



WISCONSIN COUNTY POLICE ASSOCIATION LTD

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Executive Director's Message



This newsletter goes out with much excitement and anticipation. First of all we welcome many new members including Buffalo and Columbia counties 100% membership, along with many new members from Florence, Iowa and Sauk counties. Our fundraising is going well with people from all over the state donating to our organization. Legislatively we had a good session. While not many bills were passed that we were involved in, we still had a positive impact in Madison and continue to stay in the forefront of legislation that impacts law enforcement. We did a civilian heroism award presentation, the first one in several years, that was so well received and appreciated, and on a personnel note I had the privilege of marrying my second daughter to a wonderful guy who also is in the law enforcement field.

While exciting things continue to happen all around us, our hearts were deeply saddened by the loss of Deputy Kory Dahlvig of the Vilas County Sheriff's Department. Having been in Law Enforcement for 36 years now I still say that, for the most part, this is a very safe line of work. I believe that it is the unknown call just around the corner that makes this the dangerous job we all do. I know that danger all too well for I have lost three personal and close friends to the line of duty deaths and have been a very intimate part of a fourth. I have handed out contributions to survivors of line of duty deaths on numerous occasions.

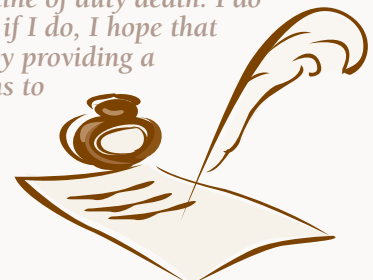
Most of you have joined the WCPA within the last few years know that as Executive Director of the WCPA my biggest selling point is our \$5,000 line of duty death benefit. I have said that I am making it my goal to make sure that every Sheriff's Department employee in the state of Wisconsin has the opportunity to this benefit.... just in case of that unknown call around the corner. It is why I went to the Badgers Sheriff's Conference and made a plea for membership. It is why I went to Buffalo, Chippewa, Wood, Door, Rock and Dane Counties. It is why I harped on friends in Columbia, Marinette, Waupaca and Eau Claire Counties.

Thankfully 3,000 of you have joined. You have seen that we are not a threat to WS&DSA, LAW, AFSCME or any other state law enforcement organization. You have seen that our fundraising is low key and non threatening, and you have guaranteed your loved ones that should that unknown, unexpected and unwanted call happen that the WCPA will be there to help you walk through a very difficult time.

I told the Sheriff's at the Badger Sheriff's Conference that I hope to never have to give out another \$5,000 line of duty death benefit, but that the reality of our work said that we would see another death. Less than one year later we faced another line of duty death. I do not want to see another line of duty death in my life time, but if I do, I hope that person is a member of the WCPA and we can assist a family by providing a financial resource that will help at time when everything seems to be falling apart.

Stay safe!!!

Bob Wierenga
Executive Director, WCPA



A DAY FOR THE DOGS

While canine training/certifying in Green Bay Wisconsin Executive Director Bob Wierenga was bitten by the Wisconsin Rapids police canine during a "muzzle" building exercise.

Wierenga, acting as the bad guy, was hidden under a desk in a room at the end of a hallway. During the search the police canine came into the room and located Wierenga under the desk. As the canine engaged Wierenga it pulled out from under the desk. As it did, the strap of the muzzle caught the edge of the desk causing the muzzle to come off. The canine then reengaged and bit Wierenga in the lower left leg causing a severe wound to the leg.

Wierenga was taken to a local hospital where he was stitched up and sent home. This was the first bite for the Wisconsin Rapids dog and he was praised up for doing such a good job in building search, for giving a "full mouth" bite and hanging

on until his handler got there and took control. Wierenga agreed with the praise for the search and the bite but told the handler to work on the "release" a little bit more!!!

Wierenga's Sheriff, Dave Graves, told him that he may be getting too old to be playing with the dogs. Wierenga's response was "It's a good thing that I am in as good of shape and as agile as I am, or I would have taken

the bite in the face rather than the leg!"

Train hard and often!!!



The Purpose of Plates is Identification

The state of Wisconsin still requires two license plates to be displayed clearly on both the front and rear of most motor vehicle which travel on our highway system. While it is the law, there still seem to be many people who appear to be thumbing their nose at law enforcement, by driving vehicles with only one license plate or with plates so covered with "junk" that you cannot tell where they are from even if you are standing a foot away from the plate.

Sometimes the blockage comes from large license plate brackets that promote everything from auto dealerships, favorite sport team, or branch of the military the owner served in. Some plate frames contain funny sayings, promote a persons "faith" in Jesus or their favorite school, but the fact is.... No matter what a person is advertising it is still illegal to operate a vehicle with only one license plate or your license plate partially covered!

We have all observed vehicles with plates so covered with things, like vehicle registration stickers, that we have no idea which state the plate is from. If this vehicle had been involved in a crime an eyewitness would not have been able to tell where the vehicle was from.

While many states have gone to a rear plate only policy,

Wisconsin still requires two plates, front and rear. The WCPA has fought all efforts to go to a rear plate only state, and has fought this battle for at least 30 years! Yet today there seem to be as many vehicle driving down the road with only one plate as there are operating with two plates.

I suppose there are several solutions to this problem. We could try to eliminate plate brackets altogether. If you think the Auto Dealers Association is strong, after all they don't make the front mounting bracket for most vehicle today, just think what the License Plate Bracket Manufacturers Association Lobbyist would do if they saw that coming.

How about putting the name of the state behind the license plate number, or color coding each state license plate. There has even been talk about creating a "National" plate to be used uniformly across the country.

Maybe that is all silly talk but in the end people are required to obey the law and we are empowered to enforce it. Enforcing this law will help us fight to keep it. I would hate to see the day we lose our "two" plate law because we don't care enough to enforce it!

2010 WCPA Member Questionnaire

Here are the list of questions which appear on our website. Please take a minute to go to wcpawi.com and answer these questions so that we may better serve you in our legislative process.

1. Should mandating county jailers' classification in the Wisconsin Retirement System as protective occupation participant status be a priority for WCPA?
2. Should WCPA oppose concealed-carry legislation?
3. Should WCPA support any legislation to strengthen criminal penalties without an appropriate level of funding?

4. Should WCPA support legislation to increase penalties related to the enforcement of traffic laws without adequate funding?
 - a. OWI
 - b. Speed Related
 - c. Other
5. Should WCPA make shared-revenue payments and local-government operations priorities?
6. Should WCPA support pro-veteran legislation such as educational assistance and creditable years of service?
7. Would you like to be more involved in decision-making related to the endorsement of political candidates?
8. Should WCPA identify an agency liaison for each county?
9. Would you be interested in participating in a WCPA Lobby Day?
10. How can WCPA better serve you?

HEROISM AWARD PRESENTED

IN BUFFALO COUNTY

On a rainy day in the Town of Nelson, Buffalo County Wisconsin Christina Thompson was driving north on STH 35 with her four year old son, Caleb, buckled in his car seat in the back seat of the vehicle. Due to the heavy rains and slippery road Christina's vehicle hydroplaned across the roadway and over a guardrail causing the vehicle to fall into the Chippewa river. The vehicle landed on it's top and began to submerge.



Christina was able to free herself from the wreck and after several unsuccessful attempts to free Caleb the vehicle completely submerged under the murky water of the Chippewa.

At the same time Christina's vehicle went into the river there was a vehicle southbound on STH 35 and the driver witnessed the

crash. That driver, by chance, was Christina's husband Darren Thompson. Darren immediately dove into the water and attempted to remove his son from the submerged vehicle. While in the water two more passerby's stopped to assist. One was Lund Township Fire Chief, Steve Anderson, and his wife, Anne Anderson, along with a local citizen Shawna Miller. Chief Anderson and Shawna entered the water and assisted with the freeing of Caleb and brought him to shore. While the rescue operation was taking place in the water Anne Anderson called the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department and in a very cool, calm and professional manner guided rescue personnel to the scene in a way that they were able to handle the emergency in a very efficient and effective way.

Chief Anderson immediately began CPR until breathing resumed. Caleb was flighted to Wabasha, MN and then to Mayo Clinic in Rochester where he fully recovered from the crash and near drowning.

Executive Director Bob Wierenga and WCPA board member Kim Seiple traveled to Buffalo County where the Wisconsin County Police Association Civilian Heroism Award was presented to Darren Thompson, Shawna Miller, Steve Anderson and Anne Anderson.

If you come across a heroic act, civilian or law enforcement, go the WCPA website at wcpawi.com and nominate the people involved in the incident.

IRS Rule May Effect WRS Protective Occupation Employees

Most protective occupation employees in Wisconsin have been closely following the IRS regulation that has the potential to increase the current normal retirement age for protective occupation employees. If the IRS change is allowed to take place the effective date for the change to begin would be January 1, 2013.

The Wisconsin County Police Association has been monitoring this movement and Executive Director Bob Wierenga has sent the following letter to all of the US Senators and Representatives.

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Wisconsin County Police Association I am writing to request clarification on IRS Notice 2009-86, particularly with respect to protective occupation employees under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). I understand the regulations make an exception for retirement plans where a majority of participants are "qualified public safety employees." Under this safe harbor clause, a minimum normal retirement age of 50 years is considered acceptable.

WRS is a multiemployer plan, combing protective occupation participants with many employee groups. Under WRS, public safety employees do not make up the majority of the participants in the plan. I am concerned that there is a possibility that the IRS's safe harbor normal retirement age of 50 years will not be available to WRS protective occupation participants.

I would appreciate your assistance to clarify the status of the regulation.

Sincerely,

Bob Wierenga
Executive Director

As of June 1st both Senator Feingold and Kohl have responded. Both are aware of our concerns and Senator Feingold has requested the IRS to respond to them. The WCPA will continue to monitor the situation and take action when it can.

READY Camps teach preparedness, teamwork & communication

Interested in an alternative to the traditional summer camp? Have enough bead necklaces to last a life time? READY (Responding to Emergencies And Disasters with Youth) Camp could be just what you're looking for.

At the five-day READY Camps, middle and high school students will take part in disaster preparedness exercises, learn skills like first aid and CPR, and find out about careers in police, fire, medicine and emergency management.

This summer there are three READY camps around the state at Camp Birchrock in Rhinelander, UW Madison, and UW La Crosse. Students enroll as part of a team, along with an adult advisor from a sponsoring school or community youth organization. New this summer is the Wilderness camp which includes a wilderness rescue unit and ATV safety course run by the Wisconsin DNR.

READY Camp Executive Director Mary Jean Erschen said the camp experience is designed not only to prepare young people for emergency situations and teach them about related careers, but also to inspire them

to take positive actions to improve their schools, neighborhoods and communities.

Instructional and material costs for the READY Camps are supported through grant funds and private donations. The cost is a non-refundable \$50 per student deposit, along with a \$27 per day fee for lodging and meals, totaling \$185 per student.



For more information on the READY Camps, or to download a registration form, visit the Center for School and Citizen Preparedness web site. You can also check out a You Tube Video of a local news story on the camp.

FUNDRAISING

Wisconsin County Police Association



Sports Legends of the Past

Wisconsin Lutheran College
8725 Bluemound Rd • Milwaukee, WI

Sunday
August 1, 2010

4:00pm Tipoff

Bring the family and enjoy an exciting game of basketball with members of the WCPA taking on sports legends of the past from the UW Madison, Green Bay Packers, Chicago Bears, and Chicago Cubs!!!



6th Annual CIVIL PROCESS TRAINING SEMINAR

www.wiscpg.com

October 12 & 13, 2010

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PRESENTED BY:

Wisconsin Civil Process Group

Dave Perlman, Assistant Attorney General
WisDOJ Training & Standards Bureau
608/266-1420, Fax: 608/266-7869
www.wilenet.org

Lieutenant Rick Olig
Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office
180 S. Macy Street Fond du Lac, WI 54935
(920) 929-3378
rick.olig@fdlco.wi.gov

For more information or to register, please visit

www.wcpawi.com

WCPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

"UNDER THE DOME"

Ramie Zelenkova



It's a wrap. The 2009-10 regular legislative session ended on April 22. With relatively few scenarios that force the legislature back to work, the legislature is not expected to reconvene until January 2011. I'd like to highlight several pieces of legislation recently signed by Governor Doyle that received bipartisan support in the legislature, issues that could easily get lost in the "big picture" as we hear more and more about budget crunches, unfunded mandates, and as we approach election season. It is important to know that in the midst of everything good things are still happening.

Assembly Bill 269, authored by Representative Chris Danou and Senator Jim Sullivan, says if a person knowingly resists or obstructs a law enforcement officer and causes substantial bodily that person is guilty of a Class H felony.

Senate Bill 541, authored by Senator Fred Risser and Representative Ann Hraychuck, brought our own WCPA Director and Treasurer Rick Olig, of Fond

du Lac County to Madison to testify in support of the bill before the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, and Housing Committee. SB 541 makes changes to the requirements of public notice of a sale of personal property or real estate. The bill, which was signed into law on May 13, changes the required number of postings from three to one in the town or municipality where the sale is held, and from three to one in the town or municipality where the property is located. This will streamline the process and provide a consistent location within each municipality for posting. In addition, the bill allows the posting of the notice of sale on the county website, if the county maintains a website. These changes will make it much easier for the general public to view all of the upcoming sales by accessing the internet from their home, the public library, schools or most government buildings, and stops deputies from having to climb over snow banks and wade through

water filled ditches to post notices on utility poles.

Assembly Bill 230, authored by Representative Ann Hraychuck and Senator John Lehman, requires the Department of Transportation to provide electronic driver's license and identification card photographs to the Department of Justice so law enforcement agencies can access the images via TIME, or other similar system for the administration of criminal justice and traffic enforcement. The effective date of the new law is March 29, 2011.

Last, I'd like to ask that you take a few minutes to respond to a member survey to assist the WCPA board in developing a 2011-12 legislative strategy. The survey is available on our website at www.wcpawi.com. Your responses will help us identify new issues that may be important to membership. Thank you and have a safe summer.

Legislative Action & Results the WCPA was involved in this past legislative session

Assembly Bill 269, causing injury to a law enforcement officer while resisting or obstructing an officer or while attempting to flee and providing a penalty. *Enrolled.*

Assembly Bill 347, the Internet sale of unclaimed personal property by a sheriff. *Enrolled.*

Assembly Bill 633, using county jail funds for costs related to providing educational and medical services to county jail inmates. *Enrolled.*

Senate Bill 44, relating to background checks for the purchase of handguns. *Enrolled.*

Senate Bill 541, providing public notice of a sale of personal property or real estate on execution. *Enrolled.*

Senate Bill 573, public access to certain shared law enforcement records. *Enrolled.*

Assembly Bill 511/Senate Bill 336, requiring a person arrested for a felony or a juvenile taken into custody for certain sexual assault offenses to provide a biological specimen for DNA analysis. *Failed to pass.*

Senate Bill 222, group deer hunting requirements and restrictions on placing, possessing, or transporting a firearm, bow, or crossbow in or on a vehicle. *Failed to pass.*

Senate Bill 174/Assembly Bill 221, creating a microstamping requirement for certain handguns. *Failed to pass.*

Senate Bill 82, access to employment records for candidates of law enforcement positions. *Failed to pass.*

Assembly Bill 661, county and municipal expenditures for emergency services. *Failed to pass.*

Assembly Bill 634, collective bargaining and protective occupation status for county jail employees, county employees of a juvenile detention facility, and state employees who are employed at state correctional institutions, juvenile correctional facilities, the mental health institutions at Mendota and Winnebago, the Wisconsin Resource Center, and secure mental health

units or facilities for sexually violent persons. *Failed to pass.*

Assembly Bill 474/Senate Bill 377, carrying concealed weapons by law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers. *Failed to pass.*

Assembly Bill 448, costs of prescriptions drugs and devices for incarcerated persons. *Failed to pass.*

Assembly Bill 230 (WI Act 167), electronic access by law enforcement agencies to photographs on motor vehicle operators licenses and identification cards. *Signed into law.*

Assembly Bill 776, classifying county jailers as protective occupation participant for the purpose of the Wisconsin Retirement System. *Failed to pass.*

Assembly Bill 924/Senate Bill 676, law enforcement standards. *Failed to pass.*

WCPA
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Act Now!

Registration Membership

If you received this newsletter you are already a member of the WCPA Ltd. Please feel free to pass this on to a non-member when you are done with it. If you are not a member of the Wisconsin County Police Association, all you have to do is fill out this application. Membership is open to any employee of a Wisconsin Sheriff's Department. Your application entitles you to a lifetime membership as long as you are employed. There are no membership dues!

Email _____

Mail to: Wisconsin County Police Association, Ltd.
P.O. Box 764, Delavan, WI 53115

Beneficiary (for life insurance) _____

State _____

Zip _____

County of Employment _____

Home Address _____

City _____

Name _____

DOB _____

Membership Application

Wisconsin County Police Association, Ltd.

Take a moment and review the mailing information contained on your mailing address below. Use this space to make any corrections, changes, additions, deletions, verify suite or apartment number, add telephone number or e-mail address if you wish. If the information below is correct, no action is necessary. If you make any changes, simply detach this card and return the card to us. If you have questions, contact us at 262-728-2233 or info@wcpawi.com

Please help us clean up our act...