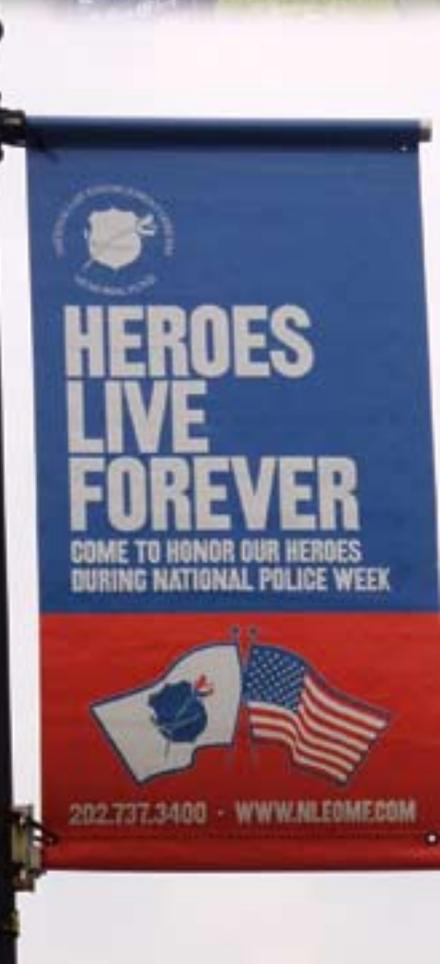


# The Police Officers Journal



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2 • SPRING 2010



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**Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP®)**

Send Address Changes to:

667 E. Big Beaver Road, Suite 205,  
Troy, MI 48083.  
(248) 524-3200 • FAX: (248) 524-2752  
[www.leepusa.com](http://www.leepusa.com)

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Detroit PD (Retired)

**PUBLICATIONS**

Fred Lamaire

Postmaster: Please send returns and all other communications to the Law Enforcement Education Program Business Office: 667 E. Big Beaver Road, Suite 205, Troy, MI 48083.

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Executive Editor, Dale Z. Jablonski  
Production staff: Diané E. Bertoli,  
Jennifer Foley



# National Police Week 2010

## May 3 – Michigan

**Monday, May 3:** The 17th Annual State of Michigan Law Enforcement Officers' Candlelight Memorial Service, 7 p.m. on the east steps of the Lansing State Capitol building, located at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Capitol Avenue.

## May 9-15 — Washington D.C.

**Tuesday, May 4:** 16th Annual Blue Mass – 12:10 p.m. St. Patrick Catholic Church, 10th & G Streets, NW. [www.saintpatrickdc.org/bluemass.shtml](http://www.saintpatrickdc.org/bluemass.shtml)

**Sunday, May 9:** 15th Annual Law Ride – 9 a.m. line up at RFK Stadium (Lot 8) with 11 a.m. procession to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, 400 block of E. Street, NW. [www.lawride.com](http://www.lawride.com)

**Monday, May 10:** 31st Annual DC Area Memorial Service – 11 a.m. Metropolitan Police Headquarters, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW. E-mail [mirellaux@gmail.com](mailto:mirellaux@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, May 12:** Police Unity Tour Arrival Ceremony – 2 p.m. at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. [www.policeunitytour.com](http://www.policeunitytour.com)

**Thursday, May 13:** 22nd Annual Candlelight Vigil – 8 p.m. at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. It is advised that anyone attending take the Metro Red Line to Judiciary Square. (202) 737-3400.

**Friday, May 14:** Eighth Annual Steve Young Honor Guard Competition – 8:30 a.m. at John Marshall Park, between the Federal Court House and the Canadian Embassy. [www.policeweekhonorguard.com](http://www.policeweekhonorguard.com)

- 17th Annual TOP COPS Awards Ceremony – 7 p.m. at the Warner Theatre, 513 Thirteenth Street, NW. Contact Jill Sizemore (703) 549-0775.

- 15th Annual Emerald Society & Pipeband March and Service – Assemble 4:30 p.m. at New Jersey Ave. & F Street, NW and step-off at 6 p.m. with march proceeding to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Contact Mike Roe at (314) 304-1915 or e-mail him at [Mjroe@slmpd.org](mailto:Mjroe@slmpd.org)

- Shomrim Society Kaddish Service – 10 a.m. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. E-mail [jgruber@umpd.umd.edu](mailto:jgruber@umpd.umd.edu)

**May 14-15:** National Police Survivors' Conference – 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Registration required. E-mail [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

**Saturday, May 15:** 29th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Services – Noon at the West Front of the United States Capitol.

- Wreathlaying Ceremony – 3:30 p.m. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.



# Labor reps honor fallen officers

By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

When Ken Nash handed Mark Sawyers his high school diploma, it was a proud moment for the friend of the family who'd watched him grow up. When he goes to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial May 13, he will again pay tribute to Sawyers, but now as a fallen officer.

"I knew him since he was born," said Nash, who was a Hazel Park Board of Education member when Sawyers graduated. "His mother and aunt worked on my first school board campaign."

In June 2004, Sawyers, a Sterling Heights Police Officer, was parked in his patrol car filling out paperwork when a vehicle pulled up beside him and a man shot him in the head. Sawyers died the next day at the age of 30, leaving behind a wife and child.

"It's an honor to go there to recognize the officers that made the sacrifice," said Nash, a POLC Labor Representative, of his long attendance of ceremonies in Washington D.C. for National Police Week. Sadly, for four years in a row, Nash personally knew the officers that were killed.

Nash, a retired Hazel Park Police Sergeant, began attending police week events in 1985. He's only missed four in the past 25 years.

"I've been going since before the memorial was done," Nash said. "I usually go to the Candlelight Vigil, where they read all names of officers killed in the past year."

## REMEMBERING A PARTNER

POLC Executive Board Member Greg Huggett relives the moment his partner died every time he visits the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, but he

still finds it comforting.

"The first time I went was in 2006 after they put my partner's name on the wall," Huggett said. "It was hard just because it was so close. Even today it's still emotional. When I go back, it brings it right back."

Huggett was shot and his partner, Battle Creek City Police Det. LaVern Brann was fatally shot May 9, 2005 when they were investigating the killing of a taxi driver.

"It helped to grieve with other people," Huggett said. "They're not just saying I know how you feel, they really do know how you feel."

The shooting occurred when Huggett and his partner visited a female honor student's apartment after finding some evidence linking her to the murder. "It turns out her brother was recently released from prison," Huggett said.

Huggett went around back while Brann stayed at the front door. The suspect tried to go out the back, saw Huggett, and went out the front instead. "I got half way there (to the front door) and heard a gunshot," Huggett said.

Huggett saw Genail Postley standing over his wounded partner. Postley began shooting at Huggett, who returned fire. "I got shot in the right lower leg," Huggett said. Brann, 44, had been shot twice with a shotgun and died at the hospital. Huggett was treated and released.

Postley, was arrested and is serving life in prison without parole after being found guilty of Brann's homicide and pleading guilty to homicide and kidnapping in the death of a taxi driver in April 2005.

## RAIN OR SHINE

On May 15, officers from around the country will attend services on the Capitol lawn for National Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

"All the other (national) monuments will eventually have all the names on them, but the law enforcement memorial will always (grow)," Huggett said. "I would suggest that every officer, whether they're a rookie or ready to retire, at least once go just because of the emotion. It's not like any other place we can go to that's for officers." ♥

This photo of Sterling Heights Police Officer Mark Sawyers, center, was placed by his name on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.



# Michigan Police Memorial needs more funds to become a reality

By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

The Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument to fallen police officers has been designed and the land set aside, but gathering enough funding to make it a reality has been a problem.

"It will be started when we raise \$3 million," said Lin Emmert of the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission. "We've raised \$200,000. These are tough times to raise funds in Michigan."

Fund-raising has been in the works since October 2006 when the site, located on the Lansing State Capitol grounds by the Vietnam Memorial on Allegan Street near Butler, was dedicated. The parkland was donated for the memorial under Public Act 177, Emmert said, so there is no cost for the land. But once the structure is erected, another \$1 million will be needed to maintain it and add names later.

The donation checkoff box on Michigan Tax Returns provided \$70,000 from 2008 returns. This year, organizers hope to raise \$100,000 through the 2009 returns.

"The goal (to build the memorial) passed a couple years ago," Emmert said. "It's going to happen, just not as quickly as we want it to be."

The memorial will feature 21 glass panels standing, independent of one another, in a row like sentinel guards standing watch, Emmert said.

## FALLEN SON

Emmert and the three others, chosen to head up the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission, are all survivors. Other committee members include a chaplain, a representative from the Michigan Attorney General's Office and another from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Emmert's son, Grand Haven Police Officer Scott Flahive, lost his life in the line of duty in 1994. The 28-year-old was shot to death when he pulled over a vehicle with an escaped prisoner inside.

Keith Harbin, one of two felons who escaped from the Ottawa County jail in Grand Haven, is now serving life without parole for killing Officer Flahive. The escape happened after Harbin clubbed a corrections officer over the head. Two women provided the men with clothing, guns, and a get-away car.

Emmert, like the other committee members, Diane Philpot, Kathy Cole and Jim Niewiek, belongs to MI-C.O.P.S., a support group for friends and families of Michigan's fallen officers.

"I've gotten to know a lot of police officers through MI-C.O.P.S.," Emmert said. "It's interesting how many officers do know my son."



This is a rendering of The Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument, which will be built when sufficient funds are raised.

## MICHIGAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

Emmert said the National Police Officer's Memorial service and site in Washington D.C. is wonderful. "The first year is really the best because your officer is honored," she said. "But the wall there is just awesome, it's just unbelievable," she said. There are over 18,600 names inscribed.

Emmert said it's important to remember fallen officers at home as well. The 17th Annual State of Michigan Law Enforcement Officers' Candlelight Memorial Ser-

vice will be held 7 p.m. Monday, May 3 on the east steps of the Lansing State Capitol building, located at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Capitol Avenue.

"We think we need something right here in the state . . . to show our respect for the officers who continue to risk their lives every day," Emmert said of the memorial structure. "And it's also about educating the public about the risks officers face and the sacrifices that are made. Every time they go out there, they're risking their lives."

Since the tax deadline has passed, pri-

vate donations and fund-raisers are encouraged.

"Fund-raisers would be great," Emmert said. "We do feel that if the police officers and survivors of Michigan don't support this . . . why would the public?"

To donate or for more information, visit [www.mleom.org](http://www.mleom.org) and click on e-store or send checks payable to MLEOMF and mail them to Michigan Department of Management and Budget Financial Services, Cashiering Unit, P.O. Box 30681, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8181. To organize a fund-raiser, contact Lin Emmert at [linemert@hotmail.com](mailto:linemert@hotmail.com)

# Jackson Officer, 26, is first to die in the line of duty since 1978

— Excerpted from media reports



Officer James Bonneau, 26, was fatally shot in the line of duty in March.

Jackson City Police Officer James Bonneau was fatally shot in the line of duty in March, after responding to a domestic complaint. At the age of 26, he is the first Jackson Police Officer to die in the line of duty since 1978.

His father, Marc Bonneau of Canton, who works at the Michigan State Police crime lab in Northville, said his son had a promising career.

"He was very, very, lucky when he got the job," Bonneau said. "That's what he wanted to do, and he was fortunate he could stay in Michigan, close to us. This is bad to say, but if you're going to die, die doing what you love doing. It's just a shame, this way."

Officer Bonneau had served in the Jackson City Police Department for over two years. He is survived by his parents, Marc and Amy Bonneau; sister, Emily; brother, Pete; and special friend, Rachael.

Jackson Police POLC Local President Officer Shane LaPorte described Officer Bonneau as a quiet man who kept to himself.

"He had no baggage," LaPorte said. "He was one of those guys who was squeaky clean. It's absolutely horrible."

Investigators in Jackson County say Bonneau and Blackman Township Officer Darrin McIntosh were shot by 63-year-old Elvin Potts March 9. Potts' estranged girlfriend reported Potts had been banging on

the door of her Blackman Township home late at night, said Jackson County Under-sheriff Tom Finco.

"He was pounding on the door, he had been drinking and he had a gun," Finco said. "By the time they got there, he had left."

When the officers approached Potts inside his Jackson home, he started shooting, Finco said.

"There was a short struggle, he pulled the gun out and he shot," Finco said.

One of the officers returned fire, killing Potts. McIntosh was shot in the lower body by Potts. He underwent surgery and is expected to recover, Finco said.

Marc Bonneau said his son, a Cub

Scout and Boy Scout as a youngster, always loved to play with military toys.

"After 9/11, he thought he had to do something," his father said.

Officer Bonneau was especially proud of two commendations he received as an officer with the department — one in March 2009 when a traffic stop turned into a large marijuana bust and the other in June 2009 when he was able to link a group of juveniles to several malicious destruction of property reports, according to Jackson Police.

The shooting is being investigated by the Jackson County Major Crimes Task Force, the sheriff's office and the Michigan State Police.

Potts, 63, was jailed in 2005 for assaulting a family member with a weapon, according to investigators. He was also jailed in 2007 for drunk driving and a probation violation in 2008, Finco said.

"We express sympathy to his family and to the city of Jackson and to the entire community," Finco said. "It's a terrible tragedy."

The family is requesting donations be made in the name of Officer James Bonneau to MI-C.O.P.S., P.O. Box 508, Dewitt, MI 48820-0508. Visit [www.mi-cops.org](http://www.mi-cops.org) for more information on MI-C.O.P.S.

# Fewer police fatalities, but fatal shootings on rise

— From the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and media reports

2009 was a tale of two trends in law enforcement fatalities in the United States.

Preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) report that officer deaths declined 7 percent, from 133 in 2008 to 124 in 2009 — the lowest line-of-duty death count since 1959.

However, the number of officers shot and killed surged 23 percent, from 39 in 2008 to 48 in 2009. Nearly a third of 2009s shooting fatalities — 15 in all — occurred in five separate incidents in which more than one officer was gunned down by a single offender. In one horrific November shooting, four officers were executed as they discussed their upcoming shift in a Lakewood, Wash. coffee shop.

Yet, the decade of the 2000s was among the safest for officers — despite the deadliest single day for police on Sept. 11, 2001, the report noted.

Through Dec. 27, the NLEOMF report found:

- 124 officers were killed in 2009, compared to 133 in 2008. The 2009 total is the fewest line-of-duty deaths since 108 a

half-century ago.

- Traffic fatalities fell to 56, compared to 71 a year ago. The report said the decline was partly attributed to “move over” state laws, which require motorists to change lanes to give officers clearance on the side of a road.

- Firearms deaths rose to 48, nine more than in 2008. However, the 39 fatalities in 2008 represents the lowest annual figure in more than five decades.

- Thirty-five states and Puerto Rico had officer fatalities in 2009, with Texas the only state in double figures. Texas had 11 fatalities, followed by Florida, nine; California, eight; and North Carolina and Pennsylvania, seven.

- Six federal officers died in 2009, including three Drug Enforcement Administration special agents killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan while conducting counter-narcotics operations.

- One female officer was killed in 2009, compared with 13 the previous year. There was no explanation for the decline.

- An average of 162 officers a year died in the 2000s, compared with 160 in the 1990s, 190 in the 1980s and 228 in the

1970s — the deadliest decade for U.S. law enforcement. Seventy-two officers died on Sept. 11, 2001.

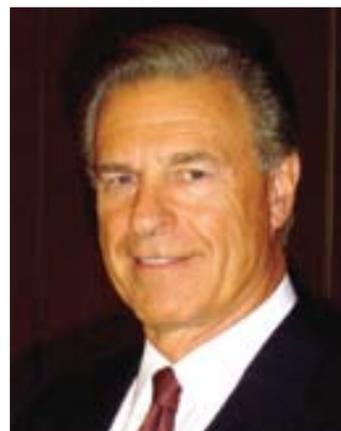
“To reach a 50-year low in officer deaths is a real credit to the law enforcement profession and its commitment to providing the best possible training and equipment to our officers,” said Memorial Fund chairman and chief executive officer, Craig Floyd.

“But we cannot allow ourselves to be lulled into a state of complacency,” Floyd added. “There are nearly 60,000 criminal assaults against our law officers every year in this country, resulting in more than 15,000 injuries. And, over the past decade, more than 1,600 officers have been killed in the line of duty.”

Fifteen deaths occurred in five incidents during the year, showing the potential danger in domestic disturbances, traffic stops and serving arrest warrants. In March, four Oakland, Calif., officers were killed after a traffic stop and subsequent barricade incident. In April, a heavily armed gunman, wearing a bullet-resistant vest, ambushed three Pittsburgh officers who were responding to a domestic disturbance.

That same month, two Okaloosa County, Fla., sheriff’s deputies were gunned down while trying to arrest a domestic violence suspect. In July, two Seminole County, Okla., sheriff’s deputies were shot and killed while trying to serve an arrest warrant. Domestic disturbance calls were particularly dangerous for officers in 2009, resulting in 11 deaths, while unprovoked ambushes led to the deaths of six officers.

♥ *The report was issued in conjunction with a second police group, Concerns of Police Survivors.*



# Reforms, Reforms, Reforms

— By Richard Weiler, Director

The new word used around the state capitol these days is “Reforms.” With the downturn in the economy, and this state being the hardest hit, the people in Lansing are lashing out at anything and anybody, in an attempt to balance the state’s budget. Their idea these days — gut public employees benefits. Most of these reforms are coming from the Senate G.O.P.

Recently the Gongwer News Service had a headline which read: **“Pay cut, insurance premium top Senate G.O.P. Reform Plan.”** Here is a quote from the story: “Senate Republicans placed a bull’s-eye on public employee pay and benefits as the centerpiece of their efforts to restructure the cost of government, calling for government workers to take a 5 percent pay cut and pay 20 percent of their health insurance premiums. The sweeping plan, which would accomplish the pay cut and health insurance contribution, through constitutional amendments to be placed on the August ballot, would affect employees at all levels of government — elected officials like the governor and legislators, state employees, local government employees, teachers and others.”

“The reality is we cannot afford the state government we have today,” said Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester). “We have a crisis situation.”

The reformers, as I call them, also have legislative bills mandating employees pay 20 percent into public employer sponsored health care plans and 15 percent if a wellness plan is in place (SB 1046). So it’s a two-prong attack, both legislative and a

state Constitutional amendment. Some of these legislators — although aware that some local bargaining units have already given up some benefits — still want to further cut your benefits. Now that the Senate wants to look like knights in shining armor to the general public, they have passed a motion that future Senators not receive health care when they retire. You see, most of them are term-limited and do have health care for themselves!

With all of that said, the Senate Reform and Restructuring Committee took aim at Act 312 (SB 1072) after the Michigan Municipal League (MML) testified that arbitrators do not take into account employers ability to pay when Act 312’s are awarded. We quickly countered when our legal counsel John Lyons and I appeared before the same committee. We had with us all of the last two years of Act 312 awards, and all of them not only mentioned the ability to pay, a few even discussed the state of the economy in our nation and the state.

We also took aim at the list of 312 arbitrators, stating that the vast majority are still management representatives while only 3 are representing unions. Following our testimony one senator stated, “With those statistics, it’s a wonder you ever win any case.”

The Senate eventually passed SB 1072, with no added ability to pay language as the MML wanted. This bill gives mediators more authority as they identify the party’s final list of issues and submit them to Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC). Timelines are more streamlined and parties will share equally

in the arbitration costs, with the employer and union each paying half. Before, the state, employer and union each paid one-third of the costs.

The bill expands entities covered by Act 312. Currently, cities, counties, villages and townships are covered. New entities to be covered are: authorities, districts, boards, or others authorized by one or more of those governmental units. This bill is before the House for consideration.

Other actions that are being discussed in both chambers are consolidation of services between communities, thus the Senate has also passed (SB 1085 & 1086). These bills amend the Intergovernmental Transfer Act and make consolidation easier. All of this is being done to balance the state budget as well as assist local communities with their shortfalls.

What the legislature won’t tackle is any discussion concerning taxes. They acknowledge that property values have gone down, which equals less revenue for services. They expect local governments to come up with their own plan. Since some communities don’t know how to respond, they have resorted to laying off police, fire and dispatchers and other public service employees.

There are basic reasons why people move into a community. They are good schools and good public safety response. When citizens quit getting those services, they leave. Hopefully our legislatures will look into the future and address how property values are assessed as well as all other taxes being paid, before it’s too late. Stay tuned! ♥



*The Medal of Valor is presented to a Grand Rapids, Michigan survivor in 2008.*

# Officer takes mission work one step further

—By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor



Pastor Doris Louis and his wife, Elucie, stand on a balcony overlooking the crushed Evangelical Lutheran School of Haiti which the Wallers and other missionaries helped build.

It's his job to serve and protect, so when Roseville Detective Sgt. Keith Waller realized most of his family was going on a mission to Haiti, he packed his bags and joined them.

That was 11 years ago. What started as a mission trip to help high schoolers "experience how fortunate they are," has turned into a lifelong commitment for Keith and his wife, Kim Waller.

With 14 mission trips in 11 years, the Wallers have been involved in building two churches, a K-12 school, one orphanage, a medical facility and a food storage building.

Through Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, they had just completed building an orphanage in Port-au-Prince and left the country before the devastating 7.0 magni-



Roseville Police Det. Sgt. Keith Waller (right) and his wife, Kim Waller, pose in Haiti with T-Jean, a youth who has benefited from Haiti Lutheran Mission Society's work.

tude earthquake hit the city the next day, Jan. 12, 2010.

"We were going to be moving in 50 children by the end of January," Waller said, adding that they built the orphanage over a 6-year period.

Over 217,000 people died in the quake, according to estimates from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The Wallers knew they were fortunate to get out when they did, but they could not forget all their friends back in Haiti.

## ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

"We have made many close friendships with the workers and the families down there," said Waller, who participates in missions through Hope Lutheran Church in Warren. "Once you have a friend, you can't turn your back on a friend."

So the Wallers didn't hesitate to open their Harrison Township, Michigan home to Nadine Isador-Georges, 30, and her 15-month-old son, Theo, who has dual citizenship since he was born in the United States.

"They gave her permission to get her son out," Waller said of the United Na-



Nadine Isador-Georges and her 15-month-old son, Theo, went to live with Detective Sgt. Keith Waller of the Roseville Police Department after the earthquake in Haiti.

**"We have made many close friendships with the workers and the families down there," said Keith Waller.**

tions in Haiti, where Isador-Georges works. "Their homes are right in the main area of the destruction."

Waller said the family was concerned about the baby's health with the overwhelming stench of dead bodies and bacteria in the dust from those bodies.

The Wallers have known Nadine's family for many years. Nadine is friends with one of Waller's daughter's, Danielle Tietjen.

"She's also fallen in love with doing mission work," Waller said, adding that Tietjen started her own 501c3 in Minneapolis where she lives.

Nadine's father, Leonard Isador, is the driver for the mission workers. His brother-in-law is pastor of many area churches.

"He (Leonard) would give you his last penny," Waller said. "Living in a country so poor, you have nothing to smile about," but, Waller said, "... he's always got a smile."

## BACK HOME

Since Nadine was granted a few weeks off work, she returned home in mid-Feb-

ruary, but Theo stayed behind with the Wallers.

"He's doing pretty good," Waller said. "We thought there would be a little bit of excitement," when Nadine left.

The Wallers arranged for friends and family to help them care for Theo until they returned to Port-au-Prince with him March 3 to rebuild the security wall around the orphanage and continue work on the medical center and food storage area they were building.

"Our three-story school completely collapsed," Waller said. "Thank goodness there were no kids in that when that happened."

## TO HELP

Anyone interested in providing help to Haiti can do so through these two organizations: For \$130 per year, sponsors can be a part of new construction of churches, schools and orphanages and support vacation bible school programs through Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Child Sponsorship Program. Visit [haitilutheran.org](http://haitilutheran.org) for more information. ♥



A bent support beam on the garage area points to further destruction behind at the orphanage the Wallers helped finish just days before the quake hit.

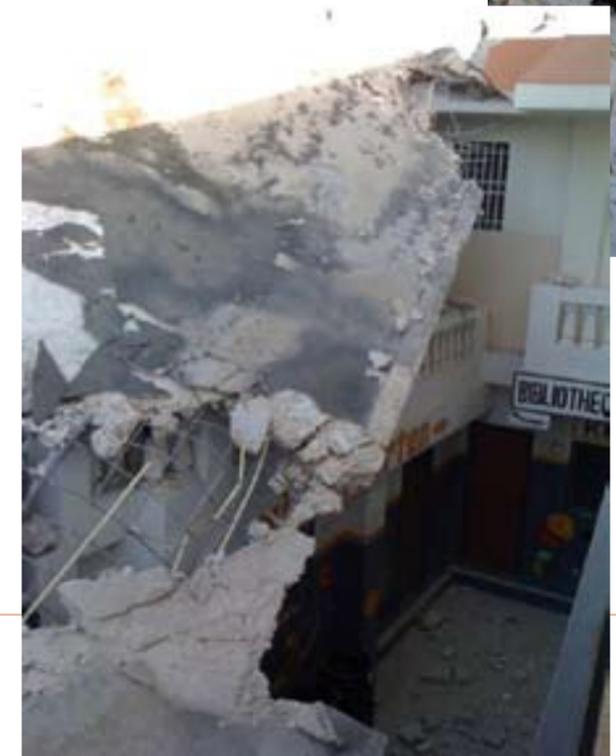


Food sources, like these banana trees, were also destroyed by the quake.

A collapsed roof above these buildings made it unsafe to enter.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

**To provide funds for food, medical supplies and clothing, some mission members also started a 501c3 program "Hope for Haiti." With the recent crisis, Hope for Haiti is using all of its funds to provide food to needy Haitians. Those interested in donating can make checks payable to Hope for Haiti and mail to Roseville Police Station, Attn: Sgt. Keith Waller, 29753 Gratiot Ave., Roseville, MI 48066.**



# One good lead

## Crime Stoppers hit the mark with police

— By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

**E**astpointe Inspector Deputy Chief Leo Borowsky is not surprised by the 23 percent jump in tips coming into Crime Stoppers of Michigan from 2008 to 2009.

"I think their notoriety is getting out there," Borowsky said. "People know there is someone they can anonymously contact," he said, noting that the monetary rewards are definitely a motivator in Michigan's current economy.

To add to the incentive, Crime Stoppers of Michigan just raised their reward from \$1,000 to up to \$2,500 for information leading to arrests in homicides where no arrest warrant has been issued. In cases with a suspect, or for other felonies, the top reward would remain \$1,000, but businesses or family members may contribute more money.

Eastpointe Police have partnered with Crime Stoppers for as long as Borowsky, a 27-year veteran of the department, can remember. And police agencies in the seven southeast Michigan counties Crime Stoppers covers are joining in.

"We have about 90 business members and there's about 35 law enforcement agencies that make some contributions from their state drug forfeiture funds," said John Broad, President of Crime Stoppers of Michigan.

Broad said about 80 percent of the program's financial support comes from businesses, and partners are reaping the benefits. Tips rose from 3,211 in 2008 to 3,942 in 2009, he said.

### ANONYMITY

"... a lot of people in the community are fed up with crime," Broad said. "Each year, I think, more and more people are comfortable (contacting Crime Stoppers). Crime Stoppers is the largest crime fighting agency in the world."

### HOW TO CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS

**Call: 1-800-SPEAK-UP**

**Online: 1800speakup.org**

**Text: CSM and your tip to 274637 or CRIMES**

Tipsters can either call, text or e-mail their tip about serious crimes like homicide, non-fatal shootings, rapes, robberies, breaking and entering, auto thefts or assaults anonymously. If the tip leads to an arrest, the tipster receives a reward. Tipsters do not have to fear retaliation or worry they will be called to testify. There are no police at the call center, located in Toronto, Canada. Calls are not recorded and there is no caller I.D.

To find out about the latest serious unsolved crimes, tune in Saturday nights on Fox 2 News during the "Most Wanted" segment, following the bi-monthly Wednesday press conferences featuring appeals from family members. Detroit and Southfield residents can view "1-800-SPEAK-UP: Unsolved," a weekly, 30-minute cable television show that highlights approximately 80 of metro Detroit's most devastating unsolved crimes, 8 p.m. Tuesday nights on Cable Channel 190.

### CAPTURED CRIMINALS

In 2008, over 293 felony arrests were made in Michigan through Crime Stoppers. "... we still have one of the highest arrest rates for Crime Stoppers anywhere," Broad said. "We'll normally have about 40 tips a month that result in arrests. Sometimes there are multiple arrests."

Borowsky recounted Crime Stoppers help in locating two suspects in a high-profile August 2009 abduction and

murder. Matt Landry, 21, of Chesterfield Township was kidnapped in his own car outside an Eastpointe sandwich shop. The kidnapers are accused of murdering Landry and using his ATM card. Landry's body was found in a Detroit house four days after his abduction. He had been shot in the head.

"He was reported missing by family," Borowsky said. "We had media assistance and once we found the body, we got Crime Stoppers involved." Within a week, the suspects were arrested, Borowsky said.

"We've even had family members turn in their family members in major cases because of the reward money involved," Borowsky said, citing a September 2007 robbery and homicide at Buscemi's market in Eastpointe.

During the armed robbery two employees were shot, one was killed. The crime was captured on store cameras and aired by Crime Stoppers, leading to arrests two weeks later, Borowsky said.

### REPORTING CRIMES

Information can be reported on any serious crime at any time. Students can even get involved by reporting tips on crimes like arson, burglary, vandalism, gang activity, drug dealing, theft, carrying weapons and violence. Cash rewards up to \$100 are paid to students for tips that solve crimes.

Once a tip is submitted, the tipster will be given a tip I.D. number needed for follow up on a tip and when a reward is paid. Tipsters should not share their tip number with anyone, and if they text or e-mail a tip, Broad said they should delete the message right away.

Reward money is also collected anonymously. "They basically go to the branch of a bank and give their tip number," Broad said. ♥

# Member News

## Flint patrolled by 8 officers after layoffs

— By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

**I**t all comes down to numbers. A projected \$8 million deficit in Flint was met with the layoff of one-third of the police force and a quarter of the fire department March 25.

To calculate the effect of 46 police officers and 23 firefighters being laid off, the number of officers on duty at any given time will be no more than eight, said Lt. Darwyn Sparks, POLC local union president for the Flint Police Lieutenants and Captains Association. Of those eight, one officer will be on the desk; up to three are allowed to be on vacation; and one can be off on flex time, Sparks added.

"We could possibly have four patrol officers to respond to radio calls and that's if nobody calls in sick," Sparks said.

"There's going to be less people in cars, so response time is going to be down," said POLC Labor Rep. Lloyd Whetstone. "There's still going to be the same number of complaints from citizens. The investigation process is going to go slowly. Obviously the biggest thing is public safety and response time."

Sparks and Whetstone noted the number of layoffs could change again. "I got

a feeling probably within the next two to three weeks, they'll bring some people back on a grant," Whetstone said, adding that the city is working hard to obtain grant funding to reinstate laid off officers.

Due to the layoffs, seven officers will be demoted and one or two fire stations could close. Ten police retirements are expected, Sparks said, so some officers will be called back to work the 12-hour shifts, but staffing levels will remain the same.

"I struggle with these numbers every day," said Flint Mayor Dayne Walling in media reports. "We will continue to have the largest public safety force that we can afford."

### FIGHTING FIRES

Thirty minutes after Walling's press conference March 24, arsonists began burning vacant homes. Nine homes were ignited over a 20-hour period, according to media reports. Two firefighters were treated and released for injuries in the blazes. Both lost their jobs in the layoffs.

### CONCESSIONS VS. LAYOFFS

Walling said the layoffs were necessary after the city's four public safety

unions could not come to an agreement after months of negotiations. The city's proposal was for 15 percent concessions, which would have saved \$2.6 million, while the layoffs will save the city \$1.5 million, he said.

But Whetstone figures it differently. With the average cost of an officer around \$70,000 with benefits, he says the city would save \$3.5 million alone on police cuts.

"I think they're playing numbers games," Whetstone said. "They won't tell us what dollar figure they need to get to. We've suggested several ways to save money and the city's not done anything with them."

"We've had different layoffs over the years, but we've never been to this number. This number is ridiculous," said Sparks, a 21-year department veteran. "At one time we had 345 officers, four years ago, and we're going to be down to about 110."

The POLC filed for arbitration and a mediation date was set for early April, Whetstone said. ♥

## Lester chosen as DARE Officer of the Year

— Excerpted from media reports



Sandusky Police Officer Brett Lester was selected as Michigan's 2009 D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year.

**F**or Sandusky Police Officer Brett Lester his job is all about keeping children safe. And after spending a decade doing that, Lester is being honored as the 2009 D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year for the state of Michigan.

"When you work at something for 10 years and you give it your best, it's very special to be given an award like this from your peers, your fellow D.A.R.E. officers," Lester said. "Words can't say enough. It's hard to explain."

Officer Lester has taught the anti-drug

curriculum in the Yale Public School District since 2006, where he also serves as a part-time School Resource Officer.

He is a full-time officer with the Sandusky Police Department and has taught D.A.R.E. in the Sandusky schools for the past 10 years.

He was nominated by school teachers, administrators and law enforcement supervisors from Yale and Sandusky. The D.A.R.E. Officers Association of Michigan, a panel of his peers, chose Lester for the award. ♥



## Contract Settlements

— As reported by POLC Labor Reps.

### Mason County Deputies

- **New four-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2013.
- **Wages:**
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 1.5% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
  - 1.75% increase effective Jan. 1, 2012.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2013.
- **Health Care:** Change to a high-deductible health insurance plan with the deductible amount funded by the employer through an HSA.
- **Misc:** Each deputy will be issued a .223 caliber automatic rifle to replace the shotguns currently in use.
- **Bargaining team:** Mike Kenney, Jordan Hartley, Tom Posma, John Mendham, aided by POLC Labor Rep. Mike Woronko.

### Montcalm Central Dispatch GELC

- **Five-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2014.
- **Wages:**
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2012.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2013.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2014.
- **Health Care:** No increase in health insurance premium share. Change to a high deductible health insurance plan with the deductible amount funded by the employer through an HSA.
- **Vacation Time:** Change in vacation accrual to allow employees who have worked two to eight years to accrue more vacation time sooner.
- **Bargaining team:** Alissa Hirkaway, Michelle Rose, Karisa Bailey, aided by POLC Labor Rep. Mike Woronko.

### Berrien County Dispatch – Non-Supervisory

- **Three-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2012.
- **Wages:**
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
  - 1.5% increase effective Jan. 1, 2012.
- **Health Care:** Increase of 3 percent in employee contribution to premium cost.
- **Comp Time:** Increase comp time cap from 40 to 64 hours. Two hours of holiday pay for each holiday may be placed in the employee's comp time bank.
- **Pension:** Pension vesting changes from five to ten years for new hires.
- **Bargaining team:** Gayle Hagenbarth, Kristina Burks, aided by POLC Labor Rep. Mike Woronko.

### Berrien County Dispatch – Supervisors

- **Three-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2012.
- **Wages:**
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 2.0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
  - 1.5% increase effective Jan. 1, 2012.
- **Health Care:** Increase of 3 percent in employee contributions to premium cost.
- **Comp Time:** Increase comp time cap from 40 to 64 hours. Two hours of holiday pay for each holiday may be placed in the employee's comp time bank.
- **Pension:** Pension vesting changes from five to ten years for new hires.
- **Bargaining team:** Ron Warman, Tony Gousetis, aided by POLC Labor Rep. Mike Woronko.

### Fraser Dispatchers

- **New three-year agreement** expires June 30, 2012.
- **Wages:**
  - 2.5% increase effective July 1, 2009.
  - 2.5% increase effective July 1, 2010.
  - 2.0% increase effective July 1, 2011.
- **Health Care:** Employees maintain current health care plan, but with a \$250/\$500 deductible per year. Employees will have annual premium sharing as follows: single \$200, two people \$500, and family \$700.
- **Bonuses:** Employees receive a one-time lump sum of \$750 and give up \$300 per year non-smoking bonus. The Emergency Medical Dispatch bonus to increase from \$775 to \$975 per year.
- **Shift differentials:** Changing shift differentials from a fixed amount to 2 percent on the afternoon shift and 2.5 percent on midnight and swing shifts.
- **Bargaining team:** Charles Paul and Wendy Mohaske assisted by POLC Labor Rep. Duane Smith.

### Pittsfield Twp. Command Officers

- **Five-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2014.
- **Wages:**
  - 0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
- With separate wage reopeners for 2012, 2013 and 2014. The parties agree wages shall not be negatively impacted by the wage reopeners.
- **Health Care:** Current health care plan to remain unchanged for duration of five-year agreement.
- **Vacation Time:** Four additional days per year for employees with 20 or more years of seniority.
- **Longevity:** Replace current longevity schedule of \$750 at five years, \$1,500 after ten years, and \$1,900 after 15 years with 2 percent at five years, 4 percent after ten years, 6 percent after 12 years, 8 percent after 15 years, and 10 percent after 20 years.
- **Sick Time:** Employees can convert unused sick time to vacation time at a rate of one sick day to ½ vacation day.
- **Bargaining team:** Brandon Williams, Sean McCormick and William Grefka assisted by POLC Labor Rep. Duane Smith.

### Pittsfield Twp. Dispatchers

- **Five-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2014.
- **Wages:**
  - 0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 0% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
- With separate wage reopeners for 2012, 2013 and 2014. The parties agree wages shall not be negatively impacted by the wage reopeners.
- **Health Care:** Current health care plan to remain unchanged for duration of five-year agreement.
- **Longevity:** Replace current longevity schedule of \$600 at five years and \$1,200 after ten years with 2 percent at five years, 4 percent after ten years, 6 percent after 12 years, 8 percent after 15 years and 10 percent after 20 years.
- **Vacation Time:** Two additional days per year for employees with ten or more years of seniority.
- **Sick Time:** Employees can convert unused sick time to vacation time at a rate of one sick day to ½ vacation day.
- **Bargaining team:** Donna Giarmo, Stephanie Daniels and Takeisha Mastin assisted by POLC Labor Rep. Duane Smith.

### City of Harbor Springs Police Department

- **New 2-1/2-year agreement** expires Oct. 31, 2012.
- **Wages:**
  - 2.8% increase effective Jan. 1, 2010.
  - 1.25% increase effective Jan. 1, 2011.
  - 1.25% increase effective July 1, 2011.
  - 1.25% increase effective Jan. 1, 2012.
  - 1.25% increase effective May 1, 2012.
- **Health Care:** City to change to HAS health insurance as soon as possible with benefits equivalent to Blue Cross Community Blue Plan 1 with dental coverage. Employees who opt out shall receive the same amount the city puts in the HAS: \$3,050 for single and \$6,150 for family coverage. The HAS will cover employees deductibles for medical and prescription coverage.
- **Sick Time:** Employees receive payment annually for sick leave in excess of 120 days at 50 percent of their current hourly rate.
- **Other:** Employees receive annual \$325 uniform cleaning allowance.
- **Retirement:** City to increase their contribution from 8.5 percent to 9 percent effective Jan. 1, 2010; increase to 9.5 percent effective Jan. 1, 2011; and increase to 10 percent effective Jan. 1, 2012.
- **Bargaining team:** Josh Johnston and Matt Pater assisted by POLC Labor Rep. Ken Nash.

### Village of Kalkaska Police Department

- **Three-year agreement** expires Feb. 28, 2013.
- **Wages:**
  - 0% increase effective March 1, 2010 with new pay scale for new hires after March 10, 2010.
  - Wage reopeners on March 1, 2011 and March 1, 2013.
- **Health Care:** Blue Cross Blue Shield Community Blue PPO Option 12 with reimbursement through a third party administrator to a PPO Option 1. Prescriptions are \$10 for generic/\$60 for brand

name drugs, with reimbursement for brand names so employee pays \$20. Employees hired after March 1, 2010 will not receive post retirement health insurance.

- **Retirement:** Employees hired after March 1, 2010 will be on the MERS Hybrid Plan.
- **Vacation Time:** Added a step for new hires on vacation.
- **Sick Time:** Sick time in excess of 576 hours will be lost if not used at the end of each year.
- **Bargaining team:** Glenn Artress and Kevin Rohn assisted by POLC Labor Rep. Ken Nash.

### City of Boyne City Police Department

- **1-1/2-year agreement** expires April 30, 2011.
- **Wages:**
  - 2% increase effective Dec. 9, 2009 paid in lump sum, not added to base for 2008.
  - 2% increase effective retro to May 1, 2009.
  - 2% increase effective May 1, 2010.
- **Health Care:** MEBS CB 14/20 or equivalent wrapped to a PPO 3. Employees pay \$10 for generic/\$40 for brand name prescription drugs, not reimbursed. Office visit co-pay of \$10, not reimbursed. Fifty percent deductible and co-pay reimbursed. Employees continue to pay current premium share. Future premium share increases to be based on City to pay first 5 percent of increase, employees second 5 percent, and parties to split anything over 10 percent equally.
- **Bargaining team:** Kevin Spate assisted by POLC Labor Rep. Ken Nash. ♥

## CORRECTION

We apologize for an error made in the Barry County Corrections Sergeants contract settlement in the Police Officers Journal Winter 2010 edition.

The contract settlement should have stated the Sergeants went from a 1.5 percent differential to a 10 percent differential in pay from the highest paid Correctional Officer, effective Sept. 1, 2009. The new two-year agreement expires Dec. 31, 2011. The bargaining team included Pete Nevins and Charles Reiss, aided by POLC Labor Rep. Will Keizer.

"The Corrections Sergeants were previously included in the Corrections Division Agreement," Keizer said. "The Sergeants positions went unfilled for several years until Barry County Sheriff (Dar) Leaf reinstated them in 2009. By mutual consent, the Sergeants formed a separate bargaining unit as members of the POLC. In the past, their wages were based on a differential from the highest paid Correctional Officer of 1.5 percent. The administration recognized the value of these Sergeants and agreed to place them at a differential of 10 percent. Additionally, they will receive one percent wage increases every six months over the next two years." ♥

# Member News

## VanHouten sings praises of POLC

— By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

**D**ave VanHouten will not miss working 80 to 90-hour weeks in the Grand Rapids Police Communications Office, but he will miss the camaraderie of his co-workers and the Police Officers Labor Council.

"That was close to being harder than leaving my job," said VanHouten after spending nearly 12 years on the Labor Council Executive Committee. "I looked forward to getting together with the guys every month. That's (serving on the committee) been the highlight of my entire career."

As an Executive Committee Member, the Emergency Communications Operator 3 served on the grievance committee, as chairman of the publications committee and was vice chairman of the Executive Board when he retired. He's proud of his involvement with the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP). VanHouten directed the "911 Your Friend" video and developed the LEEP Dream Scholarship Program for youths aspiring to careers in law enforcement.

"The LEEP program and the publications committee are just a joy to be on in regards to getting children involved in law enforcement," VanHouten said.

During his 30 years with the Grand Rapids Police Communications Office, VanHouten served as a union steward, vice president, and before he retired, president of his unit. He was part of the move, in the 1980's, to the POLC. "The other union wasn't looking after us," VanHouten said. They . . . didn't seem to understand what a 24-hour unit needed. That's what sets the Police Officers Labor Council apart. It doesn't matter what size your union is, they give 100 percent. They're not afraid to take on a grievance because you're a three-member or ten-member unit."

### FAMILY TRADITION

In 1979, VanHouten began his career, following in his father's and brothers' footsteps. "My father worked for the (Grand Rapids) police department for 45 years and retired as Lieutenant. I had two brothers working in the (Kent County) sheriff's department, one just retired. It's been a family thing and I fell into it right out of high school at the prompting of my father . . ."

"I rose up through (Emergency Communications) Operator 1, then 2, then left as 3, which is responsible for dispatching police and fire," said VanHouten, who also trained other 9-1-1 operators.



Dave VanHouten enjoyed working as an Emergency Communications Operator 3 for Grand Rapids Police.

Photo by Sgt. Terry Dixon, Grand Rapids Police

### NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Since VanHouten retired in January and Labor Council elections are in August, Mike DeKam was appointed as his replacement. While VanHouten will miss the people, he's *not* going to miss the overtime.

"At the last part of my career we were doing some 80 or 90 hour weeks," VanHouten said. "I barely knew what my house looked like in the daytime hours. But that's one of the things that allowed me to retire."

VanHouten, 49, said without the POLC, law enforcement workers would be 65 or 70 before they could afford to retire. "In my opinion, the Police Officers Labor Council is the best union for the money that anyone offers in the state."

VanHouten briefly enjoyed his retirement through February, then he took a job with Calvin College in Grand Rapids as dispatch manager of campus safety. ♥

## Figurski brings years of union representation



Robert Figurski is the newest POLC Labor Representative. He replaces John Viviano.

**R**obert Figurski spent over a decade representing officers in union negotiations, grievances and arbitrations. Now, he'll put his experience to work for the Police Officers Labor Council.

As the newest Labor Council Representative, Figurski is a veteran of the Detroit and Warren police departments. He served on the DPD for eight years, as-

suming the role of union steward for the Detroit Police Officers Association for the final four years.

Figurski served on the Warren PD for 12 years and was elected and served as steward and board member of the Warren Police Officers Association (WPOA) for four years. Before retiring from Warren PD in 2009, Figurski was WPOA's President for five years. ♥



## 12th Annual Wormburners Four Person Scramble - Charity Golf Outing

**Oak Ridge / Marsh Oaks Golf Club  
Friday July 16, 2010**

**Check In: 8:30 am – Shotgun Start: 10:00 am  
Limited to the first 144 paid players**



### \$90 per person Golf Outing Includes:

- Continental Breakfast
- 18 Holes of Golf w/Cart
- Closest to the Pin Contest
- Souvenirs and Prizes
- Skins
- Three-Meat Dinner
- Longest Drive Contest
- Sleeve of Balls
- Mystery Drawing

**Event Coordinators – EJ Belmore 586-216-4741 – Dan Dombroski 586-594-4114**

Please make checks payable to **LEEP**.

Mail to Wormburners Golf, 21618 Erben Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 or give to an event coordinator.

All donations are tax deductible. Tax receipts will be provided upon request.



### Registration for play - \$90/person

#### TEAMS

Department represented (and/or team nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Print the full names of all teammates:

1: Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Captain's phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

**SINGLES**, if you are playing single, provide your info below, and we will place you in a foursome:

Department (or area) represented: \_\_\_\_\_

1: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **LEEP**. Mail to Wormburners Golf, 21618 Erben Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

### Corporate LEEP Sponsorship Opportunities

**Be a WORMBURNERS Tee or Greens Sponsor for \$150**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Tee / Green Sponsor (\$150@) \_\_\_\_\_  Award / Prize Donation (value) \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Contribution \_\_\_\_\_  Send me a tax receipt

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# Gilda's Run celebrates decade of charity with help from LEEP

It's been 10 years since POLC Labor Rep. Will Keizer first saw an opportunity to raise funds for charity while he and some buddies were sitting in his driveway in Jenison, Michigan.

The motorcycle enthusiast could not have imagined the response. Co-sponsored by POLC and Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP), Gilda's Run motorcycle ride and poker run for charity is celebrating its 10th anniversary Saturday, July 10.

Last year, the event raised \$12,000, and the goal this year is \$17,500 for Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, a non-profit networking source that provides social and emotional support to cancer patients and their families.

"The generosity of the participants and sponsors of this ride is absolutely overwhelming," Keizer said.

The event begins at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast and ends with a 6 p.m. pig roast at Kosciuszko Hall, 935 Park SW in Grand Rapids. The scenic ride goes through Ottawa and Kent counties with bikers and cagers, including everything from motor homes to classic cars, welcome. Over 100 riders are expected with another 50 at the pig roast.

The cost is \$30 per person or \$55 per couple, which includes a barbeque. Dinner only is \$10. To become a sponsor and have

your business name printed on the "10th Anniversary Gilda's Run" shirts, a donation of \$250 must be received prior to June 18. Any sponsor gifts of cash or donations of door prizes will be recognized. Donations are tax deductible with 100 percent going to the charity.

*Pre-register and receive a free 10th Anniversary shirt by sending checks made payable to "Gilda's Club Grand Rapids" c/o Will Keizer, 1293 Oakwood Dr., Jenison, MI 49428 before July 2. Please send a file copy of your company logo and any questions to Keizer at [klink132@comcast.net](mailto:klink132@comcast.net) or call (616) 648-3551.*

*For discount accommodations July 9 & 10, contact Radisson Hotel Grand Rapids Riverfront (\$79 per night) at (616) 363-9001; or Best Western Grandvillage Inn (\$69 per night) at (616) 532-3222. Mention participation in Gilda's Run charity motorcycle ride sponsored by POLC for discount. ❤️*

