry boxes. He doesn't believe in selling his crafts, too much like work. So whatever he doesn't keep, he gives away as gifts. Now he lives in Tallahassee and has set up his "dream shop" in his 2-car garage. Bill looks forward to expanding his skills as a woodworker and has just the right equipment for it. I think he is just beginning to realize how valuable his stuff is.

There are many more examples of former colleagues with special skills I could share with you, but it would take up the entire newsletter. There are some really talented people out there that most members of the public neither knew nor cared about. To them we were cops, crime scene techs, dispatchers, administrative assistants, or whatever. But in my opinion, as long as we knew, that was all that really mattered.

As for me, I tried to become an electrician several years ago. I decided to replace the lighting in my kitchen with fluorescent lights. I figured I was handy enough to do the job, so I went to Home Depot and purchased all the parts. I got home and eagerly started my project. The projected cost was to be about \$120.00. When it was all over, I ended up frying my TV, and had to call a professional electrician to finish the job. Between repairs on the TV and fixing all of my screwups, the \$120.00 project turned into a \$700.00 project. Moral (or moron) of the story, do not call Sam Gam for your kitchen lighting projects.

I have told this story several times and it gets funnier and funnier every time I tell it. Especially after a few beers.

That's it for this month friends, in the meantime, if you have any ideas for my column, feel free to e-mail me at sam0444@yahoo.com. I'd love to hear from you.

Tom Weschler Appointed Naples Police and Fire Department Chief

After a national search where over 100 candidates from across the country vied for the much coveted position, Naples' newest police and fire chief comes from, where else, Naples. City Manger Bill Moss announced Friday afternoon that Tom Weschler, 52, the Naples Police and Fire Department's acting chief, will officially take the reins at the department on Oct. 1. Weschler has run the show since former Chief Victor Morales retired in early August and took a security job at Sea World in Orlando (Source: NaplesNews.com). CONGRATULATIONS TOM! (from MBPD Retirees!!!).

THANKS! - Dean Adler contributes website design and maintenance services for www.mbpsdretirees.com (see Dean's ad on page 4 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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