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First responders, drinking and celebrating: Recipe for disaster?

BY JOSEPH HUNTER, M.A.
FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS PROGRAM

As a first responder, you put your life and well-being on the line day in and day out. A single week could include fighting the roaring flames of house or forest fires, protecting your community’s businesses and residents from criminals or trying to keep civilians alive after accidents or overdoses.

You see and experience a lot on the job, which can take a toll on your own physical, emotional and mental health. That’s why drinking together with your colleagues while you cheer on your favorite sports team is one of the few simple pleasures you have left at the end of a long week.

After all, you deserve it, right?

While kicking back and enjoying a cold one is normal, it’s vital that you keep your mind and reflexes sharp – for the sake of yourself, your colleagues and the people you protect. If you find yourself partying a little too hard after work on a more regular basis, you can end up putting yourself and others at risk.

Are you worried that you might be drinking too much? Saying “no” to alcohol occasionally or completely can feel a little awkward and alienating at first, so we’re here to give you some tips on how to stay engaged with your colleagues without putting yourself at risk for struggles with alcoholism.

How to avoid drinking too much while watching sports

This may sound like a no-brainer, but trying to limit the amount of time you spend in bars is one way to cut back on drinking. Maybe you and the crew can try getting together at a restaurant or one of your homes instead. This gives you a chance to focus more on food and friends and less time with alcohol taking center stage.

Avoid drinking to cope with difficult emotions or traumatic experiences on the job. Instead, try to keep a responsible amount of alcohol reserved for celebrating joyous occasions. When you drink to take the pain away, it just comes back stronger.

You could also offer to be the designated driver. That gives you a perfectly valid and non-confrontational reason to limit your drinking for the evening, but it might not be a long-term solution.

Honesty is the best policy

Ultimately, if you’re trying to limit your alcohol intake or stop drinking altogether, you should consider being honest and open with your friends and colleagues. While you might worry about how they’ll respond, just acknowledging the fact that it’s on the horizon can help prepare you for the anxiety and pressure.

If you don’t want to admit to your crew that you think you have a drinking problem, try approaching the conversation by saying that you’re limiting your alcohol intake to try to stay fit and healthy.

And remember, practice saying “no” in your head or in front of a mirror. Be confident. You deal with high pressure situations all the time on the job. You’ve got this!

Signs that you might be dependent on alcohol

If you’ve tried cutting back or quitting already and found yourself drinking just as much or more than before, you might have an issue with alcoholism. Other warning signs include:

- Intense cravings for a drink
- Loss of interest in maintaining relationships or enjoying hobbies
- When your body becomes dependent on alcohol to function, you may experience these and other withdrawal symptoms when you go without:
  - Headaches
  - Shaking or tremors
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Seizures
  - Hallucinations
  - Fever and sweating

Having trouble with alcohol abuse is not cause for shame. This isn’t a sign of weakness or something you chose. This doesn’t mean you’re any less of a first responder than the rest of your crew. Alcoholism is a serious illness that can be treated. You can recover and live a happier, healthier life.

If you or someone you love or know needs help, call the Safe Call Now 24-hour hotline at 206-459-3020. For more information on the First Responder Wellness Program, visit https://cyclesofchangerecovery.com/services/first-responder-wellness-program/.
Not every first responder who struggles with alcohol addiction has a drink every day. You might think that restricting yourself to a few splurges here and there isn’t that harmful. Binge drinking (as defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) is a pattern of alcohol consumption that raises the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level to 0.08 percent or higher. Over a two-hour period, that’s roughly five or more drinks for men or four or more drinks for women. Despite not being classified as a severe alcohol use disorder, binge drinking still carries a number of significant risks — both in the short term and over the long haul for first responders.

Some of the more immediate consequences of binge drinking include:

- Impaired motor skills and balance
- Slower reaction times
- Poor judgment

All of these can lead to long-term consequences ranging from injury to death. Risky sexual behavior resulting from the temporary changes in your judgment could lead to sexually transmitted infections or unwanted pregnancy.

You’re also at major risk for alcohol poisoning when you binge drink. Some of the warning signs include the short-term effects listed above as well as low blood pressure, lower body temperature, changes in breathing, blurred or double vision, clammy skin and vomiting. With alcohol poisoning, your gag reflex is impacted as well, which can lead to serious choking hazards or death.

If you see someone who might be suffering from alcohol poisoning, call 911 right away. Stay with the individuals to keep them safe from accidental harm. Help them remain awake and sitting until help arrives. If they’re unconscious, roll them onto their side to prevent choking in case they begin vomiting.

One of the more obvious long-term consequences of binge drinking is progressing to more serious levels of alcohol abuse. However, even if you’re able to keep from slipping in that direction, there are some other potential issues to consider:

- Cancer – As few as one alcoholic drink per day increases your risk of breast, mouth or esophageal cancer. Excessive drinking has been linked to other cancers as well, including liver, colon, rectum, pharynx and larynx cancers.
- Brain development – For the 25 and younger crowd, your brains are still maturing and growing. Binge drinking may cause issues with brain development.
- Depression and anxiety – Some people may go on drinking binges when dealing with difficult situations. Ironically, alcohol use can exacerbate both depression and anxiety while preventing you from developing healthier coping mechanisms — leading to a vicious cycle of alcohol abuse and mental health issues.

If you don’t experience withdrawal symptoms when going extended periods without alcohol, you might be able to curb drinking binges with only the support of responsible friends and family. However, if any of these warning signs for more serious drinking problems apply to you, you may want to consider seeking professional help with recovery.

- Withdrawal or intense cravings between drinks
- Guilt over your drinking
- Blackouts
- Risky behavior
- Anger when drinking
- Drinking alone regularly
- Drinking to cope with stress, anxiety or depression

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The Lead Story: Too much good cheer?

The holiday season brings many opportunities for law enforcement officers to raise a glass and say “cheers.” But in this profession, another reason to take a drink could be a sign of more than just celebrating.........................................................Page 4

The Power of Attorneys

The MAP Rap Sheet series spotlighting its powerful legal team continues with profiles of three members of this all-star team. Jerry Marzullo, Steve Calcaterra and Ron Cicinelli have catapulted from their deep connections with law enforcement to provide the representation that gives MAP members a unique edge ..........................................................Page 22

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Lend your expertise to active shooter training for churches

First up, we remember CPD Officer Samuel Jimenez, EOW Nov. 19, 2018. Rest in peace. It was a hard way to kick off Thanksgiving week, but another reminder that it can happen anywhere, at any time. I did listen to some of the radio traffic and have to commend the dispatch employees, who were clear and calm in directing the input they were hearing and communicated extremely well in a dangerous situation. The incident reminds us that we need to be prepared and have a plan.

In a prior column, I mentioned that our church was looking into active shooter training. We did start with staff training with the help of active and retired law enforcement. Going forward, we are filming a video and preparing a handout for our parishioners. We are not acting on a threat, but rather out of caution so that we have a plan in place. We will bring awareness to our parishioners regarding exit points, AED equipment and how to proceed in an active shooter situation, but also in medical emergencies, tornadoes and fire situations.

This is something that may be of interest to you, as many of us belong to some house of worship. You could lend your expertise to your congregation, since a plan for this scenario is way out of the clergy’s depth of knowledge. Your training and everyday experience would be knowledge beyond anything our staff would ever imagine and know how to plan. You could look into our building security and bring awareness to congregations to have a plan in case something does happen.

Not all congregations are going to be open to bringing in this training. My opinion is that things have changed. Just look at what the training for active shooters was just 10 years ago. For you, it was to get there and wait for backup before entering. Now, the SOP is to get there and go in after the offender. Today, staying still in place is not a plan.

The year is coming to a close, and we will be celebrating our holidays. I hope you set aside some time for your faith expression and spending time with family and friends. Many of you will be scheduled to work and may miss some family gatherings. Over the past 30 years of working with fire and police members, we have always adjusted our family Christmas to when we are all available. We always pray for your safety. Wishing you all the best of this season. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

A joke: A passenger jet was traveling through a severe thunderstorm. As the passengers were being bounced around by the turbulence, a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and with a nervous laugh asked, “Reverend, you’re a man of God, can’t you do something about this storm?” To which he replied, “Lady, I’m in sales, not management.”

Peace!
Chaplain Tom Ross
stlgo8@wowway.com
I saw a political cartoon the other day. A woman is watching TV and the telly is blaring something like “The elections are over and we return you to our regular program — advertisements for prescriptions for your medical symptoms.”

How true. And true that Rauner the Bruce got whipped and is out as governor. In fact, five minutes after the polls closed, the pundits on TV projected J.B. Pritzker as the winner.

Rauner of the Janus case, fighting with unions and government workers, proponent of right-to-work laws and he of the desire to destroy your pensions and retirement rights — he is gone!

I’m biased, of course. It’s the self-preservation of not only our pensions but also our unions. Rauner is a perfect example of how Republicans generally despise unions. You’ve heard it all before, so I will not repeat the litany of BS that came from their platforms and agendas.

And Pritzker, who will certainly tax the crap out of y’all, will inherit all these problems, including a $200 billion underfunded state employee retirement liability. Or so the right-wing policy groups say.

So the tax plan is imminent. However, he will need a constitutional amendment to change the tax structure from a flat tax to a tiered progressive tax that the voters would have to approve, which sets the tone for gas and mileage taxes in the near future. Will they?

He was the lesser of two evils. However, it’s doubtful that J.B. would muck with collective bargaining, since labor helped push him way over the top.

But he’s a rich guy beholden to no one, since he put about $160 million of his own cash into his election. Rauner the Bruce put in about $60 million. Can you imagine that? Estimates of more than $220 million for a four-year job. How do you spell ego?

There have been numerous articles written about what you can do in Illinois with that kind of money. It could even make a dent in our pension crisis.

Well, we are safe for now. But in 2020 or 2021, there could be an Illinois convention, where many will be pushing to amend the constitution to limit pension benefits. But we will have to wait and see how J.B. governs. He most certainly should be better for labor. Here’s a-wishin’!

Liberty Justice Center and right-to-work

Just as I reported earlier, when we lost the Janus v. AFSCME case, the municipalities passing right-to-work laws on a local level would be next in line to erode union rights. Sure enough, the nonprofit firm Liberty Justice Center, which represented Mark Janus, intends to file on various conflicting appellate court rulings regarding the ability of cities and towns to pass their own right-to-work laws.

Most notable is the town of Lincolnshire, Illinois, which in 2015 passed its own right-to-work law. Various unions filed suits challenging the ordinance. Subsequently, a U.S. District Court judge ruled with the union and dismissed the ordinance. In early October, the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court’s decision to dismiss the ordinance.

But the 7th Circuit is in direct conflict with the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, which in 2016 determined that local governmental units can indeed pass right-to-work laws.

Got all that?

So now there is an opening for the Janus people to file with the U.S. Supreme Court for a final clarification. If there is a modicum of fairness here, the most recent ruling should take precedence. However, if SCOTUS decides to grant certiorari, this could be, in fact, another nail in the coffin of unions here in Illinois.

On a positive note, however, the new Democratic governor could possibly throw a laborer’s wrench into this insanity, and these attempts to kill unions might just disappear.

Pensions and Sears

The CEO of Sears says the company is having trouble with its long-term pension obligations for retirees. He says the company had to contribute $2 billion to the fund within the last two years, and $4.5 billion since 2005. If they didn’t have to do that, they would have been able to compete within the retail world.

In 2005, United Airlines went to court and was allowed to end its pension contributions, saving $312 billion in payments. So the think tank Cato Institute has jumped all over this and reports that “It’s a clear lesson that growing pension costs lead to big adjustments.”

They add that defined benefits cost more and more to fund and could lead to service cuts in the public sector. So what does the conservative think tank recommend? Well, you guessed it. Move to defined contribution plans managed by workers. Yes, 401(k)s.

I believe they are saying, along with many other politico wags, that we need to change the Illinois state constitution to remove the pension protection so governments can get a redo on benefits.

And that, my friends, is the difference between public sec-
It's galling that Sears' leadership wants to give $19 million in bonuses to themselves. Hypocrites!

You can starve, you mangy critters

Recently, I wrote about a Senate bill that would have allowed supplemental feeding of Bambi and his related family members. Extra nutrition was thought to be good for deer, so you can maybe kill heathier animals!

Maybe they wouldn't experience many diseases like chronic wasting disease if given supplemental feedings. After all, deer hunting is probably keeping Illinois afloat. The more deer heads on your wall, the more dollars go into state coffers.

Opponents have declared that this is a study filled with lies and falsehoods. Rauner subsequently vetoed the bill, saying it's "too broad," whatever that means.

So sorry, Mr. Buck and Ms. Doe. No food for you, says the Food Nazi! (Yeah, I know, I know—the proper term is Soup Nazi, but do deer eat soup?)

Legal weed possible

For all you potheads out there, good news. Governor-elect Pritzker wants to open the door for legal weed use in Illinois. Even while many say it won't fix Illinois' budget problem, the race is on.

I love how reporters call smoking a blunt "recreational use." It's far from recreational when you're sitting on the couch with your joint, munching brownies and watching "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

But what do I know.

What I find interesting is that some cops are petitioning to be able to get high when not on duty because many areas where it's legal forbid the boys and girls in blue from enjoying strawberry fields forever.

So lots of folks will get rich selling the devil's weed. Many will enjoy their "highs." And politicians will abuse and misdirect all the tax revenues.

So what else is new?

Bluer than blue

And Democrats now rule the world, or what is nominally called the "disaster which is Illinois."

So many problems, so many Democrats. So long, Republican influence. Hasn't been all that good, but I don't trust an all-blue assembly either, mostly because they will look through my pockets for loose change.

And it's goodbye to any reinstatement of the death penalty. Shucks, I was hoping to eliminate a few homicidal maniacs from our midst. What's a few more murderers crowding our prisons — if we catch and convict them, that is.

A final thought

So it all looks to be just more of the same here in our corrupt state of Illinois. As the Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland once said: "You have to run fast as you can just to stay in the same place."

Yes, that is the government of Illinois.

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A WBBM reporter saw a Facebook post from a Chicago cop. He tracked down the cop and made a news story about the posting. The Chicago cop was identified by the unnamed reporter because the officer apparently used a disparaging term for liberals on his postings. This reporter thought it was newsworthy.

This horrible comment by the officer? He had the audacity to call liberals, “libtards.” Did that offend the reporter or was he just hunting coppers? We know, don’t we?

So now cops are being called out for this nonsense? The news station also contacted the Chicago Police Department over this issue, which is investigating as we speak. So which chief is responsible for investigating? I don’t know yet. Maybe it will go away.

Just remember, Mr. and Ms. Police Officer, the press is really out to get you when they go after a cop for this foolishness.

Fear and loathing in Island Lake

Anthony Sciarroone (not a nice Italian boy) was recently fired from his position by the Village Board. Reasons given were “gross incompetence” and running his department with “fear and intimidation.”

I knew there had to be other reasons besides gross incompetence, otherwise there wouldn’t be many chiefs left to lead.

Allegedly some of the “fear and intimidation” involved police officers and village employees as victims. But the village isn’t talking, which isn’t unusual. Looking for the spin to emerge before the details do. But chiefs attempt to intimidate their cops often, usually by crusading to silence cops for their own selfish political gain.

In the above matter, apparently a police sergeant and a patrol officer are also facing some sort of discipline in their duties as internal investigators. The Village Board states that they just felt they needed a change when they dismissed the chief and they are not going to blame anyone for anything. See — spin!

I certainly would like specifics as to what the chief did, but apparently he stepped over the line. Know any brass who do that?

Blamed, shamed and framed

Now this is interesting.

The Chicago Heights Park District police chief was recently arrested and charged for allegedly videotaping two women while they had sexual encounters with him at his abode. I think they were separate incidents, however.

Christian Daigre met the women on an online dating site, and neither victim gave him permission to tape their “activities.” I’m guessing the dating site was not eharmony.

I reported that photos to other interested parties, and allegedly later threatened a witness. There may be even more than the two women involved, according to reports.

Mr. Daigre posted a $25,000 bond and is free pending trial. His attorney says the chief is being framed by the officer who received the texted images because of his own legal problems, but those problems have not been disclosed.

The attorney also says that a big sign in Mr. Daigre’s apartment informs all who enter that they are on camera, so the women were on notice. The cameras were reportedly in the ceiling in the bedroom, so you can think that through for yourself. Sort of set up his own defense. Really, how many of you have that sign in your home? Don’t get any funny ideas, people.

So he has been charged with two counts of felony intimidation and one count of possession of a controlled substance. I wonder if there was a sign there saying he had narcotics, too.

The reports did not name the online dating site, so as not to entice other chiefs into checking it out. But we know that most chiefs are as clean as the driven snow and would not have such devious plans to find a date — unless, of course, they can’t get one.

What’s in your dating app?
Almost a jolly folly

Last October, the Chicago Tribune produced an article about police officers in departments within Lake County who had given passes to cops who may or may not have been drinking when stopped for traffic violations. One was found slumped behind the wheel of his car, some were stopped for speeding and one “blew” over the .08 alcohol limit. None of them were charged, and all were allowed to call an Uber or another ride or were driven home.

So the press, in their gotcha moment, did what they always do — called a professor from a law school because, as we all know, liberal professors know everything. They might be the real libtards here.

The law professor spewed the normal “us against them” and “blue wall of silence” tripe, as well as cops’ desire to protect one another and give preferential treatment to their own. It’s impossible to know, the professor queries, how many police officers are let go after being stopped. Many, I hope!

The press, in trying to bait the chiefs in question, got mixed results. A couple of chiefs would not be baited and said it’s not unusual for the police to allow someone to call for a ride, and there are numerous examples of police allowing citizens to go home without being arrested. Another chief said officers have discretion and are allowed to do that.

One sheriff, however, said that before he was elected, his department would never charge one of their own. Yay! But he has worked to change that culture. Boo! Modern-day chiefs carry so much angst. And some have definitely forgotten the faces of their fathers and where they came from.

In my day, so far long gone in a different era, you didn’t even arrest intoxicated civilian residents. That was due to the fact that it was hard to get a conviction because most jurors had been there and done that and would not convict for a DWI (now DUI).

So unless there was an accident or you got assaulted, you found them a ride or gave them a cup of joe at the PD until they found one. Reckless driving was all you actually hoped for in court.

But now times have changed, and that’s for the better. But I’m all for giving coppers that professional courtesy, and I couldn’t care less what the press or chiefs think.

Really, cops give people breaks all the time, every day. Even if they are not pretty. Whenever possible, we should give them to cops, too, when it’s prudent. Make your own case, as we say in Copland.

When they order you to…

I’ve reported many a chief’s follies over the years, but this is one of the worst. Well, the worst would be chiefs killing folks or raping someone, but this one is surely in the Top 5.

And it’s important that y’all get the underlying point here. When the brass orders you to arrest someone, and I don’t care what the rank, what do you do?

Now, if you actually see the criminal offense or vehicle violation, no problem, make the arrest or write the ticket. Deep down, you know the brass are just lazy and don’t want to go to court. Happens all the time.

It’s when you didn’t see the arrest or offense and they order you to take action that it’s a problem. How can you honestly say you observed the crime if you didn’t? How do you testify? Truthfully, I hope.

A few of my fine leaders gave me that order a couple of times when I rolled into a traffic stop made by the brass or after an investigation. My answer? No, but I won’t disobey your order. My narrative will say you made the stop, or you ordered an arrest, even though I told you that my belief is that the suspect, from my interrogation, isn’t responsible.

I advised that I will write that in my report and that you will be expected to testify as to the PC. They then got pissed off and went to find another human sacrifice who wanted to get promoted.

So case in point, Biscayne Park, Florida Police Chief Raimundo Atesiano was sentenced to three years in prison for framing innocent black men for committing burglaries. He was under pressure by community leaders to solve a series of unsolved burglaries. He wanted to keep up their clearance rates.

The chief touted the city’s 100-per-cent burglary clearance rate. That would be my first clue that something’s not right. The crux of this case is that the chief ordered various officers who ultimately testified against him to arrest and charge various suspects, then ordered cops to falsify reports, knowing that there was no evidence that these guys had committed these crimes.

All those involved were sentenced to prison, but the chief got the longest term. As one cop testified, he was told, “If you have [open] burglaries not solved yet, if you see anybody black walking through our streets and they have somewhat of a record, arrest them so we can pin them for all the burglaries.”

Nightmare, isn’t it? To protect and serve, and if not, we will frame you was apparently their motto.

As the late Molly Ivins once wrote, “If his IQ slips any lower, we will have to water him twice a day.”

Oh well, as we finish up this issue’s Follies, it’s Christmas and the time of giving, so give a cop a break.

Questions and Answers

Q: Joe, why do you hate chiefs, you’re an idiot!

Grassroots Guy

A: Dear Grass Guy: Thanks for noticing both!

Q: Mr. A., why do you hate chiefs?

Chief’s loyalist

A: Dear Loyal, I don’t. I’ve said many times I like chiefs. They are good for business.

Q: Joe, why do you hate chiefs? I will follow mine anywhere. I love the guy.

Chief’s pet

A: Dear Pet: Close the door and turn off the lights.
‘Tis the season...

To be jolly. As the Earth turns rapidly to a new year, we should all be filled with the joy that life presents.

Not withstanding the words of Ludwig Wittgenstein, an Austrian-British philosopher: “I don’t know why we are here, but I’m pretty sure it is not in order to enjoy ourselves.” Feels like it sometimes, I must admit.

However, even with the banality of it all and everyday disappointments, I choose not to wring my hands every Christmas season over all the bad juju out there. I leave that to Ludwig and his ilk.

Instead, focus on your faith, your sense of giving, and of course, the Santa gift you will enjoy. It is a remarkable season.

What are you looking for in your stocking? I love books, preferably sci-fi, history, wildlife, and a scary novel here and there.

Music is also a delight. Jazz, I say: The Byrd, the Train, and my beloved Oscar Peterson are all good additions. And of course, toys. No clothes or tools, please. Robots and vintage stuff to look beautiful on a shelf. How about you? Lots of cool things out there. The Internet brings wonders to your door.

Animals are cool, too. I have a dog, two cats, a few herps. I asked Santa for a palmetto corn snake, but the blonde said no! Just because a 2-foot long fox snake escaped and got loose in the house, the blonde is still wary. (Maybe because we never found her. I believe she may be hiding out in the basement, under the stairs, growing to a larger size right now. That’s why maybe she never goes down there, even though it’s finished — except under the stairs, where it’s dark and musty. She wonders why I spend so much time there trapping mice. But that’s a story for another time.) Whatever your wishes, I hope all your dreams come true, as “Pedro” might say. I hope Santa is good to you, but above all, I wish for peace, serenity, and joy for all of you this Christmas season. May the Lord bless you all.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all, and keep believing in yourself and the noble job you do.

Remember in this season of joy to tell someone that you love them.

Vita è bella.
This is not who we are?

How many times have you heard that over this last year? Lots, right?
Seemingly every half-assed politician used it when speaking about a tragedy or dealing with political hyperbole from one party to another.

I think lame-duck Rahm used it in Chicago after one of its hundreds of killings, or maybe over sanctuary cities. Or maybe in his heated rhetoric over his distaste for President Trump.

In the case of killings and attempted murders in Chicago, maybe it is who we are. If you want illegal aliens in your city or state, then it is who we are. If you hate President Trump or Obama or Bush, it is who we are.

I believe President Obama used it during his presidency while speaking to the Muslim community over the belief that America was anti-Muslim.

I’ve seen a Republican governor from another state use it while speaking about President Trump’s volatile words and agenda.

I think Cory Booker may have used it. The “I am Spartacus” senator says a lot of stupid stuff, so I might be correct there.

One thing is certain — he is not Spartacus and never will be. Spartacus was a huge Thracian who spoke with his sword and would have sent Mr. Booker’s head flying.

The real Spartacus in legitimate history is not quoted to have ever spoken anything. He certainly did not proclaim “I am Spartacus,” nor did that ever happen. It’s a purely fictional account by Howard Fast in his 1951 novel and subsequent 1960 movie of the same name.

Mr. Booker would be well served to read these two books: *Spartacus*, a historical novel by Lewis Grassic Gibbon, which portrays Mr. Spartacus as anything but Kirk Douglas or Senator Booker. The second, *The Spartacus War* by Barry Strauss, a historical and archaeological telling of the man (not Booker) and the battlefield in a gripping fact-based context. But maybe that’s who Senator Booker thinks he is.

So every time terrible things happen or are said, a politician blows smoke out of his rear end by saying, “This is not who we are.” But you know, it seems that this is exactly who we are.

People kill each other. People lie and steal. The left hates the right, and vice versa. We destroy people’s careers. It’s non-stop racism, or accusations of the same. The public, press and politicians do not like the police. They demonize us. Accuse us of all kinds of nonsense. Cops will forever have huge targets on our backs. Not only does the world want to kill us, they lie about it, too.

I believe the phrase was first used a few years back by the Arab-American poet and writer Naomi Shihab Nye. It was a post-9/11 analysis on how Arab-Americans fit into American society. A thoughtful piece. Not at all how it is used in today’s media.

From Vox.com, a liberal website, comes the recommendation from psychiatrists who have proposed putting lithium in our drinking water, which is sort of like fluoride protects our teeth. The thinking is that this would calm our minds, prevent suicide and violence, and make us all happy. I guess this would make us all unsure of who we really are!

I don’t know, maybe it will work. Seems a lot cheaper than going to Colorado or Canada to buy weed. In the absence of this working, maybe this actually is who we are.

And to further prove my point, a crazy guy sends bombs to politicians, and a man who hates Jewish people kills 11 in a house of worship.

Senator Dick Blumenthal then spews out the new buzz phrase, “This is not who we are.” Beg to differ: it appears that this is exactly who we are in many facets of our society.

Vita é bella.
Metropolitan Alliance of Police
24th Annual
Golf & Dinner Outing
The Links at Carillon
21200 S Carillon Dr, Plainfield
Monday, June 17, 2019
Noon Shotgun Start (11 am check in)
Dinner reception starts at 5:15 pm

Entry fee: $110 per player for greens fees, golf cart, lunch, buffet dinner, drinks, with a raffle to follow dinner. $40 dinner only.

Payable by: June 3, 2019. Space is limited. **FIRST PAID, FIRST RESERVED**

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The giving spirit began in DuPage County on Dec. 1, when a fleet of patrol cars was dispatched to pick up 62 children for a day of holiday cheer. Children started peeking out of their windows early that morning, waiting for DuPage County Sheriff’s Office deputies to pull into their driveways like Santa landing his sleigh.

Each child waved goodbye to his or her family and buckled up in a patrol car for the start of the DuPage County Sheriff’s Office’s Shop with a Cop.

This is the 32nd year that the DuPage County Sheriff’s Office has led an effort to give back to less fortunate families by taking children ages 7-11 on a holiday shopping spree. For DuPage County Sheriff’s Office members like Robert Harris, the Shop with a Cop event has become a meaningful tradition that continues to connect officers with the community they serve.

“It bridges the gap between the public and the police,” stressed Harris, who serves as a sergeant for the Community Resource Unit. “It really lets them know that the men and women in blue are there for them. We’re not against them.”

The more, the merrier

The popular event, which began as Shop with a Sheriff, has grown over the years to include other DuPage County police departments. This year, officers from Glen Ellyn, Elmhurst and Glendale Heights joined in the initiative to bring the magic of Christmas to local households in need.

After picking up their shopping partners, the deputies and officers drove to Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center, where a holiday breakfast awaited them. Children who may have been nervous to take an excursion with law enforcement began to open up, as they joined officers on the basketball courts and
An assembly line of volunteers from the community equipped with wrapping paper, packages and bows awaited each cart of goodies after checkout. The children watched as each of their newly purchased items entered Santa's workshop to be wrapped, before getting carefully stacked in the back of a patrol car for transport back to the child's residence.

DuPage County Sheriff’s officers were once again reminded of the impact of serving the community with the Shop with the Cop event, which ensures that all families experience the magic of the holidays — with a little help from local heroes.

“Police have been portrayed in a negative light lately,” Harris insisted. “This gives us the opportunity to change the channel for these kids by showing them that we want to get to know them, and to let them know that we're here for them.”

Helping kids in need

Driving in one of the DuPage County Sheriff’s Office's patrol cars with lights flashing was MAP Chapter 126 President Mark Wolenberg, with a 9-year-old passenger who maintained a tight grip on her handwritten Christmas list.

“She was a sweet little girl,” Wolenberg shared. “It felt good helping out a child that was clearly in need.”

Uniformed MAP members filled the aisles of Meijer, as their holiday helpers scanned the shelves for the perfect gifts for family members.

“She picked out a scarf and hat set for her mom, a shirt for her dad and some onesies for her brother,” Wolenberg recalled. “I had to remind her to pick something out for herself.”

The children had no problem fulfilling all of their families' Christmas wishes with the $120 spending limit provided by the DuPage County Sheriff’s Office. The cops and kids got to know each other within the store's aisles, as shopping carts were filled with toys, clothes and household essentials.

Shopping is the fun part

“The best part is the shopping. That's the time where you have a list for mom or dad and you have to try to help guide them for what they might want to buy,” Harris explained. “The shopping is the fun part, where you get to interact and learn about them.”

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Picture Perfect

Bolingbrook Shop with a Cop creates a powerful image for the department and the community

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

A picture might be worth a thousand words, but there might not be enough words to fully describe the joy and satisfaction emanating from the faces you see in the photos of the kids with Bolingbrook MAP members Bob Liazuk, Robert Armstrong, Joe Gruben, Chris Witt and Chaplain Bernard Kendrick.

The images that will last a lifetime came from the Bolingbrook Police Department’s 20th annual Shop with a Cop at Meijer in Bolingbrook. One hundred students in kindergarten through fifth grade had department officers as personal shoppers, walking through the aisles to find holiday gifts for themselves and more so for members of their families.

To feel the joy, see Bolingbrook MAP Chapter President Liazuk with the little boy marveling over the Disney “Cars” set he picked out. To understand the connection, observe Armstrong, a crime prevention officer, holding a little girl’s hand, guiding her through the store alongside her grateful mother. To be captured by the spirit, witness Gruben, a member of the Problem Oriented Policing Unit, with another little boy in a place we’ve all been this time of year: pulling down a Lego Batman set from the shelf.

The words that come to mind upon seeing this include delight, jubilation, benevolence, goodwill, humanity, selflessness and a reminder that it’s a wonderful life. Especially when considering the total impact of this supremely altruistic gesture from the Bolingbrook police.

“IT truly is the gift of giving back,” confirms Deputy Chief Michael Rompa, who has coordinated the event since it began. “This really defines and exemplifies the Christmas spirit within Bolingbrook and is the core of making a difference for these kids and their families.”

The full shopping cart that Chaplain Kendrick collected with his charge defines and exemplifies so much of what Bolingbrook’s Shop with a Cop strives for. Underneath the big toy are items for all members of the family, including some Christmas decorations and stocking stuffers.

Kendrick emerged as the most valuable shopper this year for helping one of his kids maximize purchasing power. Each of the 100 kids participating receives a $75 allowance from Shop with a Cop. Meijer chips in with its Santa Bucks to provide an additional 20-percent discount.

The opportunity is to invest all the funding, but it requires a little spontaneous arithmetic to hit the mark. In 2017, Patrol Officer Jorie Higins was able to help one child come within one cent of using the entire allowance. This year, Chaplain Kendrick came within two cents.

“Just to see the kids come in, walking around with the police, is really a blessing,” notes Pamela Willis, the retail administrative assistant for Meijer. “For us to be able to help out the kids and the community is what it’s all about.”

Bolingbrook was one of the first departments in Will County to generate the Shop with a Cop sensation. According to Rompa, Joliet took the lead, and then Bolingbrook, as the second largest department in the county, soon followed. In 1998, Rompa started co-coordinating the event that began at Walmart, moved to Target and eventually found a home at Meijer.

Bolingbrook has more or less perfected the Shop with a Cop program. A couple of months before the shop, Rompa reaches out to Bolingbrook schools to request students to participate. The process goes way beyond who’s naughty and who’s nice.

“We try to reach out to kids who are deserving, whether it be through good grades, good deeds or kids who can benefit from the amount we give,” Rompa explains. “We get a pool of names because not all kids can make it. So it’s kind of a lottery, and we fill up appointments until they are exhausted.”

Each participant is booked into an approximately 15-minute time block, though with all the fun they usually have, they tend to run over. That’s the cops’ doing, and 60 officers volunteered their time to be personal shoppers this year.

Meijer sets up a registration table in its athletic area, and when kids come in, they are connected with an officer. At the end of the spree, participants check out at one of two dedicated registers and it’s on to the wrapping area to tag and bundle the toys for the girls and boys and their families. Meijer supplements the wrapping line with juice, cookies and other treats.

“It’s Santa’s workshop combined with community policing to create an experience that can never be fully defined in words. But Rompa knows what it has come to mean for Bolingbrook officers. Back when he was working command, a meeting held the morning after Shop with a Cop got caught up in the spirit.

“All they wanted to talk about was the experience they had with the kids,” he
recalls. “It has become contagious because I think it’s a brotherhood thing, it’s a good time and our officers realize that it helps them to be better with the people we interact with every day.”

The interaction at Shop with a Cop has led to lasting impressions. Rompa relates that former participants with full beards have come up to him and reminisced about their Shop with a Cop experience 15 years ago, and how much it meant.

It has become so powerful that parents will break down in tears when they receive a call from Rompa or a member of the Bolingbrook Police Department wanting to schedule a shopping appointment. And the mission each year isn’t complete until every student makes it through Meijer’s aisles and then the register.

Inevitably, somebody doesn’t make it the day of the event because a parent had a work thing run late or a car broke down. So even a week after the event, Rompa was meeting with families one at a time to make sure everybody got their shopping done.

“All it takes is one person to remember the experience, and it keeps me going,” Rompa shares.

And he will keep it going because he knows what Shop with a Cop does for the community and the department.

“Some of these kids might not have a Christmas if it wasn’t for this program,” Rompa adds. “And our officers don’t always get to see how much positive impact they are creating when they come to work. When it’s all said and done, these kids have a proactive experience with the police that truly brings Bolingbrook together.”
If the School Resource Officers (SROs) in Plainfield could harness all the lessons they hope students will embrace and put them into one assembly, it might look very much like the department’s Shop with a Cop event.

There was definitely some higher learning going on as the 11th annual extravaganza transpired on Dec. 21 at the Plainfield Target. A little social studies, math, science and technology influenced this Shop with a Cop to make it a valuable experience for kids, the community and Plainfield police officers.

“It’s a really cool feeling for our officers to help a kid enjoy Christmas,” confirms Plainfield Sergeant Colin Mulacek, who was an SRO when he began coordinating the department’s Shop with a Cop in 2007. “A lot of these kids don’t have anything, and it’s just a good feeling to make sure they get a Christmas.”

Shop with a Cop’s success is a manifestation of Plainfield’s DARE and school resource programs, which are self-funded. Much of that support comes through an annual dinner dance fundraiser the department hosts.

The relationships those officers have created bubbled up as the 15 members from patrol and the detective bureau who manned Shop with a Cop walked through Target, offering reassurances that it was OK to buy an Xbox but to also remember to get something for the sisters and brothers on their Christmas lists. In the end, the greatest gifts might have been the ones that the Plainfield officers walked away with.

“A lot of our SROs and DARE officers have bonds from being with the kids in school, and so they asked, ‘Make sure I get to walk through with so-and-so,’” Mulacek adds. “That’s the fun thing, but it’s also eye-opening for the officers – the realization that you made a difference in somebody’s life for a day.”

Each Plainfield school sends two students to participate in the event. When there have been more needy kids at one school, another school has been known to give up a spot. That’s part of the Christmas spirit that runs deep from the police department through this town.

Each student is allowed to spend $300, which is also made possible through police fundraising efforts. Initially, the funds were raised through a charity basketball game that Plainfield MAP members played against staff from one of the Plainfield middle schools. The hoopla rotated from school to school each year, and all proceeds from tickets, concessions and a raffle went to support Shop with a Cop.

As officers got a little older, though, and staff got a little younger, the fundraiser transitioned into a two-day tournament for the town’s eighth-grade boys’ basketball teams. The event also includes a cheerleader showcase and has grown to raise nearly $20,000 through ticket sales, concessions, raffles and donations.

So, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 21, 40 students worked their shopping lists, then brought their gifts through the present-wrapping assembly line that Plainfield officers had staged. The elation spreading throughout the morning could be seen as one Plainfield officer even came in a costume that showed how much fun is had.

“I love it,” Mulacek exclaims. “I was an SRO for two-and-a-half years, and it’s one of the most fun jobs I’ve had. You can really change some kids and put a stamp on their lives that makes an impact.”

And in the end, for the 11th consecutive year, there’s no doubt that Plainfield’s Shop with a Cop truly was an A-plus event.
For at least 10 years, the Darien Police Department and Darien-Woodridge Fire Department have participated in a Shop with a Cop event. For Darien MAP Chapter member Nick Skweres, the tradition comes at a time of year that warms his heart.

“We have never done this for notoriety,” noted Skweres, following the event that began with shopping at the local Target and continued with bringing the gifts back to the Darien Fire Department for wrapping and a hearty breakfast. “We all have stories where a child has touched our hearts.”

Helping children shop for their families, wrapping gifts together and enjoying breakfast has proven to be a positive experience for both kids and officers alike.

“We have had a lot of kids over the years take the true meaning and understanding of the event and shop for family and friends, but never themselves,” Skweres said. “This is when our officers or firefighters reach into their own pockets and let the children buy for themselves.”

The giving doesn’t stop there. Relationships are built in the aisles of Target and over breakfast, when kids end up surrounded by ribbons and wrapping paper.

“Some of those relationships have lasted over the years, and the kids always remember the fun of the event,” Skweres said.
MAP attorney Ron Cicinelli appraises the distinction of the union’s legal team by relating what he has experienced during a substantive career. A perspective he shares with the rest of the team, emphasizing that, “I’ve dealt with hundreds of lawyers in my career, and I can tell you that every one of ours is an A-plus attorney.”

Indeed, as the MAP RAP Sheet continues its series of looking at each of the union’s attorneys and the successes they have forged, spotlighting longtime team members Cicinelli, Jerry Marzullo and Steve Calcaterra furthers the declaration that this is an all-star team. As they considered what has elevated their service above and beyond the call of other unions’ representation, all three shared the motivation.

“One of the reasons I like doing this is that I’m involved with somebody’s life and helping them out,” Calcaterra submits. Adds Marzullo: “I really believe when I am representing MAP that I’m fighting to make members’ lives better. Whether it be improved working conditions, fixing something in a contract or standing for members in matters of discipline, we have the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Here’s a look at how Marzullo, Calcaterra and Cicinelli each contribute to MAP’s exclusive benefit to members and fortify its exceptional reputation and foundational principle of fighting for officers with an unconditional and relentless passion that comes from years and years of being involved with law enforcement.

Among his vast qualifications and expertise, Jerry Marzullo often comes back to his accounting degree as a mechanism to adeptly serve MAP members. This tends to manifest most substantively during collective bargaining negotiations for one of the chapters he represents.

“Sometimes, I will freak out attorneys for the municipalities by pouring through budgets and financial records, pointing out all the places where the town tried to hide money,” explains Marzullo, who has been working with MAP for the past 12 years.

Marzullo can be a bit whimsical about having spent “a lot of years paying tuition,” which includes an MBA from the renowned Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago to the accounting degree from DePaul to the juris doctor from Loyola University. But that only begins to define the pedigree Marzullo brings to MAP members.

Marzullo developed his penchant and passion for labor law growing up in a union family. His father started a union. One grandfather was a member of the operating engineers union, and his other grandfather was a member of a laborer’s union in Chicago. He also serves as the deputy general counsel for the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association.

And, he has developed a deep connection to law enforcement. Two of his uncles, a cousin and four of his best friends growing up in Cicero/Berwyn have been, or currently are, on the job. Victoria Marzullo – his beloved “Miss V,” as he calls her – has been a Chicago Police Officer since 2006 and is currently assigned to the citywide narcotics unit.

All of the above have combined to lead Marzullo to become the caliber of labor attorney that fuels one of MAP’s signature assets.

“A good labor attorney has to be a part-time motivational speaker, part-time trial lawyer, part-time therapist and part-time used car salesman,” quips the 41-year-old Marzullo. “You have to read every situation differently. You have to be able to adapt.”

Herein lies Marzullo’s approach to representing members. His range of versatility is so impactful — from handling not only collective bargaining but IA investigations, grievance and interest arbitrations, critical incidents and other needs that form the bulk of his practice representing first responders.

“There are times when you are very forceful and hard-nosed and times when it’s, ‘Let’s make a deal,’” Marzullo explains. “Every chapter is different. Every employer is different. You have to know how to read people. If you can’t read people in labor law, you shouldn’t be in this business.”

Fighting for the best deal, improving working conditions and getting members back on the job when they have been wronged are among the measures of success that mean the most to Marzullo. He is dedicated to the mission that drives the MAP legal team.

“Remember, if you are a MAP member, someone out there cares about you,” he accentuates. “Whatever difficulties you are facing inside the department or outside on the street, someone is always thinking about you. I am always there to help you to the best of my abilities so you will always have somebody in your corner.”
Steve Calcaterra knows where you are coming from. And he knows where management is coming from. Having served more than 10 years as a police officer, including seven with Bolingbrook, Calcaterra has built on the law enforcement experience that he brings to every table he sits at as a MAP attorney.

“I feel like I can almost always walk into a situation and understand the perspective of the officers who are involved,” Calcaterra comments. “Working for a couple of years on the inside has given me the advantage of knowing where management is coming from.”

In 1991, Calcaterra graduated from Bradley University with a degree in criminal justice. He thought about going to law school but wanted an opportunity to do something where he could help people every day. That was his first job as a police officer in Morton Grove, and in 1995, he moved to the Bolingbrook PD.

At the same time, he began pursuing a master’s in psychology. But after a couple of years, law school still was calling. So Calcaterra went to NIU law school while serving full time in Bolingbrook.

He did not plan on a full-time career in law before he became injured on the job. The injury led him to an administrative position and the opportunity to see the inner-workings of managing a police department. The injury also led Calcaterra to realize that his law enforcement career would ultimately be cut short.

He had met MAP founder Joe Andalina and current president Keith George while working at Bolingbrook. And when he decided to leave the job, MAP offered Calcaterra an opportunity to represent members part time.

His first assignment was working legal defense cases representing members at the Cook County jail, the single largest correctional facility in the country at the time. From working overtime disputes to officers getting disciplined for sick-leave abuse to shootings, escapes and accusations of bringing drugs into the jail and abusing inmates, the range and volume enhanced Calcaterra’s command of labor representation.

“Sometimes, when representing MAP members, it seems like everything needs to be done at once,” Calcaterra describes. “But working for the jail as long as I did, I feel like I understand labor law triage. And sometimes with that, you get the same adrenaline as working as a police officer.”

What Calcaterra finds truly similar – and motivating – between serving as a police officer and MAP attorney is the opportunity to address tangible problems that lead to tangible solutions and make a difference in members’ lives. The experience of working in law enforcement has produced an approach to representation that resonates with members and their employers.

“It’s really important for me to be prepared, and it’s very important to be able to justify everything we ask for,” he explains. “I’m not the kind of negotiator who says, ‘We want more and we’re not going to agree until we get more.’ I like to use data to help my people. If we go into negotiations, I will have the data on what other departments in the area are paying for vacation days and sick days so I can ask the town why they are paying 9 percent less than a comparable department. I like to be able to justify what we want and prove it.”

Isn’t that just like a cop? And a lawyer?

When management comes to the bargaining table to negotiate with a MAP chapter, it can be an uphill battle. Or at least a battle. The town has the taxpayers’ revenue stream behind it, and the chapter can feel like it is negotiating against an opposition with unlimited resources.

That’s a situation MAP attorney Ron Cicinelli tends to look forward to the most. After serving as a law enforcement officer for 17 years – including starting out with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department in California before moving to Roselle – he can provide a been-there-done-that response, and then some.

“When I was in California, I worked at a maximum-security facility, dealing with murderers and rapists all the way down to drunks,” Cicinelli relates. “Then, when I went on the street in Roselle, I did everything from helping people to chasing a bank robber to getting in a gunfight. So when things go south and somebody tries to bully the union, I know how to switch that on.”

Cicinelli is talking about switching on the need to be more aggressive in advocating for members. He knows when to switch it off, too, and listen to the other side.

He first learned that when getting into union leadership. When he came on in Roselle in 1989, the department officers had not unionized yet. After trying another union, Roselle decertified.

“We heard about a new union that was just starting up and it was supposed to be pretty good,” Cicinelli recalls. “That was MAP. We became the first department in DuPage County to go with MAP.”

Eventually, he became chapter president and caught the passion for employment and labor law. That led him to go to John Marshall Law School in 2004, and when he graduated, MAP asked Cicinelli if he was interested in representing members.

Ever since, Cicinelli has been able to pursue what he believes is his natural fit: continuing to work with law enforcement. He has extended that to become one of MAP’s specialists, representing chapters at Illinois universities and colleges.

“I hope the women and men in law enforcement think I can relate to them because of my background,” Cicinelli states. “I want them to know that I’m here to help them.”
The passage of time has done little to diminish the connection between Park Forest and Officer Tim Jones. Two-and-a-half years after Jones was severely wounded in the line of duty, the #TimStrong bond has only grown stronger throughout the community. Further evidence of that was on display on Nov. 17, when the department held a benefit at the Oak Lawn VFW for Jones and his family amid his ongoing recovery.

The event featured live music, food and an auction to celebrate how far Jones has progressed since he suffered critical injuries after being shot while investigating – with other officers – a report of a break-in at a vacant building.

Jones’ recovery efforts, as well as the seemingly endless stream of support for him, have been well-documented by the department and across social media channels. The village named a street in his honor as part of Tim Jones Day in 2018, the Illinois State Police recognized him with its medal of honor and the village created a scholarship in his name to provide money for college to a local student who plans to seek a criminal justice degree.

Fellow MAP members can keep tabs on Jones’ recovery by visiting the #TimStrong page on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/timstrong204.
Our condolences
To the family of Eddie L. Jackson, Deputy DuPage County Sheriff, who passed away in October after a long battle with cancer. Prayers for him and his family.

Tom Likens, retired Bolingbrook commander of the Reserve Unit, passed away in October after a long struggle with cancer. He was a very good man who had a great sense of humor. I will always have fond memories of him over the years that I knew and worked with him. Sympathies to his family and daughter, who is a lieutenant at the Bolingbrook PD.

To the family of Officer Samuel Jimenez, the Chicago Police Officer who was shot to death just before Thanksgiving while responding to a shooting at Mercy Hospital. Two other innocents also lost their lives.

At the time of this writing, about 130 police officers have lost their lives in the line of duty, including close to 50 by firearms — a sad reminder of how society treats these brave souls.

Stan Lee, the comic book king, passed away in early November. For all the comic geeks like yours truly, it’s a sad farewell to a kind and gracious man. A true giant, along with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, who created wonderful, uplifting characters. Excelsior, Stan, excelsior. (Ever upward!)

Leftism is becoming a mental disorder
PETA, the animal rights group of crazy folks, recently put out an ad that says “Cow’s milk has long been a symbol used by white supremacists” and “One more reason to ditch dairy.”

OK, but if a white guy drinks chocolate milk, is that cultural appropriation?

Don’t be this guy
A Cincinnati police officer used a stun gun on an 11-year-old African-American girl for shoplifting $53 worth of merchandise at a grocery store. The officer, who is white, told the youngster while handcuffing her, “This is why there aren’t any grocery stores in the black community.”

And I am not making that up.

Just saying
Social media thrives on rage. What a time-waster. And for police, it’s a double whammy. If you respond to the hate, then you get plucked from the airways and charged with conduct unbecoming. Think about it.

No death penalty news
It’s Christmas. Who wants to read about the deeds of these murderous bastards? I’ve got a shoebox full, but it’s Christmas and I shall pass.

Reptile lives matter
I had a wonderful time with my daughter at Tinley Park’s Reptile Breeders Show in mid-October. The finest show featuring a plethora of scaly friends and some designer ball pythons, selling for many thousands of dollars. We shall skip the snakes this issue, except for one photo.

And I couldn’t pass up this photo of Bubba and me.

Isn’t he a beauty? No, not me, but thanks.

So you don’t think politicians are crazy?
Republican Matt Shea, a Washington lawmaker, circulated a memo calling for a Christian theocracy. His memo “Biblical Basis for War” calls for all non-believers to be killed. But only males — who should have their property seized and then be killed.

The memo was sent to the sheriff and the FBI. Maybe it’s religion that’s the problem with these fanatics. And I am not making this one up, either.

How do you like your coffee?
A new study finds that people who do not put much sugar in their cup of joe are more likely to be psychopaths. Well, I guess that explains me!

So in closing…
Memento mori: A reminder that we’re all going to die. Make life precious! Merry Christmas.
Welcome New MAP members

23rd Judicial/Kendall County
Darian Kerr
Algonquin
Ranae Cirrincione
Daniel Klocke
Algonquin Dispatch
Michelle Bathauer
Sheila Schuman
Alsip
William Delaney
Janet Howell
Arlington Heights
Kevin Adams
Jeffrey Heffernan
Geoffrey Sobey
Barrington Hills
Ryan Hackbart
Joe Ward
Bensenville
Anderson Davies
Blue Island
Guillermo Anaya
Bolingbrook
Kyle Corbett
Francisco Luna
Daniel Reyes
Angela Scully
Carpentersville
Carly Botts
Channahon
Valerie Hartmann
Chicago State University
Angel Carpenter
Loryn Clemons
Cortland
Bruce Van Waukum
Crete
Robert Kiser
Michael Perkowski
Tyczan Sieradzki
Crystal Lake
Riley Jensen
Lucas Miller
Nicholas Trimpe
DeKalb County
Alexis Hammer
Tarcianikki Pillows
Des Plaines
Evan Franck
James Pielpel
DuPage County
Joel Bebbert
Mariszu Gavron
Brian McCarthy
DuPage County Forest Preserve
Jeffrey Logan
Elk Grove Village
Colton Jerald
Daniel Leja
Daniel Lim
Kevin Specher
Elwood
Nicholas Vandal
Genoa
Adam Schuring
Hanover Park
Irmei Kisija
Hazel Crest
Ian Dziadlo
Erie Ferrell
Kevin Glenn
ISTHA
Maria Connell
Steve Daugherty
Anne Zerebny
Lake Forest
Lauren Larsen
Lake in the Hills
David DeStefano
Lake in the Hills Police Dispatch/CSOs
Michelle Nigro
LaSalle County Correctional Officers
Austin Cinotto
McCook
David Deleshe
McHenry County Clerks
Andrea Ciriaico
Bridget Cole
Jamie Crandall
Sarah Kellogg
Christian Pascente
Kay Woodard
METRA
Selene Arriaga
Kyle Danalewich
David Kielczewski
Paige Visnevsk
Morton College
Paul Gomez
Jeffrey Johnson
Theodore Kolodziej
Mundein
Jessica Sexton
Niles
Carlin Atkinson
Oak Forest
Michael Plocharscyk
Orland Park
Antonio Fallucca
Moazale McHenry
Christopher Pearce
Christopher Pratl
Quadcom Dispatch
Stephanie Camanara
Romeroville
Carlos Torres
Schaumburg
Jeremy Cook
Giovonni Goyocho
Schaumburg Command
Scott Buxbaum
Michelle Defer
Anthony Henderson
Konrad Sek
Seneca
Andrew Armitage
South Holland
Matthew McGeever
Southcom
Shontay Anderson
St. Charles
Jason Wessendorf
TriCom Dispatch
Jean Decker
Emily Getzelman
Christopher McMeen
Elizabeth Thrun
Villa Park
Danielle Heinz
Luis Lozano Ortiz
Brandon Temesvary
Wescom Dispatch
Tyler Countryman
Elise Wilson
West Dundee
Mark Self
Wheaton
Nadia Duarte
Kevin Freeman
Jaroslav Hempel
Derek Hoots
Ivan Lichvan
Russell Tanzillo
Brian Wagner
Will County Management Association
Michael Shaughnessy
Wilmingon
Aleksandra Sakowska
Winfield
Bryer Serrato

Celebrating Promotions

26 THE RAP SHEET \ WINTER 2019
Honoring Retired Members

Alsip
Anne Durkin

Bartlett
Michael Budds
William Hecker

Blue Island
Jerry Colone

Bridgeview
Michael Benaitis

Carpentersville
Peter Bone

Des Plaines
Martin Reutimann

Des Plaines Sergeants/Lieutenants
Daniel Niemann

DuPage County
Bradley Scott Campbell
David Fullerton

James Gloudeman
Glenn Murakami
Brian Patchik

Dwight
Mark Scott

Hoffman Estates
James Cawley
Robert McGowan
Michael Turman
Michael Venezia

Hoffman Estates Sergeants
Harry Russmann

Justice Sergeants
David Bonarek

Lake Forest
Edmund Yep

Lisle
Brian Crile

Maywood Sergeants
Corey Cooper
Patrick Grandberry

Mount Prospect
Craig Charak
Mike Nelson

Mount Prospect Sergeants
Mark Bonner

Mount Prospect Command
David Zboril

Naperville Civilians
Debra Mazurkiewicz

Naperville Sergeants
Steven Woodham

Niles
Alec Laule

Orland Park
Robin Prokaski

Orland Park Supervisors
Brad Jankowski

Prospect Heights
William Sueth

Schaumburg Command
Gary Ciccola

Streamwood
Matt Stastny

Waukegan Sergeants
Prachaya Sricharmorn

Wheaton
Nicholas Hattabaugh
Larry Smith

Wheaton Sergeants
Thomas Heidank

Woodridge Sergeants
Tim Shannon

Good Luck on Military Leave

Hoffman Estates
Michael Kaye

Newly elected unit board members

Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center
Ben Koechling
President
Michelle Beebe
Vice president
Jason Leonard
Secretary
April Poynor
Treasurer

Rick Enerson
Vice President/Secretary
Sherri Mathews
Steward
Angie Macdonald
Steward
Tricia Berglund
Steward

Heavenly Martin
Secretary
John Hall
Member at large

Roselle
Jim Nudera
President
Diana Cantu
Secretary
Gabe Caliendo
Representative

Grundy County Civilians
Lynn Vidal
President

Dennis Balog
President
Melinda Whitley
Vice president

River Valley 228
Heavenly Martin
Secretary
John Hall
Member at large

Diana Cantu
Secretary
Gabe Caliendo
Representative
Updates from our attorneys about collective bargaining agreements for MAP chapters

Joseph Mazzone
Will County Command Chapter #123
Dec. 1, 2016 - Nov. 30, 2021
- Implementation of a 12-hour shift for sergeants and lieutenants
- Maintain status quo on compensatory time
- Holiday pay for all hours worked on a holiday
- Insurance: Adopted the county’s level of benefits and maintained the contribution level from prior contract – percentage of pay versus percentage of premium
- Wage increases: 1.5 percent effective Dec. 1, 2016; 1.5 percent effective Dec. 1, 2017; 2 percent effective Dec. 1, 2018; 2.5 percent effective Dec. 1, 2019; 3 percent effective Dec. 1, 2020

Richard Reimer
Bartlett
Three-year term, May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2021
- Merit adjustment increases on May 1, 2019 from $1,000 to $1,250 for a superior annual performance evaluation and from $500 to $750 for an exemplary annual performance evaluation
- Wage increases: 2.5 percent retro to May 1, 2018, with a .5 percent equity adjustment; 2.5 percent on May 1, 2019, with a .25 percent equity adjustment; 2.5 percent on May 1, 2020, with a .25 percent equity adjustment
- Includes our language for drug testing following officer-involved shootings

Des Plaines Chapter #240
Five-year term, Jan. 1, 2017 - Dec. 31, 2021
- Wages fully retroactive to Jan. 1, 2017:
  - Jan. 1, 2017: 2.5 percent
  - Jan. 1, 2018: 2.5 percent
  - Jan. 1, 2019: 2.75 percent
  - Jan. 1, 2020: 2.75 percent
  - Jan. 1, 2021: 2.5 percent
- Clarified the “meets standards” qualifier to advancement in salary schedule
- Added Support Services Division and traffic officers to specialty pay
- Eliminated one of the PPO options for health insurance and dropped employee contributions to 7 percent
- Added dental and vision insurance,
- Clarified carryover of personal leave and vacation accrual

Hanover Park Sergeants Chapter #103
Four-year term, May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2020
- Wages retroactive to May 1, 2016:
  - May 1, 2016: 2.25 percent
  - May 1, 2017: 2.5 percent
  - May 1, 2018: 2.75 percent
  - May 1, 2019: 2.75 percent
- Clarified sick leave buy-back
- Employee contribution to health insurance from 10 percent to 13 percent

Winfield Police Chapter #477
Four-year term, May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2022
- Wage increases:
  - May 1, 2018: Equity and wage-step adjustment (equaling a 4.8 percent lift for top pay)
  - May 1, 2019: 3 percent
  - May 1, 2020: 2.5 percent
  - May 1, 2021: 2.5 percent
- Modified the health insurance cost sharing and coverage. Allowed for a graduated stipend for those who opt out of coverage
- OIC pay introduced at $25 per shift
- Investigator’s stipend increased from $1,200 to $2,000
- On-call stipend introduced to a maximum annual stipend of $1,300
- FTO increased to $18 per day until 2021, then increases to $30 per day
- Corporal assignment stipend to $4,550 until 2021; $4,914 thereafter

Steven Calcaterra
Morris Police Department
2018 - 2021
- 3 percent wage increase for 2018
- Wage reopener for 2019 - 2021
- Sick-leave modification
- Residency requirements improved to 20-mile radius
- Inclusion of side letter regarding officer-involved shooting procedure

Grundy County Civilians
2017-2021
- Modification to unit description to reflect current job titles
- Modification to grievance process
- Modification to paid holidays to accommodate court schedule
- Addition of no strike/no lockout protections

Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch
2018 - 2022 (initial agreement highlights)
- Establishment of grievance procedure for disciplinary action (requiring just cause)
- Establishment of seniority rules and seniority list
- Increase sick leave to eight hours per month
- Vacation leave from 40 to 200 hours per year, depending on seniority
- Health insurance initial $10,000 per year to be paid by employer. Payout for employees declining insurance at $4,000 per year
- Retirement account funded at 4 percent of annual salary by employer, with 50 percent matching up to an additional 4 percent annually
- 12-hour shifts determined by the CBA
- Shift differential for 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. at 50 cents per hour
- Compensatory time established
- 11 paid holidays
- Implementation of wage scale with annual increases:
  - 2019: 2 percent
  - 2020: 2 percent
  - 2021: 2 percent
  - 2022: 2 percent

South Barrington Police Department
2018 - 2022
- Increase regular work shift for detectives to 42 hours per week
Compensatory time maximum increased
• Establishment of clear overtime rule
• Improvement to call-out pay language
• Increase vacation leave to 200 hours per year after 20 years
• Modification of holiday bank rules
• Health insurance employee contribution at 10 percent for PPO
• Increase to FTO and OIC compensation
• Addition of clothing stipend for detective
• Addition of officer-involved shooting protections
• Wage increases:
  • 2018: 1.7 percent
  • 2019: 2 percent
  • 2020: 2 percent
  • 2021: 2.5 percent

Coal City Police Department
2018 - 2024
• Modification to part-time officer use agreement
• Uniform allowance increased to $1,000 per year
• Wage increases:
  • 2018: lump-sum payment of up to $2,200, depending on step and rank
  • 2019: lump-sum payment of up to $2,675, depending on step and rank
  • 2020: 2.5 percent
  • 2021: 2.5 percent
  • 2022: 2.9 percent
  • 2023: 1.9 percent plus lump-sum payment of up to $1,500, depending on step and rank

Jerry Marzullo
CenCom

Four-year collective bargaining agreement
• 800-hour accumulation of sick leave in bank, two personal days
• 35-mile residency
• Wage increases:
  • May 1, 2018: 1.5 percent
  • May 1, 2019: 1.75 percent
  • May 1, 2020: 1.75 percent
  • May 1, 2021: 2 percent
• 80/20 split for PPO and HMO insurance

Gary Deutschle
Lakemoor Police Department
• Sick-time increase from six to eight hours per month
• Removed max cap of 600 sick hours
• New vacation selection language – vacation carryover from 40 to 80 hours
• New holiday language, including time-and-a-half on holidays
• Health insurance capped at 10 percent of premium
• Travel time for training classes
• Comp-time bank from 48 to 49 hours with payout option
• Three hours court-time minimum
• FTO pay now two hours straight time for each day spent training
• Wage increases:
  • 2018: 4 percent
  • 2019: 4 percent
  • 2020: 4 percent
• Wage reopened after three years

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First Responders Wellness Center
Dr. Carrie Steiner, Psy.D
Owner/Clinical Psychologist and Former Chicago Police Officer
Dr.carriesteiner@gmail.com
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Carpentersville Sergeants
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Chicago State
University Police
Chicago State
University Sergeants
Clarendon Hills
Cool City
Cook County DCSI Deputy Chiefs
Cook County Dispatch Supervisors
Cortland
Crest Hill
Crest Hill Sergeants
Creté
Crystal Lake
Darien Police and Sergeants
Darien Police Civilians
Des Plaines
Des Plaines Sergeants/Lieutenants
DeKalb County
DuPage County Patrol/Court Services
DuPage County Coroner
DuPage County Forest Preserve
DuPage County Forest Rangers
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Elwood
Elk Grove Village
Fox River Grove
Frankfort Sergeants
Genoa
Gilberts
Glenwood
Grundy County Civilians
Hanover Park
Hanover Park Civilians
Hanover Park Sergeants
Harvey Patrol
Harvey Sergeants
Hawthorn Woods
Hazel Crest
Hickory Hills
Hoffman Estates
Hoffman Estates Sergeants
Homewood
Huntley
Indian Head Park
ISTHA
ISTHA Call-takers
Johnsburg
Justice
Justice Sergeants
Kane County Peace Officers
Lake County Sergeants
Lake County Lieutenants
Lake County Correctional Sergeants
Lake Forest
Lake in the Hills Police
Lake in the Hills Dispatch/CSOs
Lakemoor
LaSalle County
LaSalle County Correctional Officers
Lemont
Lemont Sergeants
Lisle
Lockport
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Matteson Sergeants
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Northlake Sergeants
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Northeastern Illinois Campus Police
Northern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University Sergeants
Northern Illinois University Security Officers
Northern Illinois Telecommunicators
Northwest Central Dispatch
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Oak Lawn
Oak Lawn Detention Officers
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Orland Park Supervisors
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Palos Park
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Prospect Heights Sergeants
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Riverwoods
Romeoville
Romeoville Sergeants
Roselle
Round Lake
Round Lake Park
Round Lake Supervisors
St. Charles
St. Charles Sergeants
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Schaumburg Command
SEECOM
Seneca
Southcom
South Barrington
South Elgin
South Holland
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Streamwood
Streamwood Civilians
Streamwood Village Hall Civilians
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Tinley Park Sergeants
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Warrenville Sergeants
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Wescom Dispatch
West Dundee
Westchester
Westchester Sergeants
Western Springs
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