



GENDARME



St. Louis Police Officers Association

The Official Publication of the ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - Lodge 68

Vol. 52 No. 6

Visit Us on the Web at www.slpoa.org • (314) 353-3200

November / December 2023

This month SLPOA would like to highlight Officers Geoffrey Rose and Velvet McElroy. In February of 2022, Officers Rose and McElroy were dispatched to a call in the 900 block of N. Grand for a holdup. The events that followed would impact their lives.

The Gendarme chooses not to name the defendant in this case so we will just refer to him as a convicted felon. This convicted felon made a conscious decision to rob the Veterans Currency Exchange facility, during business hours, with citizens inside. His actions not only terrorized the store employees but also its customers. When it became apparent that he would not succeed in robbing the store of any money due to the security measures, he fled the scene with his firearm. Little did he know that his crime would be interrupted by police officers when he stepped outside.

Officers Rose and McElroy arrived on scene and confronted the convicted felon outside as he was exiting the business. The officers gave him orders to drop the weapon but he refused. He could have complied; he could have fled the scene, but instead he chose to fire his weapon at the police officers. The officers, who were scrambling to help citizens and passersby to safety while they simultaneously confronted the armed suspect, returned fire in an attempt to end the threat. Fortunately, Officers Rose and McElroy were able to put the suspect down and escaped the incident physically unharmed. Thanks to the brave actions of these two officers, no one other than the convicted felon sustained any injuries, despite multiple citizens and even a small child being nearby and in the line of fire. Officer McElroy had barely two months on the department when the incident occurred, and it was her first day of training under Field Training Officer Rose. The convicted felon's actions resulted in him being paralyzed from the waist down.

Months later SLPOA learned that an Assistant Circuit Attorney who no longer works in that office consented to a plea agreement to allow the defendant to attend drug court and serve two years' probation as his sentence with zero time in prison. The reasoning behind this agreement was that he had already been punished because he was physically disabled for the rest of his life. That is absurd! What kind of message does this send to the community and to the criminals plaguing our streets? That was just par for the course under the previous administration at the Circuit

OFFICERS

In the Spotlight



Officers Velvet McElroy (L) and Officer Geoffrey Rose (R)

Attorney's Office. Instigating a shootout with police officers is an extremely brazen and dangerous act. If this convicted felon is willing to engage in a firefight with trained police officers, what is he willing to do to an everyday citizen?

Another appalling part of the plea agreement was that the officers were never consulted about the terms of the agreement and were, instead, only told on the day of the hearing what was decided. The prosecutor made these recommendations without consulting with the officers who are victims. That is just wrong and illegal. Under Missouri law, crime victims have a statutory right to be informed and conferred with regarding bail settings, guilty pleas and the like. Officers Rose and McElroy refused to be ignored by the Circuit Attorney's Office and took action, once again. Officer McElroy immediately contacted the SLPOA and together we began a campaign to highlight this failure of justice. We notified the judge that our officers were not consulted regarding the plea agreement and, moreover, did not agree with it. The officers and SLPOA authored letters to the Judge, the prosecutor's office, and to victim services. After our interjection, the inept prosecutor panicked, the plea agreement fell apart, and the hearing was postponed.

It is unfortunate that the convicted felon is paralyzed for the rest of his life but that is a result of the decisions he made and a direct result of his actions that day. A physical

disability does not and should not absolve you from the consequences of violent, felonious actions. In addition, I'm sure most of us have seen or know of an individual with a physical disability that was still capable of committing a felony crime. An overworked and backlogged Circuit Attorney's Office is no excuse for excepting weak plea agreements to lighten a heavy caseload. These officers are entitled to justice for the crimes of which they were the victim. The citizens of St. Louis, and the people on the street and in the credit union that day also deserve justice. The plea agreement was a slap in their face.

Due to the relentless efforts of Officers Rose and McElroy, the case continued and was eventually reassigned to a different circuit attorney after the change in leadership to new Circuit Attorney Gabe Gore. Assistant Circuit Attorney, Sherry Wolk, did a much more thorough and caring job, by keeping the officers informed

and consulting with them regularly. Their work eventually led to a plea of guilty on November 16, 2023. The offender is now a convicted felon for his actions on that day and was sentenced to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. He will have to serve 85% of that sentence. Although we all would have liked to see a stiffer sentence, Officers Rose and McElroy were satisfied with the guilty plea agreement and that's all that matters. They both had the guts to stand up and confront the convicted felon during his sentencing and each gave a powerful victim impact statement to the presiding judge displaying their bravery once again.

Officers Rose and McElroy not only demonstrated incredible courage on the day of the incident, but they continued to show that bravery by advocating for themselves and not letting an inept and unprofessional circuit attorney's office run them over. Because they chose to stand up and fight, again, they were able to come to an agreeable outcome for their case. It's a great lesson that we all need to be reminded of sometimes. A case doesn't end when the handcuffs go on and the report gets submitted. These officers saw this through to the end and without their actions, this dangerous individual could be out in society preying on more helpless victims or recklessly putting another small child in danger. SLPOA is honored to highlight Officers Geoffrey Rose and Velvet McElroy as this issue's Officers in the Spotlight!

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Happy Holidays
 From the Staff of the Gendarme



“In memory of the Saint Louis Police Officers who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice”

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



No Picture Available
Michael Walsh
1880



Michael Burke
1901



William Boka
1902



Charles Daly
1920



John McGrath
1921



James Mateer
1925



Oliver Cook
1927



George Moran
1931



Jeremiah O'Connor
1931



Charles Hogan
1955



Terry Simmon
1969



Frank Dobler
1972



Harold Warnecke
1972

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

WATCH YOUR 6 !

GENDARME

DOUBLE ISSUE

3710 Hampton Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63109
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Guidelines for Letters to the Editor. All letters to the editor must be signed and verifiable by phone or personal contact. Freedom of expression is guaranteed within the bounds of good taste and the limits of available space. Upon request the author's name may be withheld from publication and confidentiality assured. The Gendarme takes no responsibility for the content of letters in this section.

The Gendarme newspaper is the official publication of the St. Louis Police Officers' Association and is published in St. Louis. However, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SLPOA or the St. Louis Police Department.

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“The objective of the Saint Louis Police Officers' Association shall be to advance the moral, social and material standing of the members of the Association by honorable and lawful means. As a labor organization the Association shall endeavor to achieve Collective Bargaining with Binding Arbitration.” (Preamble of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

**December 27
January 31
6 p.m.**

E-BOARD MEETING

**December 27
January 31
4 p.m.**

VETERAN'S MEETING

**December 13
January 10
11:30 a.m.**

POLICE WIVES MEETING

**December 13
January 10
7 p.m.**

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

SLPOA UPDATE

I would like to start by congratulating all the members who were recently promoted. I wish you the best of luck in your new positions. Although SLPOA represents Police Officers and Sergeants exclusively in collective bargaining, we still have members at all ranks within the Police Department up to and including Lieutenant Colonel. We encourage everyone to remain a member of SLPOA, regardless of rank. There is strength in numbers, and your membership with SLPOA includes membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police organization in the world. It is our honor to advocate on your behalf.

Legislative:

SLPOA is revving up for this year's legislative session in Jefferson City. Our legislative priority remains bringing the St. Louis Police Department back under a Governor appointed Board of Police Commissioners made up of local St. Louis City residents. We believe this is the most effective way to run the St. Louis Metropolitan police department. It is a proven method that worked for decades. It steers clear of any local politician interference and maintains an agenda focused on the safety of the citizens and the wellbeing of the officers. It is not constantly changing with the political winds of the day. There are numerous other issues we will be addressing and advocating for but this change in control is our top priority.

Labor:

SLPOA has requested to meet with the city for a wage reopener for fiscal year 2025 for all of the groups that we represent: SLMPD Police Officers, SLMPD Sergeants, Airport Police Officers, Airport Sergeants and SLMPD Civilians. In the forefront of these negotiations will be an attempt to formulate a new pay schedule for the SLMPD pay matrix. That provision is specifically spelled out in our current contract and will continue to be a priority this negotiation session.

We will be trying to address salary consistency and the lack of specifications within job classifications for our civilian members. We also intend to push for more and better recruiting practices to provide assistance for our overworked officers. These negotiations should begin after the first of the year but any changes we can achieve will not go into effect until after July 1, 2024.

SLPOA is still in talks with St. Louis County as we work to achieve their first ever contract for our members in the County Prosecutors and Investigators. Things are progressing as expected and we hope to have an agreement in the very near future.

Website and Hall:

We want to remind everyone to make sure your personal information is up to date at the SLPOA hall. If you move or change your phone number, please reach out to me or your Division Representative to update your information for our files. If you are married or divorced, please don't forget to update your beneficiary information at the hall and notify us of any name changes. If you haven't signed up on our website, please take the time to do that as well. We will be handling future elections through our website, and you will need to have an established account to be eligible to vote.



Joe Steiger
SLPOA Business Manager

In closing, on behalf of myself and everyone here at the St. Louis Police Officers' Association, we would like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Dave Sinclair

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Silver Stars of Support: Honoring Sacrifice with Heart

By Mary Theresa McLean, Chairwoman,
Republican Party, City of St. Louis

This past summer, the Central Committee for the Republican Party, City of St. Louis embarked on a journey to honor sacrifice with heart, putting their unwavering support for first responders into practice. The vehicle for this mission: a simple yet powerful raffle at their annual picnic on September 10, 2023.

At the helm of this endeavor was retired police sergeant and St. Louis City Republican committeeman, Joe Carretero, who assumed the leadership role with determination and a clear vision. He put forth the goal of \$1,000.00 to the committee, with the intention of raising funds to support Backstoppers, an organization dedicated to assisting the families of fallen first responders.

While "We Support the Police" is a phrase often uttered, the committee believes that it is one thing to say it, and quite another to demonstrate that unwavering support.

The cornerstone of their campaign was a pure silver bar, weighing an impressive 10 ounces, purchased from Midwest Money and Coin on Hampton at Holly Hills. However, this was no ordinary bar. It was a symbol of unity and patriotism, as it bore the embossed image of the American flag. This distinctive touch not only added to the allure of the raffle but also served as a visual representation of the love and respect they hold for our first responders.

The silver bar was not just a symbol; it was a testament to the power of working together. As the campaign to raise funds for Backstoppers gained momentum, the embossing on the bar became a central topic of conversation. It ignited a sense of pride and enthusiasm within the

community. People were genuinely surprised to learn that a silver coin embossed as an American flag is available, and it made the cause all the more meaningful in the eyes of raffle ticket buyers.

While the silver bar was impressive and visually striking, what truly left an impact was the committee's commitment to their cause. They made a heartfelt decision that all the proceeds from the raffle would go directly to Backstoppers. The full cost of the bar, valued at \$280.00, was made possible by retired police sergeant, Phillip Menendez.

Their annual picnic in beautiful Tower Grove Park at the iconic Turkish Pavilion is a much-anticipated event every year, and this year was exceptionally special because of the raffle. Raffle tickets quickly became a hot commodity, as the community rallied to support this worthy cause. The goal of \$1,000.00 was not only met but exceeded, with a total of \$1,125.00 raised. This was an action that spoke louder than words, demonstrating their dedication to supporting those who serve and protect their city.

As a culmination of their heartwarming effort, Mike Simms of Backstoppers was invited as a guest at the November monthly meeting. During this special gathering, the committee proudly presented the check, signifying their unwavering commitment to aiding those who protect and serve their city. This act of generosity and appreciation was met with gratitude and respect from Mr. Simms and the entire Backstoppers organization. Mr. Simms stayed and spoke to the committee and guests about the history of Backstoppers organization and their ongoing work.

The silver stars of support they raised not only represented a visual symbol of their appreciation but also a concrete step toward helping the families of fallen first responders.

In conclusion, the Central Committee for Republicans in St. Louis City demonstrated that love and support for our first responders are best shown through meaningful actions, setting an example for the community and turning their words of support into tangible assistance for those who dedicate their lives to protect us. It is a testament to the heart and soul of the Republican Party, City of St. Louis who want to do more for Backstoppers in 2024.

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Remembering George Ratermann

By Jim Svaglic

George Ratermann was my friend and partner since 1977. I first met him when I was transferred to the Evidence Technicians Unit (ETU). There was something about him that told you he was a no-nonsense worker. When working he was singular in what he was doing. He was dedicated to the Saint Louis Police Department and its mandate to protect the citizens of the City of Saint Louis. He was always striving to improve his skills and the skills of those around him. I knew at first sight I wanted to be his friend. George served as a St. Louis City Police officer for an impressive 42 years. Most of those years in the Evidence Technicians Unit. He was a no-nonsense officer who when he went to a crime scene gave it his best effort. He told me that "eyewitnesses can be mistaken but physical evidence always tells the truth."

George had this way about him that made him, he was a force of nature. When he told you that you could do something suddenly you felt it was possible. When George decided something had to be done, he found a way to do it and many times brought in people he knew he could count on to do it. He was heavily involved in the St. Louis Police Officers Association, and when he felt the Association was getting off track he decided to run for President. He talked me and several of his friends to run for office and get elected. He started by revamping the

believed they respected him.

George then analyzed the cost of the current attorney. He felt we could get better representation by using a different law firm and later several firms. This started with having the attorney show up at a police shooting, even in the middle of the night, and counseling the involved officer on the spot before IAD could talk to them. His commitment to his fellow officers was unwavering. He put pagers on the chairmen of the legal committee so that when officers had legal issues they could call and get an attorney as soon as possible which saved many officers' jobs. George was denied promotion due to his ceaseless advocacy on behalf of our rank and file members as President of the SLPOA. He told me one time that the Chief of Police Eugene Camp had told him that they had one thing in common. They had both gone as high in the department as they would. But George felt what he was doing was important and never let anything get in the way of doing what was right for the officers who had elected him as their leader.

After his retirement from the police force, George continued to serve his community as a high school teacher, in the Riverview Gardens School District, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with the younger generation. He then served as a Department of Defense police officer for 5 years, further extending his remarkable record of public service. He was also active in the Saint Louis Police Veterans Association serving as President among other positions. George was an Amateur Radio Operator. He was active for several years in the local radio organization.

George's dedication to service was not limited to his community. He served in the Marine Reserves for 4 years and the Army Reserves for 24 years, retiring as a First Sergeant. His commitment to his country was evident in his long and distinguished military career. He was also appointed by the governor to the Missouri State Ethics Commission in 2016 and served in that position for four years.

In addition to his service, George was a lifelong learner. He held multiple bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology, mathematics, and management, and also earned two teaching certificates. His passion for knowledge



was inspirational to those around him.

George leaves behind Jo Ann, his beloved wife of 54 years, his children, and their spouses Jill (Nick) and Tim (Kristen), his three granddaughters (Sydney, Mia, and Georgia), his six siblings and their spouses, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends.

George's legacy will continue to live on in the many lives he touched throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all who know him.

George August Ratermann, a dedicated public servant and esteemed veteran, passed away on November 2, 2023. Born on April 4, 1946, George dedicated his life to serving his community and country.



association newspaper the Gendarme. George somehow convinced me I would be a good Managing Editor of the Gendarme and got me installed as President and Managing Editor. The Gendarme was supposed to be a monthly newspaper but had, due to cost, started to be published only ten months per year. We immediately made several changes. We eliminated the paid editor position and started searching for ways to lower the cost. We found if we provided the content to the layout company, we could save money. This was when the SLPOA started using computers first for the Gendarme and later for office operations. George did not endear himself to the top brass of the Police department, but I



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We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us



Retired P.O. George A. Ratermann

Birth: 04/04/1946
Death: 11/02/2023

Date of Employment: 10/09/1967
Date of Retirement: 08/09/2004

Assignment code at time of retirement: 452

Former President of SLPOA

George August Ratermann, a dedicated public servant and esteemed veteran, passed away on November 2, 2023. Born on April 4, 1946, George dedicated his life to serving his community and country.

George served as a St. Louis City Police officer for an impressive 42 years. During his tenure, he was heavily involved in the St. Louis Police Officers Association, holding the offices of president, vice president, legal chairman, and editor of the Gendarme newspaper. His commitment to his fellow officers was unwavering, and his leadership left a lasting impact on the association.

After his retirement from the police force, George continued to serve his community as a high school teacher, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with the younger generation. He then served as a Department of Defense police officer for 5 years, further extending his remarkable record of public service.

George's dedication to service was not limited to his community. He served in the Marine Reserves for 4 years and the Army Reserves for 24 years, retiring as a First Sergeant. His commitment to his country was evident in his long and distinguished military career. He was also appointed by the governor to the Missouri State Ethics commission in 2016 and served in that position for four years.

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George leaves behind Jo Ann, his beloved wife of 54 years, his children and their spouses Jill (Nick) and Tim (Kristen), his three granddaughters (Sydney, Mia and Georgia), his six siblings and their spouses, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends.

George's legacy will continue to live on in the many lives he touched throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Retired Sergeant Michael W. Guzy DSN 0195

Birth: 02/02/1949
Death: 11/05/2023

Date of Employment: 02/04/1974
Date of Retirement: 05/01/1995
Assignment : First District



Retired P.O. Charles O. Nichols DSN 5724

Birth: 10/20/1941
Death: 11/17/2023

Date of Employment: 02/28/1966
Date of Retirement: 03/13/1999

Assignment code at time of retirement:
Communications

Surviving Spouse: Kathryn A. Nichols



The Funeral arrangements are as followed:
There are no arrangements at this time.

(Cont. on pg. 7)

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GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us

(Cont. from pg. 6)



John Bernard Farrell III

Birth: October 4, 1944
Death: November 20, 2023



It is with profound sadness we announce the passing of John B. Farrell, a devoted family man, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and esteemed former member of the Saint Louis City Police Department. John departed this world on November 20, 2023, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born on October 4, 1944, in Saint Louis, Missouri, John's life was marked by unwavering dedication to service and a commitment to protecting and uplifting his community. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at a young age, where he exemplified courage, discipline, and honor. John's military service shaped him into a true patriot and a respected leader among his peers.

Upon an honorary discharge from the Marines, John continued his commitment to public service by joining the Saint Louis City Police Department. His years on the force were marked by numerous letters of recommendation and Chief's Letters of Commendation.

John was a proud member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

John graduated from Northeast Missouri State University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

His impact extended beyond his professional life; he was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. His warm smile, wise counsel, sense of humor, unique story telling techniques and unwavering support to his loved ones endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind a legacy of compassion, strength, and a profound sense of love to family and friends.

John is survived by his wife, Lana; his children Kim (Rick) Orf and Tim (Sarah) Farrell; his grandchildren Austin (Caleb) Knott, Kelly Patrick

Farrell and Chloe Farrell along with one great grandchild, Maverick Michael Knott; and two sisters, Kathy Cammarata and Maureen Leos.

Private services will take place at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Anyone who would like to celebrate John can come to the American Legion on Montebello Road in Imperial Missouri following the service at Jefferson Barracks,

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, a cause that was close to John's heart.

John's passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew him, but his legacy of camaraderie and love will endure in the memories of all who were touched by his remarkable life. For those closest and maybe not so close, let John say one last time, I'm out of this den of iniquity and enjoy a cold libation on this fine day.

Retired P.O. James F. Graupner

Birth: 05/15/1943
Death: 11/24/2023

Date of Employment: 05/25/1964
Date of Retirement: 06/01/1992

Assignment code at time of retirement: 7TH

Surviving Spouse: Barbara L. Graupner

There are no arrangements at this time.



FADEOUTS			
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PO Richard F. Metz	Svc. Ret.	216	11/05/23
PO Saleem A. Muhammad	Svc. Ret.	462	11/19/23
PO Damon M. Maxwell	Svc. Ret.	303	12/17/23



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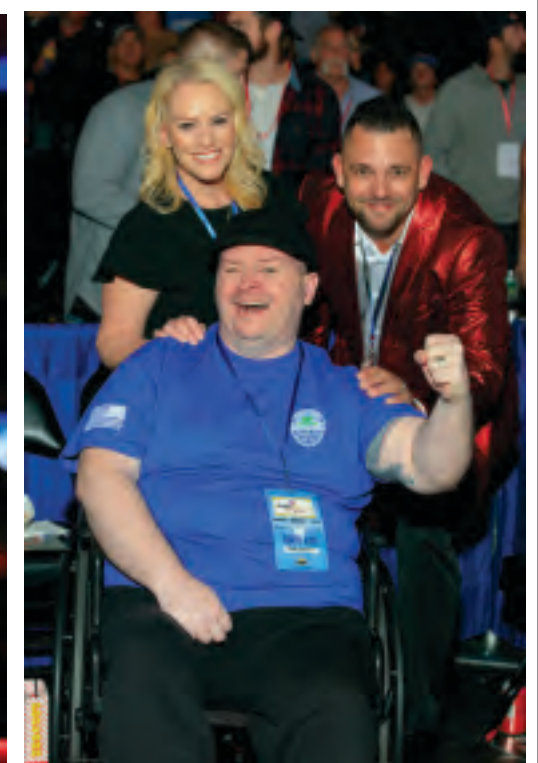
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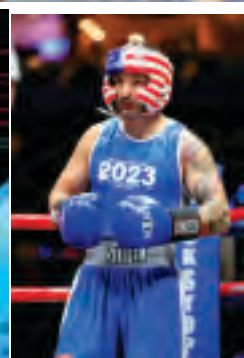
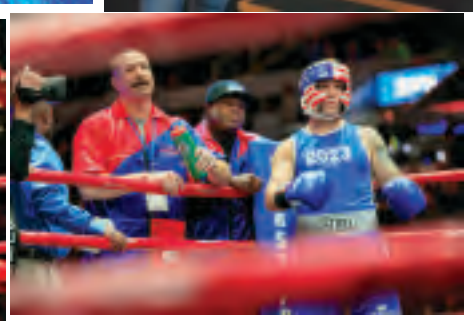
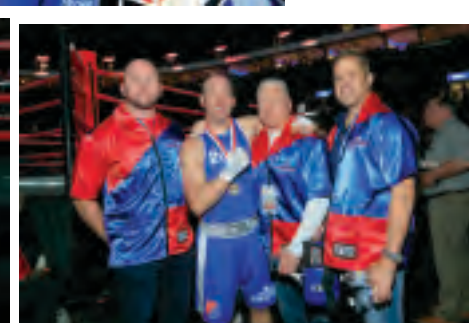
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PHOTOGRAPHY**

Legislative Pre-Session Update

Pre-Filing of Bills has Begun

Legislators began pre-filing bills for the upcoming 2024 legislative session on December 1st. So far, 971 bills and resolutions have been filed as of this writing in both the House and Senate. We anticipate many more will be filed between now and the close of filing on March 1, 2024.

Staff Changes in the Capitol

Numerous staff changes have occurred recently in the House, Senate, Executive Departments, and the Governor's Office. Those worth noting include:

- Kenny Ross, long-time House Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to numerous Speakers, has moved over to the Senate, where he will serve as Director of Strategic Initiatives.
- Former Speaker of the House, Rod Jetton, is returning to the Capitol to serve as Speaker Dean Plocher's Chief of Staff.
- Kyle Aubuchon, who served as a Senior Staffer and Boards and Commissions Director to Governor Parson, will now serve as Chief of Staff to Senator Jason Bean.
- Director of Corrections, Ann Precythe, announced her retirement. Also retiring is Deputy Director of Corrections, Matt Sturm. Precythe is being replaced by Acting Director Trevor Foley, who has previously served as Director of Budget and Finance for Corrections.

Dates of Interest for the 2024 Legislative Session

- First Day of Session - Wednesday, January 3, 2024
- Last Day to File Bills in the House & Senate - March 1, 2024
- Spring Break - Friday, March 15, 2024 - Monday, March 25, 2024
- Deadline for Legislature to Pass Budget Bills - Friday, May 10, 2024
- Last Day of Session - Friday, May 17, 2024

Pre-Filed Bills of Interest

Listed below are some of the many bills of interest that SLPOA and our Lobbyists are tracking.

Civilian Oversight Boards

HB1482, SB800, and HB1659 all contain language limiting the authority of civilian oversight boards. HB1659 is an omnibus crime, judiciary, and public safety bill that also contains much of what was in SB189 from last session which we supported but was ultimately vetoed by Governor Parson.

HB1704 adds another section to the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights and allows civilian oversight boards to operate outside of the guidelines of LEOBR. We successfully killed this bill last year and we will work to do the same this year.

Control of St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

HB1481 and SB808 returns control of SLMPD to a Governor appointed board of police commissioners made up of local St. Louis City citizens.

Felony Fleeing

HB1692, SB820, and SB901 establishes Valentine's Law and the felony offense of aggravated fleeing a stop or detention of a motor vehicle.

Tax Deduction for Law Enforcement Officers

HB1696 and SB828 would phase in, over a four year period, an income tax deduction of 100% of an officer's salary from their Missouri adjusted gross income when fully implemented.

Recruitment Incentives

SB730 creates the Community Crime Reduction Program and will reimburse municipal police departments up to 50% of the cost for employing new officers with certain conditions and restrictions.

Line of Duty Death Compensation

HB1732 increases the amount of compensation for a line of duty death from \$25,000 to \$100,000 and states the amount shall be adjusted annually based on the CPI.

Police Staffing

SJR72 establishes a Constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, that will allow the Department of Public Safety to develop a policing plan and minimum staffing levels for the most dangerous cities in the state based on the uniform crime reporting system.

Use of Drones

HB1415, HB1609, and HB1610 regulate the use of drones and surveilling equipment. Our Lobbyists will collaborate with the sponsors of these bills to ensure there are adequate carve-outs for law enforcement purposes.

Sunshine Law

HB1658 provides that a law enforcement agency shall deny access to any audio or video recording that depicts the death of a law enforcement officer.

48 Hour Hold

SB755 allows for a 48 hour hold on arrest without a warrant for persons arrested for a crime involving dangerous felony or deadly weapon.

Qualified Immunity

HB1602 establishes provisions relating to civil actions against police officers and states that qualified immunity shall not be a defense to civil actions against an officer.

SB1151 establishes new guidelines for use of force and ends qualified immunity for acts of excessive use of physical or deadly force.

There are over one hundred other bills being tracked and monitored by our dedicated lobbyists in Jefferson City. The above-mentioned is just a sampling of the many bills that can impact our organization and its members. We will keep you updated on the progress of any significant bills as the session moves forward. You can access these bills and any other bill filed by visiting the State of Missouri House of Representatives and Senate websites.



Enhancing Neighborhood Safety: Innovative Approaches for a Secure Community

In today's fast-paced world, ensuring the safety of our neighborhoods is a top priority. Creating a secure and inviting environment not only promotes a sense of well-being but also strengthens the bonds within our community. In this article, provided courtesy of Saint Louis Police Officers Association, we will explore a range of functional neighborhood safety improvements that can transform your area into a safe haven for residents and visitors alike.

Benefits of a Well-Lit Neighborhood

A well-lit neighborhood is not only aesthetically pleasing but also serves as a deterrent against crime. Properly placed streetlights make it difficult for wrongdoers to lurk in the shadows. Additionally, aesthetically pleasing designs contribute to an inviting ambiance for evening strolls and social interactions. Modern LED streetlights not only illuminate the area effectively but are also energy-efficient, reducing the long-term costs for the community.

Start a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program

Community engagement is paramount when it comes to neighborhood safety. Establishing a neighborhood crime watch is a collaborative approach that encourages residents to look out for each other. Local businesses can contribute by installing security cameras and alarms. A well-coordinated crime watch can serve as a formidable deterrent against criminal activities, enhancing the safety quotient of the area.

Consider Pet Ownership

Pets do more than just provide companionship; they can serve as natural alert systems for suspicious activities. Therefore, responsible pet ownership is crucial for maintaining a safe neighborhood. Following leash laws and cleaning up after your pet keeps public spaces safe and sanitary. When everyone takes responsibility for their pets, it enhances not only safety but also the quality of life for all residents.

Keep Sidewalks Well-Maintained

Well-maintained sidewalks and crosswalks contribute to the overall



Image by Wirestock on Freepik

safety of a neighborhood. They provide a safe environment for kids, the elderly, and people with disabilities. A walkable community encourages residents to venture outside, leading to a more vibrant and socially cohesive neighborhood. Cities and towns often offer grants or other funding options for sidewalk improvements, which can be a win-win for everyone involved.

The Watchful Eye: Security Cameras

While security cameras can be a contentious topic, there's no denying their efficacy in deterring crime. A carefully planned network of cameras can capture vital information, making it easier for law enforcement to take action. However, it's crucial to balance safety with privacy concerns, ensuring that cameras are used responsibly. Community-funded initiatives can help place cameras in strategic locations, enhancing your neighborhood's safety.

Use Speed Bumps to Control Traffic

High-speed vehicles in residential areas pose a significant safety risk. Implementing traffic calming measures like speed bumps, traffic islands, and appropriate signage can slow down vehicles, making the streets safer for everyone. These initiatives not only make roadways safer but can also aesthetically enhance the neighborhood.

Building Strong Community Connections

The adage "it takes a village" is particularly true when it comes to safety. The more connected neighbors are, the better they can collectively respond to challenges. Hosting community events, whether a summer fair or a block party, helps foster these essential connections. A tightly-knit community can be incredibly effective in deterring criminal activity.

Creating an attractive and functional neighborhood with enhanced safety measures is a shared responsibility. By implementing these innovative approaches, you can transform your community into a secure and welcoming haven. Remember, it's not just about deterring crime but also about building lasting connections among neighbors. Together, we can make our neighborhoods safer and more inviting places to call home.



Dave Sinclair Sr.

Former St. Louis City Police Officer

Dave Sinclair

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Sam Stewart Fundraiser

On Friday, December 1, 2023, members from the North Patrol Division, led by Detective Tim Hollman, held a Mouse Raise fundraiser to support the family of Sam Stewart. As you already know, Sam died suddenly and unexpectedly back in October leaving three young sons behind. His friends and colleagues from the North Patrol Division, District Five Detective Bureau and throughout the Department came out in full force in a fitting tribute to Detective Stewart. A large crowd filled the SLPOA Hall eager to do their part to contribute to this worthy cause. SLPOA is happy to report the event was a huge success!



tremendous success.

The SLPOA Hall is available free of charge for members to host fundraisers for police officers in need of aid. SLPOA does not typically organize these events ourselves, but we are here to assist any member who is looking to organize a fundraiser on behalf of another member. It is always more lucrative if an officer takes the lead and hosts an event rather than just asking for donations. Our members are very generous, especially when it comes to supporting our fellow officers, but it is easier to solicit donations when you have an organized event. If you are interested in helping raise funds for a member in need, reach out to the SLPOA to inquire about details and available dates.

Special acknowledgement is due to Tim Hollman who organized and did most of the work to make this event so successful.

Sergeant Matt Simpson along with Rosie Busso and Laurie Erson from the FOP Auxiliary also played a huge role in making this event a

member in need, reach out to the SLPOA to inquire about details and available dates.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Laughter

As we begin a new year, take a few minutes and enjoy a laugh or two.

Don't Mess with Old People

An old lady handed her bank card to the bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw \$10."

The teller told her, "For withdrawals less than \$100, please use the ATM."

The old lady wanted to know why, as the teller returned her card and irritably told her, "Those are the rules; please leave if you have no other business. There is a line of customers behind you."

The old lady remained silent for a few seconds, handed her card back to the teller and said, "Please help me withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished as he checked the account balance. "You have \$400,000 in your account, but the bank doesn't have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come back again tomorrow?"

The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately, and the teller told her any amount up to \$3,000.

"Well," the woman replied, "please let me have \$3,000 now."

The teller very kindly, very friendly, and with a smile handed \$3,000 to her.

The old lady put \$10 in her purse and asked the teller to deposit \$2,990 back into her account.

The moral of this story is, "Don't be difficult with old people; they spent a lifetime learning the skill."

Theater Seats for Seniors

An old man lay awkwardly sprawled across three entire seats in the movie theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the old man, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat."

The old man didn't budge.

The usher became impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there, I'm going to have to call the manager."

Once again, the old man just muttered and did nothing.

The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment returned with the manager.

Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the old disheveled man, but with no success.

Finally, they summoned the police.

The officer surveyed the situation and then asked, "All right, buddy, what's your name?"

"Fred," the old man moaned.

"Where are you from, Fred?" asked the police officer.

With a terrible strain in his voice, and without moving, Fred replied, "The balcony."

The Professors And the Airplane

A group of professors sat on a plane. When the doors closed, and the plane was about to take off, all the professors were informed that this plane was made by their students. Then all the professors rushed toward the plane doors trying to escape and survive with exception of one professor who calmly remained seated.

Someone asked him why he was not escaping the plane.

The professor answered him with confidence, "They are our students."

Next Question: "Are you sure that you taught them well?"

The professor replied quietly, "Knowing these students, I am quite sure that the plane will not fly."

The Maternity Ward

Four men were in the hospital waiting room because their wives were having babies. A nurse went up to the first guy and said, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins."

"That's odd," answered the man, "I work for the Minnesota Twins!"

The nurse said to the second guy, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets."

"That's weird," answered the second man, "I work for the 3M company!"

The nurse told the third man, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!"

"That's strange," he answered, "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!"

The last man was groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others asked.

"I work for 7 Up!" came the reply.

Lottery

A man asked his wife, "What would you do if I won the lottery?"

She replied, "I would take half and leave you." "Great," he said. "I won \$12. Here's \$6. Stay in touch."

One-liners

- To me, "drink responsibly" means "don't spill it."

- I love to wave at random people because you know that the rest of the day, they will be trying to figure out who you were.

- The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

- When I say, "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

- I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

- Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that does not fit any of your containers.

- If you are sitting in public, and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

- I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning of the argument because then I don't know whose side I'm on.

- When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

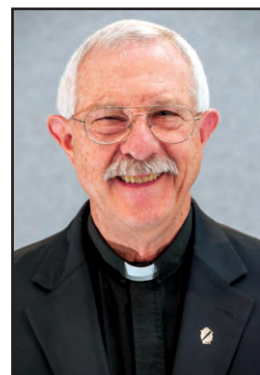
- My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

- Money talks. But all mine ever says is goodbye.

- My job is secure. No one else wants it.

- Being retired is fun because sometimes I sit and do nothing, and sometimes I just sit.

- I remember being able to get up in the morning without making sound effects. Now when I get out of bed, my body sounds like a bowl of Rice Krispies: Snap, Crackle, and Pop.



By Chaplain John Fava

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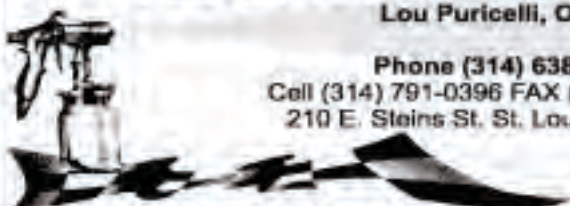


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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					MOUSE RACES 1 SEE PG. 8 PAYDAY	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7 PM	14	15 PAYDAY	16
17	18	19 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	20	21	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25	26	27 E-BOARD MTG 4PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6PM	28	29 PAYDAY	30
31						

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7PM	11	12 PAYDAY	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day Celebrated	16 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 PAYDAY	27
28	29	30	31 E-BOARD MTG 4PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6PM			

FEBRUARY 2024 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 National Freedom Day	2 	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 PAYDAY	10
11 SUPERBOWL 	12	13 FAT TUESDAY 	14 Valentine's Day VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7 PM	15	16	17
18	19 	20 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	21	22	23 PAYDAY	24
25	26	27	28 E-BOARD MTG 4 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6 PM	29 		

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