

# The Police Officers Journal



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2 - SPRING 2017



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## Change is in the air with POLC, GELC improvements

— By Robert Figurski, Director

**T**he whole point of a Union is to represent its members, and this requires continuous evolution in the way we do things.

The Annual Labor Seminar & Conference is a prime example. Our goal is to bring as many members to this important voting and educational meeting as possible. We have been meeting that goal by switching locations to improve rates and services and offering many new features to make each member's stay enjoyable. With a significant increase in attendance in recent years, we look forward to even more members joining us this fall at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City Sept. 20-22, 2017 for education and relaxation.

Our website has also been undergoing changes. I encourage everyone to visit [www.polc.org](http://www.polc.org) often, as we are constantly providing updates. It is our goal to make sure our members are informed on issues that impact them. United, our voices change the way we are treated by lawmakers as well as our employers. By visiting the site, members can see the many ways their involvement in the POLC and GELC improves their working conditions.

One of the newest website features is the link to MAPO's website, which has been redesigned and is regularly updated with legislative and other key Union news. While visiting [www.polc.org](http://www.polc.org), simply click on the MAPO button at the top of the home page for details on issues effecting Unions statewide.

A new website section titled "Stewards" allows your Union Steward to login with a password and immediately access important information such as: grievance forms; Garrity forms and a Garrity statement guide to help properly advise members of their rights; detailed Officer Involved Shooting protocol to provide the best protection to Officers whose statements are being sought immediately after a shooting; a detailed listing of Officer Rights as POLC members; a contact list for key staff, such as legal representation; and a complete Steward Manual about these and other topics, such as Unfair Labor Practices and Act 312 arbitration.

When I was hired as the new POLC/GELC Director in 2016, it was my goal to make sure members had their voices heard. Their concerns are our concerns. I want members to know we work for them. We are attempting to continually improve the services we provide. ♥

*As always we welcome your ideas by emailing [polc@aol.com](mailto:polc@aol.com)*

## Executive Committee chooses new Chair and Vice Chair

With the recent retirements of Executive Committee member Tom Wilk and Committee Chair Richard Bleich, interviews for two new board members were underway in March 2017.

Since Bleich's departure, it was necessary for the board to vote in a new Chair to lead the committee. Former Vice Chair Steve McInchak was elected by the committee to serve as Chair. Executive Committee member Mike DeKam was then elected to fill the Vice Chair position.

The committee is expected to appoint two new members this spring to fill the remainder of Bleich's and Wilk's two-year terms. ♥

### Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP®)

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L.E.E.P. Programs: (800) 451-1220  
POLC membership: [www.polc.org](http://www.polc.org)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### MEMBER SERVICES

Lloyd Whetstone

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# National Police Week 2017

*In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls, National Police Week. National Police Week pays special recognition to law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Listed below are the events planned at the national level in Washington D.C. and Michigan's Peace Officers' Candlelight Memorial Service. Many events will take place before the official dates of Police Week in 2017.*

### May 1 – Michigan

**Monday, May 1:** 24th Annual Michigan Peace Officers' Candlelight Memorial Service – 7 p.m. east steps of Lansing State Capitol, 100 North Capitol Avenue. Contact Denise Scarbrough, Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors President at (877) 464-2677 or email [survivor@micops.org](mailto:survivor@micops.org)

### May 14-20 – Washington D.C.

**Tuesday, May 2:** 23rd Annual Blue Mass – 12:10 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 619 Tenth Street, NW (10th & G Streets). Call (202) 347-2713 or visit [www.saintpatrickdc.org](http://www.saintpatrickdc.org)

**Saturday, May 6:** 26th Annual Corrections Officers' Wreath Laying Ceremony & Honor Guard Competition – 10 a.m.-noon at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Honoring fallen Corrections Personnel. [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org) or call (202) 962-3200.

**Monday, May 8:** 38th Annual Washington Area Law Enforcement Memorial Service – 11:30 a.m. in front of the Memorial Fountain, 300 Indiana Ave., NW. Those interested in volunteering or attending, email Patty Sucato at [psucato@dc-fop.org](mailto:psucato@dc-fop.org).

**Thursday, May 11:** National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Legislative Seminar and Congressional Awards Luncheon – 9 a.m. Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW. Advanced registration required. Contact Elizabeth Loranger at [eloranger@napo.org](mailto:eloranger@napo.org) or (703) 549-0775.

**Thursday, May 11-16:** National Police Week Retail Center opens 9 a.m. 309 E Street (Corner of 4th of E Streets, NW) Fellowship Hall of First Trinity Church, one block from the Memorial. [www.nleomf.org/programs/policeweek/](http://www.nleomf.org/programs/policeweek/)

**Friday, May 12:** Police Unity Tour Arrival Ceremony – 2 p.m. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Call (973) 443-0030, email Jimmy Waldron at [info@policeunitytour.com](mailto:info@policeunitytour.com) or visit [www.policeunitytour.com](http://www.policeunitytour.com)

• 24th Annual NAPO TOP COPS Awards Banquet – 6:30 p.m. Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW. Advanced registration. Contact Elizabeth Loranger at [eloranger@napo.org](mailto:eloranger@napo.org) or (703) 549-0775.

**Saturday, May 13:** 29th Annual Candlelight Vigil – 8 p.m. at the National Mall between 4th and 7th streets, NW. No tickets required. Call (202) 737-3400. A reading of the newly engraved names

at 9 p.m. Register to watch the live Vigil webcast at <http://www.nleomf.org/candle-light-vigil-wall/>

• National Police Week 5k – 9 a.m. 4th and F Streets, NW. [www.nationalpoliceweek5k.com](http://www.nationalpoliceweek5k.com)

**Saturday, May 13-15:** The FOP D.C. Lodge is hosting local daily events 11 a.m.-2 a.m. at 1880 2nd Street SW. Includes vendors, bar, food, music, entertainment, free shuttle service to and from the site with stops at the Lodge, the Memorial, Navy Yard Metro and more.

**Sunday, May 14:** 22nd Annual Law Ride & Wreath Laying Ceremony – Line up begins at 8 a.m. with kick stands up at 10:45 a.m. from RFK Stadium/Armory, 19th and East Capitol St., NE to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial for wreath laying 11 a.m.-noon. [www.lawride.com](http://www.lawride.com), JD Perkins at (240) 463-3294 [perk1500@gmail.com](mailto:perk1500@gmail.com), or Sly Barnes (202) 957-1100 or [slybarnes-bbca@gmail.com](mailto:slybarnes-bbca@gmail.com)

• Philly to D.C. Memorial Run – Depart 8:30 a.m. May 12 from Philadelphia Navy Yard. Arrival at 12:30 p.m. May 14 at center of National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Run to honor fallen officers. Contact Jim Harrity at (610) 633-2685 or Tim Hoagland at (609) 929-1626.

• 16th Annual Steve Young National Honor Guard Competition and Pipe Band Competition – 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Grant Statue on west side of U.S. Capitol. Email Ken Roske at [policeweekhg@aol.com](mailto:policeweekhg@aol.com) or visit [policeweekhonorguard.com](http://policeweekhonorguard.com)

• Standing Watch for the Fallen Flag Ceremony – 1:30 p.m. Flag presentation, commencing honor guard rotations. Advanced registration required at <http://www.nleomf.org/programs/policeweek/honor-guard/honor-guard-sign-up-form-2017.html>. Contact Brian Lacey, (202) 737-7138 or [brian@nleomf.org](mailto:brian@nleomf.org) or Kaitlin Gilbride, (202) 737-8528 or [kgilbride@nleomf.org](mailto:kgilbride@nleomf.org).

• National Police Survivors' Conference (Day 1 of 2) – 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for surviving family, co-workers and law enforcement. Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA. Advanced registration required. Email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org), call (573) 346-4911 or visit [www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org)

• C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens (Day 1 of 2) – 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for surviving children, step-children and siblings. Bus from Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA to local law enforcement academies. Pre-registration mandatory. Email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911 or visit [www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org)

• 23rd Annual Emerald Society & Pipeband March and Service – 5 p.m. assemble at New Jersey Avenue and F Street, NW. Begin March to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at 6 p.m. Contact Joseph J. Keenan at (732) 754-7051. [www.nclees.org](http://www.nclees.org)

**Monday, May 15:** 36th Annual National Peace Officers' Memo-

*Continued on page 6*

# Fiancée, police pay tribute to WSU Sergeant Rose

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

The pain is still fresh for Nicole Salgot who lost her fiancée, Wayne State University (WSU) Police Sgt. Collin Rose right before Thanksgiving 2016, but with officers rallying around her, she will take Rose's spot in the 2017 Police Unity Tour.

The ride will be tough for Salgot on many levels. The endurance of the 320-miles; taking Rose's place on the ride he raised funds for; but perhaps the most difficult part will be returning to the Memorial where Rose asked her to marry him last year, said Chris Powell, Rose's friend and local POLC Union President.

"It's going to be a lot for her to absorb," said Powell.

The couple was preparing for a fall 2017 wedding when Sgt. Rose was shot in the head Nov. 22, 2016 while investigating a man on a bicycle in Detroit's Woodbridge neighborhood, near the university. (See related story page 5)

Salgot continues the passions the couple shared, like working with K9s and remembering lives lost in the line of duty. She is working toward a veterinary technician degree while caring for seven dogs the couple had at home, including rescue and police dogs like Clyde, Rose's K9 Rottweiler, who was retired to Salgot.

## POLC, LEEP PAYS RESPECTS

Powell has been leading the charge to remember Sgt. Rose by organizing several fundraisers to help Rose's family and organizations near and dear to Rose. The fundraisers are featured on the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) website at [www.polc.org](http://www.polc.org) "We're thrilled that we raised about \$18,000 in Collin's memory for the Unity Tour," Powell said in March, adding that Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) contributed \$3,000 of that amount. "That is the most we've ever raised."

POLC Director Rob Figurski and Mark Young of the Detroit Police

Lieutenant's and Sergeants Association honored Rose for his ultimate sacrifice during a ceremony and news conference at WSU, March 6 where they presented plaques to WSU officers, Rose's parents, Salgot and her parents. Detroit Chief of Police James Craig spoke about the \$105,000 reward and task force's tireless search for Rose's killer. Several Detroit and WSU Officers attended with Epsilon, a German Shepard Rose trained as a protection dog and gifted to his parents.

"Having Chris and the other officers has been absolutely incredible," Salgot said. "I always knew that I'd have support from the blue family, as Collin and I were always part of that support for those fallen before him. I just never understood the full depth of what it really meant, until now. Collin always insisted on ensuring he was present at as many funerals of fallen officers as possible because he felt it was the duty he owed to those officers and their families. Now, being on the other end of that and seeing the support, really brings it home and gives it new meaning for me."

## POLICE UNITE

Officers throughout Michigan continue to honor Rose, like Woodhaven Police Lt. Frank Zdzankiewicz, who rode with Rose in the tour and during the 10-hour bus ride to and from the event in 2015 and 2016. Team Woodhaven was able to refurbish an unused city senior bus into a police vehicle with community support. They also use it so area Unity Tour riders can travel together with their luggage, bikes and equipment. Rose and Powell rode in its inaugural voyage in 2015 with riders from six other departments. "The only people that can do this ride are active law enforcement, retired law enforcement and survivors," said Michigan State Police Lt. Julie Busch, who met Rose during the 2015 Unity Tour.

Team Woodhaven used money they raised to provide Salgot with items needed to complete the ride. "I couldn't think of a better reason to use that money. We bought her the bike, the shoes, the helmet, the gloves and some training gear. That was the right thing to do," Zdzankiewicz said.

Riders must raise a minimum of \$1,850 to participate in the Tour. "We do yearly fundraisers for our group and a local bike shop (Al Petri and Sons) sponsors us," Zdzankiewicz said. "They probably gave us nearly half off on everything."

Each member has their own seat on the 12-person bus and in honor of Collin, his seat will remain vacant for the annual trip. "We took the bus to Collin's funeral and on the way to the funeral there was a person sitting in the seat that Collin sits in and she was the widow of a fallen officer. I light heartedly joked 'that's Collin's seat,'" Zdzankiewicz said.

The widow said she couldn't sit there and moved. During the ride home, the bus hit a curb and another officer was thrown toward Collin's seat. He put his hand up to balance himself on the shelf

above Collin's seat and he pulled his hand away holding a Wayne State Police patch. "I don't know how the patch got there. It was just such a wow moment. We just had to do something with it," Zdzankiewicz said. "We took that seat out and took it to the upholstery shop and had it made up to memorialize Collin with the department colors and embroidered the seat with his end of watch date. That's the patch we used on the seat."

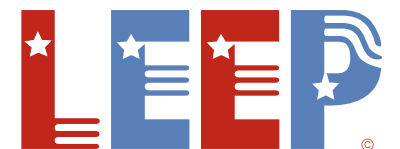
Team Woodhaven presented that seat to Salgot and Powell during their March 11 fundraiser at Woodhaven Community Center before placing it back inside the bus.

"It's not just a bike ride. It is another great showing of the love and support from that blue family," Salgot said. "Every rider rides for a fallen officer and presents the family with a bracelet showing that family their officer is still important. The funds raised ensure every fallen officer is able to be provided their rightful place on those marble walls. Every family left behind understands how important those walls are; and the Unity Tour ensures those who have laid down their lives, are not forgotten."

Continued on page 6



Sgt. Collin Rose (left) rode in the Police Unity Tour with Wayne State University Investigator Chris Powell.



## Police say DNA links man to Rose's killing

— Excerpted from [www.clickondetroit.com](http://www.clickondetroit.com)

A 60-year-old Detroit man who shot two Detroit Police Officers March 15 is the prime suspect in the murder of Wayne State University Police Sgt. Collin Rose, said Detroit Police Chief James Craig March 17 during a news conference.

Raymond Durham is charged with two counts of assault with intent to murder, two counts of resisting and obstructing the police causing serious impairment, felon in possession of a firearm and five counts of felony firearms violations for shooting the officers.

Detroit Police confirmed DNA left at the scene of Rose's shooting was matched by State Police lab scientists to a DNA sample obtained from Durham.

Durham was arrested after a two-hour manhunt following the shooting on Ash Street near Tillman. He was being detained for a pedestrian investigation when he pulled a revolver from his waistband and fired at the officers, striking both. They returned fire, striking Durham multiple times before he fled and was later captured near Michigan and Vinewood.

Both officers and Durham were hospitalized with multiple gunshot wounds. A 27-year-old officer was shot in the ankle and twice in his armored vest, which police believe saved his life. A 44-year-old officer was shot once in the neck and will have to undergo multiple surgeries.

"We are calling him a suspect in this matter, so that is a big first step," Craig said, adding the DNA match is one component of the

investigation and police will continue to investigate, gathering evidence and conducting interviews.

Sources told Local 4 the DNA was found on a flashlight and glove from the night Rose was shot while working a case in Woodbridge, which is about a mile away from where the other two officers were shot. Police said surveillance footage of a man fleeing the area resembles Durham.

"The one officer, who had the more significant injuries, he said to me as I leaned over his bed, 'I believe that the suspect who shot us is the suspect who shot Collin Rose,'" Craig said.

WSU Investigator Chris Powell and Rose's fiancée Nikki Salgot visited the officers. "It was tough. They knew Collin and he knew them," Powell said. "The officer who was shot in the neck was resting in the same room that Collin died. We gave them Collin challenge coins and wished them well. They both have long recovery roads ahead of them."

During a probable cause hearing, Durham's attorney, Gabi Silver, was granted a request for an examination of competency and criminal responsibility. A review date was set for June 16. Durham's family said he is schizophrenic and has been homeless for the past 40 years. They said they have never seen him act violently. Durham was convicted of breaking into several Detroit Public Schools properties in 1990 and mental health treatment was part of his sentence, according to court records. ❤️



Unity Tour participants gather with Sgt. Rose (fourth from left) outside the tour bus.

## Paying tribute to Rose

Continued from page 5

“The biggest irony of the whole thing is Collin was really a champion of the cause,” Zdankiewicz said. “The whole purpose of the Unity Tour is to remember officers who died. He was truly somebody who believed how important it was. I saw him two weeks before he died at another officer’s funeral. It’s heartbreaking, I know its cliché to say, but Collin really was one of the good guys.”

Busch noticed Rose’s WSU patch while riding on the tour. “When you’re riding on that first day with probably 500-600 people, you see a Michigan person and slow down and ride with them for a while,” she said.

She got to know Rose better on the 2016 bus ride. “He was just a very funny, very genuine person. Obviously loved dogs because that’s all we ever talked about,” Busch said. “He was engaging and actually drew people to him because of his personality.”

She will be rooming with Salgot during the tour. “I met her last year when we arrived in D.C. because she was at the memorial when we rode in and that’s when Nikki and Collin got engaged.”

When Busch and her husband, Detroit Police Sgt. Mark Busch, heard about Rose being shot, she reached out to fellow officers and headed to the hospital. “One of my troopers responded to the scene and told us about it,” Busch said. “That’s when I started making notifications to my Police Unity Tour brothers just to get the word out there and get to the hospital. My husband went into work. He said, ‘I’ve got to go in and see what I can do.’”

As time passes, police presence remains with Salgot, displaying the solidarity of the badge. Powell knows Police Week will be a rollercoaster for Salgot, but officers will be by her side to support her and all the other survivors of those who died in the line of duty. “We’re trying to plan the trip so we can meet one of the dogs in Pennsylvania that got a protective vest donation in Collin’s memory,” Powell said. “I think it will be really tough for her.” ❤️

Please visit [www.polc.org](http://www.polc.org) to participate in fundraisers for Collin Rose’s family and other organizations honoring Rose.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Weber

Sgt. Collin Rose proposed to Nicole Salgot at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in May 2016.



Photo by Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

POLC Director Rob Figurski (right) and POLC Labor Attorney Tom Zulch present plaques to Sgt. Rose’s family for his ultimate sacrifice.

## Police Week Continued from page 3

rial Services – 11 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m. West Front, U.S. Capitol. Wreath Laying Ceremony immediately following Memorial Service. [www.policeweek.org](http://www.policeweek.org) or contact Andy Maybo at [amaybo@dc-fop.org](mailto:amaybo@dc-fop.org) or Linda Hennie at [Ishennie@aol.com](mailto:Ishennie@aol.com)

**Tuesday, May 16:** NCIS Wreath Laying Ceremony – 10-11 a.m. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, enter via F Street NW. Contact Cheryl Seesman at [cheryl.seesman@ncis.navy.mil](mailto:cheryl.seesman@ncis.navy.mil) or (571) 305-9065.

• National Police Survivors’ Conference (Day 2 of 2) – 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for surviving family, co-workers and law enforcement. Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA.

Advanced registration required. Email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org), call (573) 346-4911 or visit [www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org)

• C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens (Day 2 of 2) – 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for surviving children, step-children and siblings. Bus from Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA to local law enforcement academies. Pre-registration mandatory. Email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911 or visit [www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org)

• C.O.P.S. Picnic on the Patio – 6-9 p.m. for surviving family, co-workers and law enforcement. Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA. Advanced registration required. Email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911 or visit [www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org) ❤️

# Royal Oak Sergeant saves woman from burning car

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**R**oyal Oak Police Sergeant Karly Wingart will be recognized by her department for saving the life of a Royal Oak woman trapped inside a burning car.

“We like to recognize our officers for the outstanding work that they do,” said Royal Oak Police Lt. Keith Spencer. “The biggest thing ... is the sheer bravery that night.”

Spencer said Wingart, the first emergency responder to the scene, completely disregarded her own safety when she entered a burning vehicle.

Wingart said she was in the right place at the right time when she saved a 36-year-old woman’s life. She was driving south on Woodward Avenue near 12 Mile Road just after midnight Jan. 15, 2017 when she saw smoke, which appeared to be billowing from a bus. She entered the turnaround lane and when she came out saw a crashed Ford Fusion on fire next to a SMART bus.

She asked bystanders if anyone was in the vehicle and peered inside to see a woman covered in blood in the front passenger seat. The car’s engine was on fire and the passenger side was caved in so she asked the woman if she could climb out of the broken passenger window.

“She is conscious but not really responding to what I’m saying,” Wingart said. The woman’s legs were pinned under the dashboard of the car where impact occurred. “I look through the window and the driver’s side door is open. When I ran around to the driver’s side, he was already out of car and laying on the road ... and I’m telling her ‘Come on we’ve got to get out of here.’ She was moaning. She stretched her arms out and I just pulled as hard as I could.”

While thoughts of a car explosion or drunk driver running into the car were running through her head, Wingart said, “I was mostly worried about her being burned. I can see the flames growing on the other side of windshield,” Wingart said. “The SMART bus driver had a little fire extinguisher. I remember him holding it up and standing in front of the car. He did attempt to put it out and it didn’t work.”

She was able to get the woman out and a retired EMT standing nearby grabbed the victim’s legs, Wingart said, and helped carry her away from the car.

“I am very proud, but not surprised with Sgt. Wingart’s quick thinking and bravery. With complete disregard for her own personal safety, she entered a burning vehicle to assist an injured passenger,” said Royal Oak Police Chief Corrigan O’Donohue in a statement.

“I only had tunnel vision,” she said. “I was just concentrating on getting her out. A Berkley Public Safety Officer, who arrived while I was trying to get her out, got his fire extinguisher. As I’m pulling her down the road, I can see the car is reigniting. I don’t know how

bad the flames would’ve gotten if he wasn’t here.”

The Royal Oak Fire Department finished putting out the blaze and Wingart switched gears and secured the scene. “I’m a supervisor and I command the scene and make sure everything is getting done,” she said.

“If you watch the video, the bus driver is laying in the backseat of the car, trying to help. I don’t remember anything that was being said, I don’t even remember half the things that I said,” Wingart said. “We don’t train in these types of situations, but it’s nice to know all the training you go through in the end it actually works.”

After the situation was under control, the retired EMT disappeared. “All good citizens seem to leave the scene before we can thank them,” Wingart said.

The driver, passenger and one bus rider with minor injuries were taken to Beaumont Hospital. The driver and bus passenger were treated and released, but the car passenger wasn’t released until mid-February. “She’s been released, but she’s still recovering from her serious injuries,” Spencer said in late March.

“She had multiple broken bones and she had to have reconstructive surgery on her leg. She has to be taught how to walk again,” Wingart said. “It basically took the whole front passenger side of car and caved it in so she got the brunt of it.”

The investigation found the driver rear-ended the bus, which had just dropped off passengers. Andrew Aman James, a 29-year-old Macomb Township resident, was arraigned on one count of operating while intoxicated causing serious injury. If convicted, James faces up to five years in prison. James, who has a prior conviction for operating while impaired, is scheduled to appear for a pre exam conference April 10, 2017.

Wingart, who recently returned to light duty after suffering a leg injury of her own while off duty, reflected on her career with Royal Oak PD. An evidence technician with nearly 12 years under her belt, she has no plans to leave the community she has grown to love.

“I wanted to go into forensic science to be a crime scene tech,” she said. “Once I got here, I really liked it in Royal Oak and I didn’t want to move to bigger department.”

Her decision to stay put Wingart in the right place at the right time, just like she said, but her bravery is what saved the victim’s life. ❤️



Photo courtesy of Royal Oak Police

Royal Oak Police  
Sgt. Karly Wingart

## New Rep knows one size doesn't fit all

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**R**ecently retired Allegan County Sheriffs' Office Corrections Deputy Jason Owen is taking on a new career as a POLC/GELC Labor Representative and taking over as the new organizer for Gilda's Run.

While that may seem like a lot of new responsibilities all at once, Owen has years of experience, serving as Chief Steward of his local and participating in Gilda's Run, a POLC and Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) sponsored fundraiser benefiting Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

Owen, who joined the POLC staff right after his retirement in February, was with the Corrections Division over 10 years, serving as a POLC local Union Steward for nine of those years. He was an Alternate Steward for a year and half before taking on the Chief Steward role. Prior to that he worked as a State of Michigan Department of Corrections Officer for seven years and was active in Michigan Corrections Organization, (a member of MAPO). He also worked for Alternative Directions from 1997-98, a community-based residential program helping probation violators do community work and attend programs to better their situations.

Owen said he really enjoyed his work as a local Steward. "It was something I wanted to continue to do more on a longer term full-time basis," Owen said.

He understands there is not a one size fits all solution to issues and that it's important to get to know each unit he represents.

"Each unit has its own unique needs," Owen said. "Each unit is individualistic and they have different struggles and have different

requirements. For me, the biggest thing is understanding the organizations themselves, understanding their unique needs, and what's the best way to give them that representation that they deserve."

To represent units to his best ability, Owen said it's important to be organized, meet deadlines, and make the contacts needed to resolve issues. "My biggest goal is to continue to maintain the relationships and improve representation of the members to meet their needs and the needs of any future units going forward."

Proposed state pension and health care reforms for public employees are going to be the two main concerns outside of normal funding issues, Owen said. "There are obviously state level changes that effect all of them, but at the same token they have their individual requirements that need to be met," he said.

He wants the POLC and GELC units he represents to know he's listening. "They're getting somebody who is as interested in them as themselves. The units are more than just negotiations and grievances and fact finding," Owen said. "I'd like to know more about them and what's impacting their units. That would probably be time consuming, but it's important. The things that are important to them are important to me." ♥



## Gilda's Run continues with new organizer

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**A**fter 16 successful runs and accolades from the organization it benefits, Gilda's Run founder and POLC Labor Rep. Will Keizer is passing the annual fundraising event along to newly hired POLC Labor Rep. Jason Owen.

"It's something that I've been a part of for the last several years," Owen said, adding that taking over organization of the event is the natural next step for him. "The close-knit part of it is what brings people back year after year."

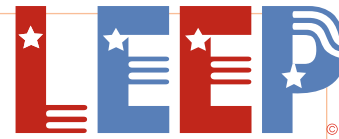
Gilda's Run, a motorcycle poker run for charity, will host their 17th annual ride July 15th. Sponsored by the POLC and Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP), the event raised over \$22,000. LEEP will kick off the campaign, like last year, with another \$5,000 donation. Over 100 riders and an additional 50 are expected to attend the Pig Roast.

The event supports Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, an organization that provides social and emotional support for cancer patients and

their families and friends. Knowing his retirement is on the horizon, Keizer wanted to give Owen time to make a smooth transition as the event's new organizer.

"As a Police Officers labor organization and community education program, we often feel that there are ways to give more to our community. We found that all of us have been touched at some point in our lives by the devastation that cancer causes," Owen wrote in his letter to sponsors and participants. "We recognize Gilda's Club as a vital networking source that teaches us how to live with cancer, regardless of outcome. They've shown that social and emotional support is as important as medical treatment."

Owen has some big shoes to fill and he knows it. He's been assuring riders the run will remain the same. "I don't want to



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## Woronko gave all to POLC, GELC as labor rep, attorney

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**M**ike Woronko has represented police in many capacities, as a local union steward, POLC/GELC Labor Representative, and a lawyer for the past 20 years. But when it comes to his next move, he said, "It's a matter of age."

Woronko is retiring this spring, taking a break from work, at least for now. The longtime POLC member has served in a unique capacity as a POLC/GELC Labor Rep. who can also handle legal issues. With POLC's legal staff located in Troy, Woronko was able to respond quickly to legal matters on the west side of the state until the full-time legal staff could take over the cases. This is especially helpful when issues like officer involved shootings occur.

Woronko retired from Grand Rapids Police Department in 2004 after 24 years on the job, 10 of which he was POLC Union Steward and Secretary-Treasurer. He was a Political Action Committee (PAC) board member. Prior to that he worked for Walker Police Department for three years and was a Kent County FOC investigator for one year. He obtained a Criminal Justice bachelor's degree at Ferris State University in 1976, while serving as a Kent County Sheriff's Deputy Cadet.

While at Grand Rapids PD, he decided to enter law school. "I worked full time and went to law school full time," Woronko said. "That was quite an experience. My first term at Cooley I had classes five days a week and, working second shift, I would work till 2 a.m. and be at Cooley in time for 9 a.m. classes. I would go to class, come home, go back to bed a couple hours and go back to work."

He graduated with a Juris Doctor in 1988 from Cooley Law School.

"When I was in law school, I took a leave of absence for a year and I clerked for the U.S. Attorney's office," he said. "When I got done clerking they offered me a paralegal job. Had I not had a baby on the way, I would've taken that job."

But the pay cut was too much and he decided to stay on with Grand Rapids Police. "I loved the excitement of police work but I didn't like the bureaucracy of police work and I felt I wanted to eventually do something else," Woronko said. "And the something afterwards was the POLC. The whole point of law school was to do something in the labor field and I got the opportunity to do that."

The legal knowledge Woronko has been able to share with POLC and GELC members since becoming a Labor Rep. in 2007 has been priceless. "We're dealing with contract language every day, so it prepares you better for reading and understanding collective bargaining agreements," Woronko said. It also helps in preparing for arbitrations. "Although I don't do the arbs themselves, you have a

pretty good idea what the attorneys that do the litigation are going to need," he said. "The overall method of analysis that you learn in law school is invaluable in this job. It teaches you how to analyze issues and apply the law to whatever issue you may be looking at."

Jason Owen has been in training since February with Woronko to take over his position. "He's going to take my units and I'm going fishing," Woronko said. "I'm going to work with him until the middle of April to get him oriented and working on his own."

Fishing brings back memories of past POLC days for Woronko. He recalls his mentor, former POLC Labor Attorney John Lyons, who passed away a few years ago. No matter how dire the topic, Woronko said, Lyons always started the conversation with fishing. "The neat thing about John, if he called me about something, the first thing he'd ask me about is fishing. It was never business," Woronko said. "He knew the labor law business inside and out and he was a great resource for talking through different problems and issues especially those first couple of years as a Labor Rep."

He knew Lyons from the time he was on the local Grand Rapids Union Board and Lyons encouraged him to become a Labor Rep. "I always liked John and he became a friend," Woronko said. "I will always be grateful for John Lyons and his counsel over the years. He was a great guy and I always enjoyed talking to John and getting his point of view on things."

Woronko was surprised with the learning curve of becoming a Labor Rep despite his Steward experience with a large department like Grand Rapids. "I was in Internal Affairs with somebody twice a week and you would think with all of that preparation, you're ready to go. But different situations come up. There's something new all the time," he said.

"My advice for a new rep is to represent the grievant, be an advocate for the grievant," Woronko said, adding that sometimes that's difficult when personalities clash. "In some cases, that is going to conflict with the local unit or the local presidents, but you're there to represent the interests of the grievant and that has to be your first duty. It's a matter of the issue having merit or not. If the issue has merit, then we're going forward with it."

He also advises new reps read contracts thoroughly and be conscientious throughout their work. The biggest issue, he said, is



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## LEEP Police Academy Awards double to \$2,000 in 2017

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

The man who led the charge to honor police academy graduates who excel in the academy while bearing all of the tuition costs themselves recently retired, but his efforts continue to pay off.

Aaron Coates, 24, is the last Macomb Police Academy graduate to be awarded the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) Award while Tom Wilk was Director of Macomb College Police. Wilk retired from that post in December 2016 and his position on the POLC Executive Committee.

Wilk pushed for the once \$500 award, which was raised to \$1,000 in recent years. In his honor, the 2017 winners will have even more to thank LEEP for when the award is doubled to \$2,000.

Coates was one of two academy graduates presented the \$1,000 LEEP Award in December 2016.

He was among 36 pre-service cadets in the Macomb Police Academy class of 44, which graduated Dec. 14, 2016. Pre-service cadets pay for the academy themselves. The LEEP Award is presented twice yearly to graduates with the highest overall achieve-

ment who have not been sponsored by any police agency. To qualify, cadets had to pass the MCOLES certification test and meet MCOLES employment standards to become certifiable as law enforcement officers in Michigan.

"He was in the top ten in physical performance and academics and overall performance," said Macomb Police Academy Director Raymund Macksoud. "He was a complete package. That's what made us select him for the LEEP scholarship. He did everything he needed to do in the academy."

Coates said the LEEP Award helped him make ends meet while completing the academy. "With the cost of police academy tuition nearing \$6,000, many cadets found it difficult to sustain themselves while attending the academy," Coates said. "Although I continued to work throughout the program, I decided to reduce my hours and focus on my training. I would have struggled immensely if not for the support from LEEP. This scholarship allowed me to pursue my lifetime goal of becoming a police officer and still manage to sustain myself."

Macksoud was impressed with Coates confidence, questions, and ability to challenge the information presented in class. "He would intelligently bring up a good rebuttal," Macksoud said. "It was his overall demeanor ... He carries himself well, he commanded respect as a cadet. He will have that presence when he shows up at the scene as a police officer."

Coates was hired by New Baltimore Police as a part-time officer in February. His career plans include passing the Field Training Officer program and obtaining a full-time position with New Baltimore PD. He is also interested in working for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"He was a very serious cadet," Macksoud said. "When he spoke, he spoke seriously about everything. He has great leadership qualities. People listen to him."

Coates, who received an Associates in Criminal Justice, was class spokesperson, giving the graduation speech. "I read his speech in advance, it was excellent," Macksoud said. "It was a packed house and (audience members) were very complimentary."



Photo courtesy of Macomb Community College Police  
Macomb Community College Police Lt. Patrick Carney (left) presents Macomb Police Academy graduate Aaron Coates with a \$1,000 LEEP Award during the Dec. 14, 2016 graduation ceremony.

"He definitely stuck out. Sometimes (cadets) get lost in the shuffle. You always knew when he was there," Macksoud said. "He carried himself very well." ♥

## OCC's new director taught latest LEEP Award recipient

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

The new Director of Law Enforcement Training at Oakland Community College enjoyed teaching recent Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) Award recipient Alex Linke.

"I taught at the academy for 14 years before I got this job," said Lt. Dave Ceci. "I teach defensive tactics and physical fitness. I'm with (the cadets) quite a bit. He was a great recruit."

Linke received a \$1,000 LEEP Award upon graduation from the 16-week academy on Dec. 16, 2016. The 29-year-old followed in both of his grandfathers' footsteps, serving in the military. He was a U.S. Marine from 2007-2013, being deployed to Iraq in 2008. Now he's planning to pursue a career field his father occupied for a time as a former Detroit Police Reserve Officer.

The LEEP Award is given twice yearly to graduates with the highest overall achievement who have not been sponsored by any police agency. To qualify, the cadets had to pass the MCOLES certification test and meet MCOLES employment standards to become certifiable as law enforcement officers in Michigan.

Ceci, who was hired as the new Director in December 2016 following the retirement of Dick Tillman, described Linke as well-spoken, thoughtful and an overall likeable person. He cited Linke's physical ability and demeanor as some of his strongest qualities.

"He was in the Marine Corps so I think that helped his leadership ability," Ceci said. "He's intelligent and physically able to do everything. He was respected by his peers."

As Squad Leader of the class of 27 cadets, Linke was responsible for making sure his squad was properly dressed in their uniforms and ensuring they were in the proper formation when they arrived in the morning. He made sure his squad followed orders of the staff, among other duties.

"If the director has an issue with what his people are doing, they go to the Squad Leader," Ceci said.

Linke began working in loss prevention for Sears in 2010, while he was a Marine Reserve, until he was hired as Oakland University Police IT Specialist in January 2015. "I saw the position open and it was basically a foot in the door," Linke said. "It showed my

interest on the law enforcement side of things."

"They needed someone specifically dedicated to the (surveillance) camera system," Linke said, adding that he had plenty of experience working loss prevention at Sears watching for and apprehending shoplifters. "We started to move toward remote access to watch store cameras from home. I was area manager for Sears, which segued me into IT."

"We have approximately 600 cameras on campus," Linke said, adding that he worked to create a baseline for OU's security system by providing regular maintenance. "I was very hands on repairing the systems. I knew cameras even though I had no IT experience."

He continued to work the full-time IT job nights and weekends while going through the academy, supplementing lost work time through use of vacation time when needed.

With all his experience and a drive to succeed, it's no wonder Linke was also awarded a Physical Fitness scholarship, which Ceci funds on behalf of OCC Police Academy, and the Sgt. James Collins Memorial Scholarship from the Collins family, based on leadership and military service.

"Basically, whatever I spent out of pocket they refunded," said Linke of the awards combined with funds from the GI Bill. "It gave me a zero balance."

After graduating, he remained at OU hoping a sworn officer



Police Officers Labor Council Executive Committee member Jeff Gormley (right) congratulates LEEP Award recipient Alex Linke at the Oakland County Community College Police Academy graduation in December.

position would open up. "I wasn't able to transition over to patrol side. I had to look at other departments," Linke said.

One of his academy classmates heard about an opening in Birmingham and recommended Linke for the job. He was hired and began working as a Birmingham Police Officer in late February 2017.

"I've always had an interest and a knack for (law enforcement) and, after my time in the Marine Corps, I knew I wanted to continue down that service route," Linke said. "This was an easy choice for me to make my career in law enforcement. It's the closest transition from military to civilian." ♥



Alex Linke was sworn in as a Birmingham Police Officer in February.

## LaMaire retires after decades of service

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**W**hen it comes to retiring, you could say Fred LaMaire understands the concept, but this time is he plans to stick with it. After 40 years of representing police officers, LaMaire, who most recently served in POLC Membership Services, said his goodbyes in December 2016.

"I've always been an advocate that police officers should be treated fairly by the employer. During my early years, I saw the employer would just steamroll over employees. They had no say, they had no support, they had no backing," LaMaire said. "That's what got me involved in the union in 1971."

A Marine from 1958-1961, LaMaire became a Grand Rapids City Police Officer in 1969, serving as Local Union Trustee, Vice-President, and then President from 1976-1984. His complaint to the former union president that he wasn't happy with their contract propelled him into union work. "He said if I don't like it, get involved. So I did," LaMaire said. "I was kind of an outspoken person. I got involved in labor early with Grand Rapids and I learned an awful lot from attorneys about doing labor work," LaMaire said.

He took a deferred retirement in 1984 to join the POLC as a Labor Representative. "I was able to represent police officers and make sure they're not thrown out of a job without having some recourse," LaMaire said. "Over the years, I've found that management has more respect for the union officers as long as you do your job correctly and fairly and treat each other with respect."

He did a great job guiding POLC Labor Rep. Greg Huggett through negotiations and grievances when Huggett was an officer. "Fred was my rep for Battle Creek when I was hired. Fred is what a lot of us look to emulate," Huggett said. "The way that he handles himself in negotiations and the way he handles himself in dealing with the units, I can't say enough about that. He's very professional — compromising at times and non-compromising when appropriate. He's able to stand his ground when necessary."

"He encouraged me to run for state board, take the (POLC Executive Committee) position from Tom Reed, and that's where my experience with the POLC at the state level started," Huggett said. "It's been probably 30 plus years that I've know Fred. I can only hope that I'm as good as he is at some point."

After serving members 24 years, LaMaire retired from his Labor Rep. position in 2008 and took a year off work. When former POLC Membership Services employee Danny Bartley had to step down in 2009 after developing serious health issues, LaMaire took over his position. "I was a little hesitant to do it because I was retired. I finally talked to (retired Director) Rich Weiler and Greg Huggett and they said 'Why don't you give it a shot?'"

LaMaire focused on recruiting and various services for members including: assisting with labor seminars; assisting labor representatives; setting up events; and attending legislative meetings, such

as Michigan Association of Police Organizations (MAPO), to bring information out to the reps on the west side of the state about issues of importance while Weiler would get information out to the east side.

"I mainly was trying to recruit new units and retain the ones we had. I'd fill in for reps when they went on vacation," LaMaire said.

LaMaire helped expand educational labor seminars to the west side of state. "Danny was doing them on the east side and, through (POLC Labor Reps.) Will Keizer and Ed Hillyer, we decided to start doing them on the west side," LaMaire said.

"That was part of what their philosophy — to include everybody in the state and not just those on the east side of the state," Huggett said. "I can't say enough about what I've learned from Fred and the friendship we've developed over the years. He's such a great guy."

LaMaire was the sole person in Member Services until former POLC Labor Rep. Lloyd Whetstone joined him in 2015. "When Lloyd retired as a rep, he took over the east side since he lives in Flint (and northern Michigan). I stayed on west side," LaMaire said, adding until that time, he handled the entire state, except for the Upper Peninsula.

Before Whetstone's position was added, the recruiting role was more of a passive one. "If someone was to call me, I'd set up a meeting and go meet them," LaMaire said. "I think we've grown recently a lot more than we had in the past because we've become more aggressive in getting our name out there. A lot of people who have a union, they think that's the only one that's out there. Lloyd has done a tremendous job picking up units."

LaMaire's focus in retirement will be taking it easy and addressing his health issues, but the issues officers face daily will always be in the forefront of his mind. "I felt honored and privileged to be able to serve police officers, dispatchers and corrections officers. I know they're dedicated to the work they do," LaMaire said. "(The media) makes a big deal about a police officer who does something wrong, but they forget about the millions of calls they go on and when they do things right. I've met some very dedicated people who go out every day and serve their community."

LaMaire said the average person doesn't realize how police are often called upon to resolve people's issues with one another. "It's almost like you're the father and mother of some of these people, trying to solve their problems," he said.

While the news media has been rough on officers in recent years, LaMaire believes body cameras will help that situation.

"They make some serious allegations against police. They need to charge those people with crimes," LaMaire said. "We're seeing a little bit of change in the news now. The vast majority of the times they're going to find the officers were right." ♥

## Hastings Police switch to POLC for full-time union representation

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**T**he idea that your labor representative is only working their job part-time and secondary to another job is pretty unsettling. So when POAM notified Hastings Police they would be cutting back on their representation, the group decided they could definitely do better.

"They were not happy with POAM specifically because they were being told they would get a part-time rep as opposed to a full-time rep," said POLC Labor Rep. Greg Huggett, explaining that the POAM rep is a full-time law enforcement officer. "In his spare time, he would do what we do on a full-time basis. That's a serious disadvantage for them. If he's working, he's not able to respond."

"There really wasn't much of an explanation — our rep was looking forward to retiring," said Dennis Lajcak, Hastings Local Union President, of the part-time announcement. "He didn't handle our negotiations well. There was a very strong dislike between our city manager and him."

The POLC was in the forefront of Lajcak's mind. He knew one POLC Labor Representative personally and his co-worker knew another.

"I know (POLC Labor Rep.) John Stidham and one of our guys retired from Battle Creek and is friends with Greg (Huggett)," Lajcak said. "He had Greg come in and talk to our unit. (The POAM) came back and said 'we will do anything we can to keep you.' We kicked it around and had a vote and it was unanimous for POLC."

The 11-member group had been with POAM for at least 18 years.

"We didn't want a part-time rep and we wanted a fresh start," Lajcak said. "I do feel we were being treated as a minority so to speak."

The POLC signed their unit in July 2016 and went to bat for them doubling their raises in a contract settled in September 2016. Not only did the small unit receive a better contract than in the past six years, relations with the city administration vastly improved.

"We negotiated a pretty good contract for them," Huggett said. "The last two contracts, they received one percent raises and had to go to 312 arbitration. A one percent raise at 312 is kind of low in my opinion. The group was quite happy with 2 percent without having to go to arbitration to get it."

"We went to mediation and settled there instead of arbitration like the past two contracts," Lajcak said. "We settled fairly with the City and even the city manager said it was pleasant dealing with Greg."

The Field Training Officers (FTO) also received a half hour of straight time pay for each shift they have a trainee with them.

"Our FTOs weren't getting money or anything for being FTOs. They had extra work and they were not getting paid," Lajcak said.

Hastings Police Department also received clarification on the use of mandatory overtime so that patrol and command could fill shifts without it being based upon the rank of the person missing. ♥



## Missaukee County Command looks forward to first contract ever as new POLC unit

— By Jennifer Gomori, POJ Editor

**M**issaukee County Command Officers were never formally represented by a union — they didn't feel the need. But with a growing Command staff, they decided to join the POLC.

"We actually have a good employer employee relationship. It's just a matter of looking toward the future," said 911 Coordinator Ed Nettle. "There have been additions, new supervisory positions added to the department over the last ten years."

The POLC has represented Missaukee County's Road Patrol, Dispatch and Corrections for over a decade as one collective unit.

"As we got larger, it became more appropriate to fall underneath a union . . . to maintain and ensure equality between supervisory

and non-supervisory with regards to collective bargaining both now and for the future," Nettle said.

The four-member group voted unanimously to join the Union and is set to begin negotiations this spring for their very first contract under the guidance of POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

"POLC has done a good job for those of us who were in non-supervisory at that time," Nettle said. "Many of us have promoted up from non-supervisory. It only made sense for us to continue with POLC. We're happy with POLC and (we joined) to maintain some consistency with the department as a whole and the employer."

"We're looking forward to establishing a contractual unit," he said. ♥



## Arbitration

— As reported by the POLC/GELC Legal Staff

### POLC RETURNS SECURITY OFFICER TO WORK

A Hurley Medical Center Security Officer was reinstated to his job after the POLC filed a grievance on his behalf and won.

Medical Center administrators terminated the Officer after he struck a patient immediately after being kicked in the groin by that patient.

The incident occurred after the patient, who was prohibited from leaving the hospital due to suicidal ideation, tried to leave. Two security officers manually escorted him back to his room by each grabbing one of his arms.

A bed in the hallway caused the Officer to fall behind a step and the patient used this opportunity to break loose. He kicked the Officer in the groin, causing significant bruising. The Officer instinctively and immediately struck the patient in the head. The impact broke the Officer's hand and cut the patient's forehead.

He was terminated under a purported no tolerance policy for striking patients.

The Arbitrator reversed the termination concluding the Officer's response was at least "arguably" sanctioned by the Employer's use of force rules, but concluded the Officer should have avoided striking the patient. The Arbitrator returned the Officer to work with a 90-day suspension.

### KENTWOOD OFFICER REINSTATED

A Kentwood Officer was ordered returned to work by an Arbitrator after the City fired him for allegedly striking a city gate causing damage. The City alleged the Officer lied when he denied striking the gate, but the POLC fought for the Officer, proving he was not responsible.

The incident is alleged to have occurred Dec. 29, 2016 after the Officer left the station minutes after two other officers departed. The two other officers found the police department's mechanical gate wide open when they drove through. When the accused Officer noticed the gate remained open, he reported the gate malfunction to his on duty sergeant, who helped him manually shut it.

They assumed it malfunctioned due to the large amount of snow on the ground from a winter snowstorm.

The gate, which was slightly bent, was fixed the next day by DPW and the City began investigating the cause of the damage. The City found an imprint of the gate's chain on the push bumper of the vehicle the Officer drove that night. City officials contacted a professional gate repairman several weeks later to offer his opinion. The Officer refused to admit striking the gate, which led to his termination.

The POLC noted that several other officers had driven the vehicle in question at different times and the gate had a history of malfunctioning in heavy snowfall.

The Arbitrator concluded the City failed to show the Officer struck the gate. The Arbitrator said the Officer had no reason to lie as he was previously involved in a worse at-fault accident and readily admitted to his mistake, receiving only minimal discipline. Furthermore, she recounted both officers testimony that the gate was wide open before the Officer in question drove past it. She also said the gate's failure would not be surprising since it failed many times before during heavy snowfall.

The Arbitrator said the gate repairman's testimony was not convincing, instead finding the City contacting him several weeks after the gate was repaired as evidence that the Employer predetermined the Officer's guilt. She also found that while the gate imprint matched the height of the damage to the push bumper, the snow and ice accumulation would've caused the gate chain height and the bumper impression to be at different heights.

POLC attorneys theorized that the patrol car, which is driven by multiple officers, may have struck the gate in the past creating a slight bend in the gate and the gate continued to function. The gate then malfunctioned Dec. 29 due to significant snow and ice accumulation as it had done many times in the past and still continues to do. ♥



## Woronko gave all Continued from page 9

going to be saving pensions. Woronko said when employers choose defined contribution (DC) pensions instead of defined benefit pensions, they are going to pay for it in the long run.

"This move to defined contribution pensions is really short sighted by employers. They're going to have older employees as a result of it and police officers have a certain shelf life," Woronko said. "The DC pension is going to force police officers to work longer."

Many smaller departments don't have positions available for older employees that allow them to work a less physical job. "You've got to work the streets, and if you're 60 years old, how effective are you going to be? You have the knowledge and experience, but you don't have the physical part of the game anymore."

"It's like professional sports. It's a young man's game," Woronko said. "You can only be in it and be effective for so long." ♥

— As reported by POLC/GELC Labor Representatives

### Allegan County Corrections Command

• **New one-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2017.

• **Wages:**  
1% effective Jan. 1, 2017.

1% lump sum bonus July 1, 2017.

• **Fringe Benefits:** Add New Year's Eve as a paid Holiday.

• **Bargaining Team:** Jeremy Verslys aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Allegan County Road Patrol Command

• **New one-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2017.

• **Wages:**  
1% effective Jan. 1, 2017.

1% lump sum bonus July 1, 2017.

• **Fringe Benefits:** Add New Year's Eve as a paid Holiday.

• **Bargaining Team:** Chris Kuhn, Cory Hunt and Michael Larsen aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Bay County Circuit Court

• **New two-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2019.

• **Wages:**  
5% effective Jan. 1, 2017.

3% lump sum payment effective Jan. 1, 2017.

• **Fringe Benefits:** Eliminate "Me too" agreement for all County groups, which allows

them to automatically receive same benefits as other county groups.

• **Health Care:** Eliminate \$1,800 opt out payment for new Employees not obtaining insurance for their spouse for couples who both work for the County. Existing Employees, who are already paid opt out, will continue to receive this benefit. Opt out payments will still be available for spouses of all Employees who work outside the County.

• **Bargaining Team:** Lori Fisher, Nicole Noonan, Angelita Newsham aided by GELC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Bridgeport Township Police

• **Wage reopener for contract** which expires Dec. 31, 2020.

• **Wages:**  
1% effective Jan. 1, 2017.

1% effective July 1, 2017.

• **Health Care:** Increase Employee premium contributions from 10 percent to 20 percent.

• **Bargaining Team:** Officer Dennis Howe aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Eaton County Circuit Court Juvenile Facility

• **New one-year agreement** expires Sept. 30, 2017.

• **Wages:**  
1.5% effective Jan. 10, 2017.

\$150 lump sum signing bonus.

• **Manning & Safety:** Add a drug and alcohol testing policy.

• **Bargaining Team:** Tyler Tarpley aided by GELC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Hastings Police Department

• **New three-year agreement** expires June 30, 2019.

• **Wages:**  
2% effective July 1, 2016.

2% effective July 1, 2017.

2% effective July 1, 2018.

• **Fringe Benefits:** Field Training Officers (FTO) receive a half hour of straight time pay for each shift they have a trainee with them. Mandatory overtime is no longer assigned according to rank.

• **Bargaining Team:** Dennis Lajcak and Craig Dingman aided by POLC Labor Rep. Greg Huggett.

### Tuscola County Sheriff's Command Unit

• **New one-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2017.

• **Wages:**  
2% effective Jan. 1, 2017.

• **Fringe Benefits:** Shift premium increase: from 20 cents to 30 cents per hour for working 2-10 p.m. shift and from 25 cents to 35 cents per hour for working 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift. Life insurance increases from \$25,000 policy to \$50,000 policy.

• **Bargaining Team:** Ryan Pierce and Nate Light aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham. ♥

## Gilda's Run Continued from page 8

implement a bunch of changes," Owen said. "My goals are to maintain the same level for the event in participation and fundraising and sponsorship."

Keizer always set the fundraising bar a little higher than the year before and Owen plans to do the same. "The event is going to continue to be what it has been in the past. The only goal is to increase sponsorships," Owen said. "It's kind of like going to a restaurant that you really enjoy, then everybody starts going to same restaurant and now you're waiting there an hour. You enjoy it the way it's been, so why change that?"

Gilda's Run is undeniably a success. Last fall, POLC and LEEP received a Community Partners Award from Gilda's Club for raising over \$200,000 for the organization. "In a nutshell, it's a positive thing," Owen said. "The awards that the POLC and LEEP have received from Gilda's prove that it's doing what it's supposed to do — it's bringing awareness. The people who have been a part of (Gilda's Run) have been a party to that success and I want them to

continue to be a part of that success."

Registration is 9-10 a.m. Saturday, July 15, 2017 with a continental breakfast and the ride ends around 5 p.m. with a barbeque pig roast. In between, bikers and cagers will enjoy a scenic drive through Ottawa and Kent counties that starts and ends at Kosciuszko Hall, 935 Park SW in Grand Rapids. The cost is \$30 per person or \$55 per couple, including the barbeque. It's \$10 per person for dinner only.

### PREREGISTER, SPONSOR GILDA'S RUN

Riders who pre-register by June 23, 2017 will receive a free "17th Anniversary Gilda's Run" long- or short-sleeve shirt. Send checks made payable to: "Gilda's Club Grand Rapids," c/o Jason Owen, 4989 Palenque PI NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. Please include shirt type/size(s). The deadline to become a sponsor for a donation of \$250 or more, either monetary or in donated items, is June 16. Forward a file copy of your logo for the shirt printing, and direct questions to: Jason Owen at (616) 550-2708 or jowen.polc@gmail.com. Gilda's Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. ♥



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# Save **the Dates!** 2017 Annual POLC/GELC Conference

*Evening Outdoor Reception September 20, 2017*

Day 1: Thursday, September 21, 2017

Day 2: Friday, September 22, 2017

***Welcoming Back Speaker  
Will Aitchison - Part 2***

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