

# MN Concerns of Police Survivors

## 2014 MN C.O.P.S.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board Meeting	1
Elections	1
President's Message	2
MN C.O.P.S. Candidate's	2
Meet the Candidate's	3-4
Responsibilities of the board	5
Did you know?	6
Reminder	6
2014 Events Calendar	7
Balling in Dakota County	8
Blue Line Ball	9
Line of Duty Deaths	10-11

## April Board Meeting & Elections

April 6, 2014: Board Meeting 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

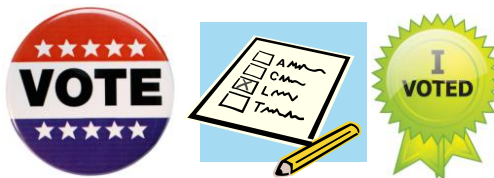
April 6, 2014: Elections/Meeting 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



New Brighton Safety Building

785 Old Highway 8

New Brighton, MN



In this issue you will find information on the candidates running for office. This year the following positions are open.

President  
Treasurer  
Representative

### Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- Meet the Candidates
- Responsibilities of the Board
- Did you know?
- Reminder
- Upcoming Events
- Balling in Dakota County
- Blue Line Ball
- LOD Anniversaries

## President's Message:

Spring has arrived with Police Week close behind. Mark your calendars for National Police Week, May 11th–16th. This year Officer Josh Lynaugh, St. Paul Police Dept., Line of Duty Feb 16, 2013, will be honored on the wall. Please keep parents, Lori and Tim Lynaugh and siblings Brian, Melissa in your thoughts as they travel to Washington, D.C. to honor Joshua.

A total of 17 family and law enforcement officers will be flying out together and the LEMA honor guard will once again usher the family onto the aircraft. Minnesota C.O.P.S. will be there also to wish them well.

Our election this month will bring new volunteers to our board and I will be stepping down from the position of President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support while I served our chapter. It has been a privilege to work with the board and the many volunteers involved with COPS. New volunteers are always wanted and needed. Take a moment and let us know how you would like to join us. We have long and short-term needs.

You may have time for only one activity this summer, so helping with our fundraisers or the summer picnic would be a good way to meet other survivors and have fun. Check out our [MNCOPS.org](http://MNCOPS.org) website often as we post our summer activities. I will be looking forward to seeing you at the summer picnic in June to give you more details. Remember to take care of each other.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Silvera, President

### MN C.O.P.S. Candidates

On the next couple of pages in this newsletter, we would like to introduce the candidates running for office. There are several positions open this year. We wanted you to have a chance to see who they are, and what office they are running for. Please take a few minutes and read about each candidate. The next step in this process is for members to come to the next meeting, and vote. This is your chapter. Your vote, your input, and your participation will make this chapter great. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual board meeting.

**April 6, 2014 at 11:00 am.**  
**New Brighton Police Department**  
**785 Old Highway 8**  
**New Brighton, MN**

## Susan Smart – Candidate for President, MN C.O.P.S.

My name is Susan (Mayerle) Smart. I am one of three surviving children of Donald Mayerle who died in the line of duty November 15<sup>th</sup> 1977, in Northern MN. That was over 36 years ago, I was 9 years old, and I will never forget the events that happened that evening. For the rest of my childhood and part of my adulthood I struggled to understand why my dad, why my family, and why me. I was robbed of an important figure in my life, he could not be replaced and he was never coming home. For any child that is hard to comprehend, not to mention back in the 70's it wasn't the norm to put your children in therapy. I remember hearing "children are resilient and time will heal them".

Other than honorary events, memorial services, or having meltdowns with our Mom there was no discussion. For nineteen years, I lived with the hurt, thinking of him every day and wondering what life would be like if he was here. My loss became a huge weight that crippled my mental and emotional development, preventing me from building healthy relationships. In my late 20's I was able to work through most of my hurt and anger. I recognized opportunities that would help me develop as a person.

Just a few years back, with the powerful tool called the Internet, I found the MN COPS chapter. I reached out to Gretchen O'Neil seeking some information. I attended a meeting to see what it was about. I will be honest, I was a little embarrassed. I thought loss over 30 years ago had no comparison to more recent losses. I felt I didn't think I fit in. I thought I would never go back thinking I got what I needed and had other commitments to attend to.

Fall of 2013 rolled around and my father's only sister died at eighty years old from health complications. As I got older, I enjoyed visiting with her. She would share stories of him which I always loved to hear but the most comforting was the resemblance to my father. I always felt that he was right beside her. What I didn't know is that my aunt struggled with her brother's loss and really never got over it. She never expressed or talked to others about it! Finding this out broke my heart!!

I'm now in a place in my life that I want to make a commitment to help others with their loss and struggles no matter where they are in their grieving journey. I found that there is no timeline to healing and we all manage it differently. I had always hoped that organizations existed for the law enforcement community because our loss is so unique. I am glad to come back to this MN COP community, now my new found "Family". I would love to step into the role to be the next MN Chapter President. I want to help spread the word of this great organization and increase participation from all survivors.

Just a little more info about me. I grew up in Keewatin MN. I have resided in the Twin Cities for the past 18 years. I graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS in Business Administration. I have worked for Dayton-Hudson and Target Corporation for the past 20 years. I married a wonderful, supportive high school classmate 5 years ago and have 4 awesome step children that live out of state. I have a poodle that I adore. I love hanging out with my family, friends & kids. Most of all, I have the strongest bond with my mother, who is my best friend, brother and sister who I would do anything to ensure their Happiness!

## Jackie Bergeron – Candidate for Treasurer

I am Jackie Bergeron, a surviving sister-in-law to Maplewood Police Sgt. Joseph Bergeron, EOW May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. In late 2010, I first learned of MN Chapter of C.O.P.S. when our family started their plan to attend Police Week in Washington, D.C. Upon my return from D.C. it became my want and need to be able to become a part of this organization; to be able to help out the next surviving family members on their journey as well as support all the survivors in our group in whatever way I can.

My opportunity first came when they had a need for a secretary and I was appointed to that position, only to later be appointed to the treasurer position. Anyone that knows me can tell you that I will help out wherever I am needed – I love volunteering (or maybe I just can't say no – LOL), however, MN C.O.P.S. holds a very special place in my heart and I am looking forward to continuing with my commitment as treasurer for the next two years and being a voice for our survivors – and to make sure that our fallen officers will never be forgotten.

## Bonnie Silvera – Candidate for Representative

My name is Bonnie Silvera and most of you have seen my name as president of MNCOPS. I am the mother of Shawn Silvera, LODD September 6, 2005. Shawn was killed in a high speed chase on 35W when he put stop sticks out to stop a felon traveling at speeds over 100 miles an hour while high on meth.

For those of you that do not have a computer or perhaps are too far from the city to attend one of our meetings, we thought it would be nice to introduce our nominees and board members.

I am mother to three children two boys and a girl, Mark, Shawn and Nicole. I have also been daycare mom to hundreds of children as their parents go off to work for the day. This year marks 40 years in my profession. Being a grandmother to nine awesome grandchildren brings me the most joy.

Our Silvera family was one of the first families helped by MNCOPS when it was first started in 2005. The help by we received from Paul Gertsen, the first president and Shawn's Police Department was like a lifeline in some very dark years after Shawn died. Survivors do help and support each other in a way no one else can.

I am running for chapter representative this term so I can continue to be here for new families and old families alike. It has been nine years since Shawn's death and I know life will never be the same. Having survivors who understand and support me has made a difference. Volunteering has helped me through this grief journey.

## Responsibilities of Chapter Officers

The President is the person who leads the chapter. The president works with the approval of the board, they cannot make decisions for the chapter on their own. They are also responsible for overseeing all reports due to the National and preparing the agenda for all meetings.

The Treasurer is the custodian of all the financial books and it is their responsibility to prepare all financial reports due to National C.O.P.S., as well as prepare and submit a Treasurer's Report for ALL Chapter meetings. They MUST strive for complete transparency. This means, they must allow the membership the opportunity to view the chapter's books. If someone asks a question or wants to see financial information, they must not take it personally; the membership has the right to ask questions and receive answers.

The Secretary should take minutes at all meetings. They should then submit a draft to the president for feedback. After the President reviews the minutes, the secretary should then submit them to the executive board before the next meeting for their review. They must also submit minutes to the National Chapter Coordinator within 30 days of the meeting. The Secretary safeguards all chapter paperwork and sends out chapter correspondence.

The Vice President shall fill in the position of President should the President be unable to do so. The Vice President shall perform other duties as assigned.

The Chapter Representative shall be a representative of the chapter to survivors and shall perform other duties as assigned.

All Chapter Representatives shall be representative of the chapter to Survivors. They shall be a liaison to law enforcement agencies for purposes of information regarding C.O.P.S. policies and procedures. They shall assist with the Chapter newsletter publication, public relations and speaking engagements. They shall be the Chapter representative to attend any available C.O.P.S. law enforcement line of duty death training seminars and or classes.

The Minnesota Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors will be putting together a scrapbook of the Minnesota Officers killed in the line of duty. The scrapbook will be displayed at various events and we are hoping to also have a digital version to show at our Blue Light Service. We will need your help in putting this together. We would like everyone to send us a photo of your officer and also photos that tell us who your officer really was. Please include a paragraph or two about your officer. The paragraph can include anything you want to say about your officer and can include information about the family left behind, hobbies they enjoyed, special awards or recognitions they received, groups or charities they were involved in, whatever you wish to share. We all know how they died; now we want to know how they lived. Please forward your pictures and paragraphs to Jackie Bergeron at PO Box 222, Anoka, MN 55303 or [donderosadaisy@hotmail.com](mailto:donderosadaisy@hotmail.com). All photographs will be returned to you.

## Did you know?

Just in case you did not know, or curious, here a few things we thought we would share with you.

Did you know that past survivors are welcome to attend LODD funerals?

Have you ever wanted to attend and felt you would get lost in the crowd?

LEMA has recently set aside seating for past survivors so they could sit together for support.

You will have to call our president to be included in the seating ahead of time.

Did you know that our chapter makes a necessity basket for new LODD families at the funeral home?

Did you know about ODMP, Officer Down Memorial Page

Go to the link below for the Officer Down Memorial Page.

[www.odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org)

Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter under the category, Did you know?

Send us your ideas, information, you may be helping another survivor with the information you give.

## Reminder

You should have received by now the MN C.O.P.S. form requesting an update on the profile we have in our database today. Please remember to complete the form, sign it, and return it in the stamped self-addressed envelope. If you did not receive the form, please contact

Hazel Vokral or Bonnie Silvera via email:

[hazelvokral@yahoo.com](mailto:hazelvokral@yahoo.com) <<mailto:hazelvokral@yahoo.com>>

[bsilvera@comcast.net](mailto:bsilvera@comcast.net) <<mailto:bsilvera@comcast.net>>

## 2014 Events – MN C.O.P.S.

- April 5 Blue Line Ball – 6 –12 p.m. For information: [www.backingtheblueline.org](http://www.backingtheblueline.org)
- April 5 “Balling In Dakota County” Fundraiser for MN C.O.P.S. (See flyer)
- April 6 Board/Election Meeting –11–3 p.m. New Brighton Safety Center 785 Old Highway
- April 11 Blue Line Ball
- May 4 Ecumenical Service – 2pm in Oakdale (see LEMA website)
- May 12–17 National Police Week Agenda
- May 12 Official Arrival Day LEU Arrival & flag presentations to 2013 families
- May 13 The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Vigil – 8:00 p.m.
- May 14/15 Honor Guard/Memorial Service – Law Enforcement Memorial–St. Paul Capitol
- May 14 Police Survivors’ Conference (Day 1) 9:00 a.m–4:00 p.m.  
COPS 30th Anniversary Dinner – 6:00–11:00 p.m.
- May 15 National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service 11:00 a.m.
- May 16 Police Survivors’ Conference – 9:00–4:00 p.m. Picnic on the Patio – 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- June 8 Annual Membership picnic (with LEMA) White Bear Lake 12:00 –3:00
- June 20–23 Adult Children’s Retreat
- July 28–Aug 3 Kids Camp & Outward Bound
- Aug 16–18 Fiancés /Significant Others Retreat
- Aug 16 or17 Law Enforcement United Family Funfest 5K–10K Woodbury, MN 9:00–2:00 p.m.
- Aug 23 Shawn Silvera 5K Run – Long Lake Regional Park 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (map)
- Sept 19–22 Spouses Retreat
- October 3–6 Co–Workers Retreat
- October 11 Blue Light Service & Lunch Kelly Inn – Lunch 4:30 p.m. Service 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17–20 In–Law Retreat – New this year – Extended Family members
- Oct. 24–27 Parents Retreat

# “Balling In Dakota County”



## Fundraising Basketball Tourney

- What:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual charity basketball tournament to raise funds for the Minnesota Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S).
- When:** Saturday April 5, 2014 at 0830 hours
- Who:** Dakota North: Eagan, Mendota Heights, South Saint Paul, West Saint Paul  
Dakota South: Apple Valley, Rosemount, Farmington  
Dakota East: DCSO, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights  
Dakota West: Burnsville, Lakeville  
St. Paul Police Department  
Cold Spring Police Department
- Where:** Scott Highlands Middle School, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Please make checks payable to Minnesota Chapter of C.O.P.S. For more information contact SGT. Booker Hodges 651-497-0628, [booker.hodges@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:booker.hodges@co.dakota.mn.us)





# Backing the Blue Line

Police Wives of the Twin Cities, MN

Invites you to

## THE BLUE LINE BALL

Join us for a glamorous evening of dinner and dancing as we raise funds to support Backing the Blue Line, a locally founded organization composed of police wives dedicated to the support of Law Enforcement in Minnesota.

**Friday April 11th, 2014**

**The Minneapolis Marriott Southwest**

**6pm to Midnight**

**Tickets: \$50 per person\* - includes dinner and dance  
(invitation is only to Law Enforcement, their families and friends)**

**Featuring:**

**Musical Group Rich & The Resistors  
and  
Silent Auction & Raffle**

**\*Raffle & Silent Auction\***  
Prizes include:  
\*Tactical Gear  
\*One-Night Stay Hotel Packages  
\*MOA Family Waterpark Passes  
and a variety of other items!

**For more information and to purchase tickets**

[www.backingtheblueline.org](http://www.backingtheblueline.org)

**...and spread the word to your friends and family!**



\*Small processing fee will be added to the ticket price

## Anniversary Dates: Line of Duty

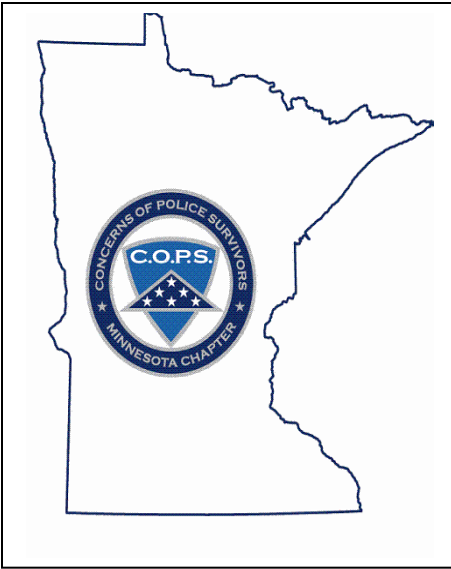
This issue we have listed April, May, June. If you know of a name that should be in here and is missing, please let us know. If you find an error, please let us know. Line of Duty Death Anniversaries: These are listed first by month, day, and year the officer was died.

Month	Day	Year	Officer	Department
4	4	1922	<a href="#">William W McClintock</a>	St. Paul Police Department
4	7	1969	<a href="#">Richard L Bergquist</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
4	10	1990	<a href="#">Gary Dale Wilson</a>	Duluth Police Department
4	12	1932	<a href="#">Marshal Nels Berglin</a>	Forest Lake Police Department
4	16	1883	<a href="#">Lewis Joachim</a>	Faribault Police Department
4	16	1981	<a href="#">John O'Brien</a>	St. Paul Police Department
4	21	1968	<a href="#">Gilmer Fred Keeler</a>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
4	24	1917	<a href="#">George Connery</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
4	25	1930	<a href="#">Joseph Twaddle</a>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
4	25	1934	<a href="#">William S Kozlak</a>	Minnesota State Patrol
4	26	1966	<a href="#">Donald Sandmeyer</a>	Bemidji Police Department
4	27	1956	<a href="#">Robert Moravec</a>	LeSueur County Sheriff's Office
4	28	1908	<a href="#">Arthur James Briggs</a>	Duluth Police Department
4	29	1934	<a href="#">Fred W Nolan</a>	St. Cloud Police Department
4	30	1967	<a href="#">Edgar Allen Culbertson</a>	U.S. Coast Guard Office of Law Enforcement
5	1	2010	<a href="#">Joseph Bergeron</a>	Maplewood Police Department
5	3	1930	<a href="#">Norman D Fairbanks</a>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
5	3	1936	<a href="#">Ben J Lehman</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	3	1996	<a href="#">John Warren Liebenstein</a>	Rice County Sheriff's Office
5	4	1929	<a href="#">Clayton J Seawell</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	4	1979	<a href="#">Michael Cassman</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	6	1979	<a href="#">Eugene Cousins</a>	North Mankato Police Department
5	6	2005	<a href="#">Gerald Vick</a>	St. Paul Police Department
5	8	1925	<a href="#">Frank J Appel</a>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
5	11	1959	<a href="#">William Herkal</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	12	1958	<a href="#">Leo M Bessner</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	16	1982	<a href="#">Bruce M Russell</a>	Roseville Police Department
5	17	1977	<a href="#">Jack Dean Werner</a>	Olmsted County Sheriff's Department
5	19	1915	<a href="#">Otto G Ostby</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	19	2005	<a href="#">Pete Resch</a>	Wadena Police Department

## Anniversary Dates: Line of Duty

Month	Day	Year	Officer	Department
5	21	1891	<a href="#">Thomas McCarrick</a>	St. Paul Police Department
5	22	1923	<a href="#">John Francis McDermott</a>	Rosemount Police Department
5	22	1934	<a href="#">C. Arthur Lyman</a>	Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
5	22	1941	<a href="#">Adolf G Karpinski</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	22	1970	<a href="#">James T Sackett Sr</a>	St. Paul Police Department
5	26	1922	<a href="#">Joseph E Kreager</a>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
5	26	1934	<a href="#">Peter Erath</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	26	1976	<a href="#">George A Patridge</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	27	1934	<a href="#">Walter J. Bowman</a>	Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office
5	29	2009	<a href="#">David R Loeffler</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
5	31	1916	<a href="#">Nels C Anderson</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
6	3	1902	<a href="#">James W Finn</a>	St. Paul Police Department
6	4	1949	<a href="#">Fred Babcock</a>	Richfield Department of Public Safety
6	6	1945	<a href="#">Marwin A Wicklund</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
6	7	1997	<a href="#">Timothy Bowe</a>	Minnesota State Patrol
6	10	1967	<a href="#">Gerald Boos</a>	St. Francis Police Department
6	11	1999	<a href="#">Grant Coyour</a>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
6	12	1959	<a href="#">James Johnson</a>	Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office
6	14	1937	<a href="#">Georgianna Sharrot</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
6	17	1882	<a href="#">Daniel O'Connell</a>	St. Paul Police Department
6	17	1933	<a href="#">Mathew Weiss</a>	St. Paul Police Department
6	18	1959	<a href="#">Alfred V Sandquist</a>	St. Paul Police Department
6	19	1938	<a href="#">Roy Robert Fitch</a>	Worthington Police Department
6	20	1926	<a href="#">Calbert H Leedom</a>	St. Paul Police Department
6	20	1934	<a href="#">Allen H Johnson</a>	Fergus Falls Police Department
6	20	1991	<a href="#">Henry Burton Carlson</a>	United States Dept. of Justice - Marshals Service
6	23	1966	<a href="#">Paul D Renner</a>	New Ulm Police Department
6	24	1919	<a href="#">George Woessner</a>	Minneapolis Police Department
6	25	1972	<a href="#">Lawrence Paul Felcyn</a>	Redwood County Sheriff's Office
6	26	1896	<a href="#">Joseph Rogers</a>	McLeod County Sheriff's Office
6	26	1914	<a href="#">Michael J Sullivan</a>	St. Paul Police Department
6	29	1978	<a href="#">Curtis Alan Felt</a>	Douglas County Sheriff's Office

## MN C.O.P.S.



### **MN C.O.P.S.**

P. O. Box 222  
Anoka, MN 55303

Phone:  
(763) 269-1000

We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**MNCOPS.ORG**

Concerns of Police Survivors began in 1984 and consisted of 110 members. Today C.O.P.S. is a nationwide program with a membership of over 15,000 families. C.O.P.S. mission is:

"Provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria. Furthermore, C.O.P.S. provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors."

# **MN Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors**

**P.O. Box 222, Anoka, MN 55303**

**Phone Number: 763-427-0920**



## **Board Members**

**President: Bonnie Silvera**

**763-427-0920**

**Vice-President: Bill Hammes**

**763-898-8310**

**Secretary: Hazel Vokral**

**952-500-8625**

**Treasurer: Jackie Bergeron**

**651-762-9558**

**MN C.O.P.S. Newsletter**

**708 31<sup>st</sup> Street NW**

**Rochester, MN 55901**