

MN Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors

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Winter Newsletter

December 2010

Almost every word out of my mouth this winter seems to start with- brrrr !! Where did spring and summer go? I am sitting here with a cup of hot chocolate with warm milk... forgive me if all of a sudden the paper makes no sense because it will mean that I have fallen asleep and the computer is running amok!

Holiday's: Winter brings the holiday season that may bring a whirl of emotions. Be gentle with yourselves, and if you do not want to celebrate then find something else to keep yourself occupied. Find something else to do - volunteer at a hospital, food shelter, make it a day of remembrance with other family members or friends or sit on your couch, watch comedies all day, eat popcorn, take the phone off the hook and laugh yourself silly! I am not joking either - this will be my first time in 5 years to finally put up a Christmas Tree because my son is now ready to do it - not because his father died- because he went through a horrific experience and I decided to honor his request not to decorate. I say my son; actually, I had no desire to place one up. My son placed the C.O.P.S. blue ribbon at the top instead of an angel, maybe you would want to use a family photo or just a picture of your officer as the top of the tree ornament. Like I said, be gentle with yourself and you will know when it is right for you to break out the decorations again.

May each one of you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May your holiday season be bright and cheery, and that the coming year brings loads of love, laughter and happiness into your lives.

6th Annual Blue Light Ceremony: We, the Board, had to make a decision over safety because of the weather and road conditions verses having the ceremony. Please accept our sincerest apology for having to cancel. We did so with extreme reluctance. The Blue Light Ceremony honors the memories and sacrifices of those who walked the thin blue line giving their all to protect us. It is also a time to give thanks to all law enforcement personnel who are or have walked the beat knowing the dangers that are out there instead of being at home with their families. We let them know we are grateful for the jobs they perform every day by showing our support. They gave each department a 'blank' check when they put on the blue uniform and badge to come between chaos and every citizen because they knew/know the dangers involved and are/were still willing to walk out the door each day for their shifts. Their job is not for the

faint hearted. They do their job willingly and proudly. God bless them all. The Board knows that our decision disappointed many people.

I know it is nowhere near the same... by displaying a blue light in your window(s) during the holiday season but it is a way to remember your loved one and to show a sign of support. I decorated my Christmas tree in blue and white lights with silver ornaments. Turned out really nice and I leave it on all night long as a vigil of sorts for all the officers working who may drive by and see a show of support.

National Police Week: I am starting to get many questions about the Police Week for May 2011... that information is coming out in January and we will talk about it at our chapter meeting. Sadly, we are sending two new families this coming year. Please contact mncopschapter@yahoo.com to make sure we have your correct contact information and address so that you get all the stuff for Police Week, such as registration information. Before you leave, we would like to talk to you and/or your liaison officer to clarify everything and make sure you know what to expect. I can tell you very little about the first time I went because I was so overwhelmed. Everyone there (in DC) is more than willing to help you make it a positive event. Some are going back for the umpteenth time and still learning something new. It is a time for friends, families and everyone in-between to join hands because we have all walked the walk and belong to an organization that sadly wishes that we would never have another member added to our ranks.

Special Alert: Remember that if you receive PERA survivor pension benefits, they are non-taxable for State and Federal Income taxes. If you have any questions, please call your PERA representative.

Calendar (so far) for 2011:

There are other dates to place on your calendars and we will pass them along as the dates, time and location for each event as we get them.

Jan 23 - Winter Chapter meeting - (BCA) in St Paul, MN,

March – late in the month with date to be determined – Parents Luncheon

Apr 9 - Spring Chapter Meeting and voting in new positions

April 12-13 – MN Chiefs' Conference in St. Cloud

May 13-17- National Police Week in D.C.

May 15 – National Police Memorial Service Day

June 24-27- Adult Children Retreat in Potosi, MO

July 13-17- Board and Chapter Training in Potosi, MO

July 23- Renegade Pigs - Bikin' With Bacon Motorcycle Run and Pig Roast (fundraiser]

July 25-31- Kids Camp

July 25-31- Outward Bound for teens

Aug 13 - MN C.O.P.S. Chapter Picnic – place to be determined

Aug - Shawn Silvera 5K Run - (fundraiser) (date to be determined)

Sept - 7th Annual FOP Chapter 14 Golf Classic (fundraiser)

Sept 9-12 - Sibling Retreat

Sept 23-26 - Spouses Retreat

Oct 9 - Fall MN C.O.P.S. Chapter meeting

Oct 14-17 - In-Laws Retreat

Oct 28-31- Parents Retreat

Nov 4-7 - Affected Co-Workers Retreat

Nov 19 - Annual Blue Light Ceremony

Sad News: Our deepest condolences to Jack and Ruth Friedli, parent survivors in 1998 of Gary Friedli, experienced the death of their daughter-in-law, Eve, on November 22. Eve was the wife of Roger, brother of Gary. She had multiple myeloma for 7 plus years and fought to overcome this cancer of the bone marrow. She had survived three stem cell transplants and was recovering very well when a multiple pulmonary embolism took her life. She is survived by her husband, Roger, and two children, Zackary (21) and Sarah (18).

MN C.O.P.S. Board Positions Open: After many years with the MN C.O.P.S., Sue Lange will be stepping down as secretary. Her hard work, support, and dedication have been a blessing. She came on board when our chapter was brand new. She has been an asset ever since. Thank you, Sue, for all that you have done to help this organization grow. May all your future endeavors be as successful as your term in office.

If you were present at the October meeting or will be present at the January meeting then you can be elected to the Secretary position. I have enclosed the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary. The Board hopes that someone will step forward to fill this position.

We are trying to grow our Board so that we have more eyes, ears and voices to make this a fantastic organization. Bill Breth, a retired police officer, has already stepped forward to become a Chapter Representative – Positions are open for another Chapter Representative and two Trustees.

Duties of the Secretary:

Section 1 Shall act as an official spokesperson for the Chapter.

Section 2 Shall take and transcribe minutes of all conferences, meetings, and Executive Board meetings, submitting the same to the President for additions, deletions and/or corrections, providing copies to the Chapter's Executive Board and to the National Chapter Coordinator thirty (30) days following the end of each quarter (i.e., due April 30, July 30, October 30, January 30).

Section 3 Shall safely keep the Bylaws of this chapter and keep records of all official amendments.

Section 4 The Secretary shall serve no more than a two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms

Section 5 Shall prepare, file, and maintain all permits, forms, registrations, etc. required by the State of Minnesota and its many subdivisions as required bylaws.

Section 6 Shall make available any reports of the Executive Board or committees upon request by the National Board or the members of this chapter.

Section 7 Shall perform other duties on behalf of the organization as assigned.

Section 8 Shall deliver all Chapter possessions to his/her successor within thirty (30) days of leaving office.

Section 9 Shall be a voting member on the Executive Board.

New Website: We are still anxiously waiting for the new web site to be completed. It has taken longer than anticipated - hoping to be able to share this new and exciting site in January with everyone! Keep your fingers crossed!

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT: National Concerns of Police Survivors announced on December 14, 2010 the new CEO. She is Mariah Hughes of Potosi, MO. Please go to the National Website for the complete information about our new CEO.

CONGRATULATIONS: MN C.O.P.S. past president, Gretchen O'Neil, has been promoted to Sergeant on the Rochester Police Department, effective December 15. The Board extends its very best wishes to Gretchen.

BLUE LIGHTS: The MNC.O.P.S. Board purchased a few of the blue lights which National had available. These blue lights were described in the fall Newsletter from National. At the January 23, 2011 Chapter meeting we will have these lights available. If you would like to have one or more, we would ask for a donation to our MN Chapter.

PARENT LUNCHEON: Bonnie Silvera is the contact person for the parent luncheon. It is hoped to have this the latter part of March or the first part of April. Please call her if you are interested. Bonnie's number is: 763-427-0920.

Peace and joy to all! Look forward to seeing everyone in January!!



Merry Christmas!!

Sincerely,
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MN C.O.P.S. is a 501c3 non-profit organization, licensed by the State of MN. This organization 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. One Hundred percent of the funds raised are used for this mission.