

President's Message

April 2010

By: Deputy Sal Anicito, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office



Hello fellow F.D.O.A. members. I know it has been a while since I last wrote to you all. Many things have been going on. I am now the Senior Advisor for our Explorer Post (400). I was given this position in November of 2009. Since that time, I have been very busy getting acclimated to the position and very busy doing details with the Explorers. As with any new assignment, it takes time to figure out all the in's and out's but I'm moving right along with this learning process.

With that having been said, let me bring you up to date on what has been happening. I received an email from the First Vice President Chris Taylor from Hallandale Police Department. Chris advised me that there have been some inquiries about the F.D.O.A. Conference. For the past few years, the conference was being held on Florida's west coast in Marco Island. Marco Island is a beautiful place but the complaint was that it is very expensive to hold a conference there. The other issue that came up is the location of Marco Island. It seems that many agencies are concerned about the distance that they have to travel to get there. I understand these issues and I felt it was something that we needed to look into. As of this time, we have been able to break our ties with Marco Island and concentrate on getting the conference in a more central location that will be a little easier for members to attend and more affordable. Our goal is to increase the numbers for our conference. When a conference is held and there are only sixty people in attendance from the entire state of Florida, I'm sure you will all agree that something needs to change. We are, at this time, negotiating some venues that will make the conference more convenient and enjoyable for you. I'll keep you up to date on the progress for the 2011 Law Enforcement Training Conference sponsored by F.D.O.A..

We went to Miami Dade Police Department's D.A.R.E. Walk Event on Saturday, Feb. 20. The Lake County Sheriff's Office showed off their cool D.A.R.E. cars. Thanks to all those guys that attended and thanks to the Miami Dade Police Department for their help and support of F.D.O.A..

We are also currently working on some fund raising events for F.D.O.A.. If you have any ideas or suggestions on fundraising or if you would like to get involved in the fundraising efforts, please contact me at 772-370-2715 or Terry Allen at 352-455-6113.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, I have a new position that is taking up much of my time. The position of Vice President is still vacant and I have not had anyone who has showed any interest in this position. I do need someone who is willing to work with me, therefore I am appointing Deputy Fred Jones from Lake County Sheriff's Office to fill the position of Vice President. Fred is a hard charger who is very active with D.A.R.E. and is willing to give his time to move F.D.O.A. forward. Thank you to Fred for stepping up to the plate and accepting this position.

On a sad note, we have received information that Daryl Gates, the founder of the D.A.R.E. program has passed away after a battle with cancer. We got to meet him at the 2009 International D.A.R.E. Conference in Orlando where he was the guest speaker. F.D.O.A. Treasurer Terry Allen went to California and spent time with Mr. Gates on a personal basis and even got an autographed copy of his book. He was a wonderful person and he will be missed.

I will let you all know when and where the next F.D.O.A. meeting will be held. Check in on the website for information. Remember, we need to increase the membership of F.D.O.A.. Let's get out there and get the membership moving up. Stay Safe and God Bless you all.

YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Sal