



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Robert Evanchick – Chair

Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

William C. Barrett

City Official
Luzerne County

Richard M. Bosco

Chief, Lincoln Borough P.D.
Allegheny County

Jason D. Brinker

Noncommissioned Police Officer
York County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.

Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Madra L. Clay

Local Government Policy Manager
Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Anthony C. Clements

Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Kristen L. Denne

Township Official of the First Class
Chester County

Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr.

FOP Representative
Allegheny County

Beth Dombrowsky

Director Certified School
Dauphin County

David A. Ellis

Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Douglas E. Grimes

Chief, Peters Township P.D.
Washington County

Barry J. Jozwiak

PA House of Representatives
Berks County

Richard W. Long, Esq.

Representative, Public at Large
Cumberland County

Corey B. Meyer

Township Official of the Second Class
Lancaster County

Joseph M. Pizano

Borough Official
Luzerne County

Senator Mike Regan

Senate of Pennsylvania
Dauphin County

Guy A. Salerno

Chief, Blakely Borough P.D.
Lackawanna County

Christopher M. Werner

Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.
Philadelphia County

Vacancy

Police Department Chief

2020 Holiday Message

At this time of the year, it is always good to take stock of the passing year and determine what occurred, what was accomplished, and what the new year will, hopefully, bring. There were many changes in the law enforcement realm brought about by several high-profile events.

President Trump issued an Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities on June 16. The Executive Order mandates that law enforcement agencies enact consistent policies regarding the use-of-force, de-escalation techniques, early warning systems that help to identify officers who may require intervention, and the best practices regarding community engagement. Chokeholds must be prohibited in the state or local law enforcement agency's use-of-force policies except in those situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law.

The most notable legislative changes in Pennsylvania affecting our law enforcement community included the passage of Acts 57 and 59 in July. Act 57 mandates that MPOETC develop and implement a database of officer separation records and hiring reports for officers whose separations were resultant from certain violations. Act 59 provides for mental health evaluations for law enforcement officers, without cost to the officer, upon the request of the officer, the police chief or other supervising officer, or within 30 days of an incident of the use of lethal force during law enforcement duties. Act 59 also mandates MPOETC promulgate and implement regulations regarding the confidentiality of requests or recommendations for mental health evaluations and/or records. The law also mandates training in certain areas be made part of annual training. Regulations for these acts must be promulgated by March of 2021 with the full implementation in July of 2021.

I would like to thank all the Commission members for their hard work and devotion to the important work the Commission has done so well since 1974. Pennsylvania is very fortunate to have such a highly-skilled group dedicated to improving law enforcement across the Commonwealth.

2020 was a very challenging year for everyone, not just in Pennsylvania, but around the world. The COVID-19 virus tested everyone's resolve. The MPOETC staff worked from home and from the office as necessary to accomplish the mission. As a newcomer to MPOETC, I am truly impressed with the professionalism and determination the entire staff brings forth every day. I am very proud of the many praises I receive about the work done by the MPOETC staff.

To all Pennsylvania law enforcement officers and civilian personnel, I extend my appreciation for keeping the Commonwealth safe during the pandemic and the other events of 2020. I extend my warmest wishes for a successful and "more normal" 2021.

Major Steve J. Ignatz
Executive Director



Quarterly Legal Updates

The Commission recognizes that both statutes and case law can change frequently and throughout the year. While officers take mandatory Legal Update training, many times the officers would have benefitted from knowing about the changes when they happened rather than waiting months to attend the class. To help reduce the time it takes for officers to hear about recent changes to the law, the Commission's quarterly newsletter now includes a synopsis of the most significant recent changes.

Commonwealth v. Barr, ___ A.3d. ___ (Pa. Super. 9/25/20)

A vehicle was lawfully stopped for a traffic violation. Defendant was a passenger in the car and defendant's wife was the driver. The officers noticed the odor of burning marijuana. Defendant presented a medical marijuana identification card that allowed him to possess and ingest medical marijuana. The officers conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle based on the odor of marijuana. During the search the officers discovered a small amount of marijuana and a handgun.

Issue: Did the odor of burning marijuana provide probable cause for the search of the car?

The Superior Court did not resolve this issue. The odor of burning marijuana may be evidence of the illegal use of a controlled substance, or it may be evidence of the use of legal, medical marijuana. If someone asserts that the marijuana is lawfully possessed, the officer should be prepared to testify why he or she disbelieves that assertion.

Officers should reference *Commonwealth v. Bumbarger, 231 A.3d 10 (Pa. Super. 3/16/20)* appeal denied, ___ Pa. ___, ___ A.3d ___ (9/22/20). The legal issue is similar, except the item seen in the vehicle was a hypodermic syringe.

2021 Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST)

The MPOETC Training Unit has completed conducting the instructor training workshops for certified police trainers who will be teaching the following Commission-approved 2021 MIST courses:

21-001 Legal Update

A **mandatory** three-hour course highlighting pertinent court decisions and significant pieces of legislation passed after July 1, 2019 that affect police operations and investigations. Lessons will address changes and updates to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Vehicle Code, and Rules of Criminal Procedures as well as decisions from Pennsylvania's Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts, various Federal Courts, and the United States Supreme Court. A final segment of the course will focus on topics such as the issue of excessive charging by police officers and the different jurisdiction and authority of the various law enforcement agencies and officers throughout the Commonwealth.

21-002 Juvenile Justice

A three-hour elective course providing a review of the Juvenile Act to include: juvenile custody, placement procedures and options, segregation from adult prisoners, information needed for the juvenile allegation, and the juvenile court process and proceedings. The course will have focused discussions on juveniles in holding and interviewing juveniles. The training will include resource information which is available to the officers for assistance and support.

21-003 Child Victims of Human Trafficking

A three-hour elective course discussing Human Trafficking with a focus on child victims and sex trafficking. The course will teach a Victim Centered Response, as victims are the key to successful investigation and prosecution of sex traffickers, but surviving victims are typically severely traumatized with both immediate and long-term consequences. Lessons will define child sex trafficking, identify who is at risk, explain the consequences of child sex trafficking, and offer suggestions for addressing the expanding problem of child sex trafficking.

21-004 Recognizing and Responding to Individuals with Special Needs

A **mandatory** three-hour course focusing on timely recognition and appropriate law enforcement response to individuals with special needs. The course will teach officers to employ appropriate communication techniques and de-escalation tactics when interacting with individuals who have special needs or who exhibit behaviors associated with mental illness, intellectual and physical disabilities, and/or autism. The training will include information and instruction for officers regarding available services and support systems for individuals with special needs.

Special Commission Meeting Summary

On November 5, 2020 the Commission had a special meeting to make-up for a missed meeting back in March. The Commission approved the following:

- The tuition for 2021 MIST was approved. The tuition for 21-001 Legal Update is now **\$100/officer** and the other three courses are provided at no cost. Academies are required to offer an equal number of all courses and it is understood that officers may attend some or all courses. If you encounter a significant number of situations where certified officers are attending the free courses but not legal updates (this would impact your reimbursement) please let me know.
- Any officers who are not currently certified must pay to attend training since you will not get reimbursed for them. Training can be offered as a package deal (\$100 to attend all four courses) for these officers, even if they are selective about which courses they attend.



Highlights from the December 2020 Commission Meeting

On December 10th, 2020 the Commission met and approved 188 certifications for officers, 33 certifications for instructors, and 3 officer revocations for Theft, Corruption of Minors, and Official Oppression.

The Commission also voted to cancel the condensed basic training course scheduled to be piloted in January 2021.



Information Regarding the March 2021 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on March 24 and 25, 2021 at the Kalahari Resorts, 250 Kalahari Boulevard, Pocono Mantor, Pennsylvania 18349. Phone: 877-525-2527. *Please note that a public notification will be made if this meeting is rescheduled.*

The Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, the 24th at 12:30 P.M.

The Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, the 24th at 3:30 P.M.

The School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, the 25th at 8:00 A.M.

The Full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, the 25th at 10:00 A.M.

The Commission encourages attendance by police chiefs, law enforcement officers, police academy directors, instructors and other interested parties. If you have further questions concerning the meetings, please feel free to contact the Executive Director.

The Executive Committee will hear reports from all committees. In addition, the Executive Committee will also open their meeting to comments from the audience. If you would like to make a presentation to any committee, please contact the Executive Director in order to be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee. This is your opportunity to have your concern or suggestion heard by the Commission.



The office of the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission will be closed on the following dates for the purpose of transacting public business:

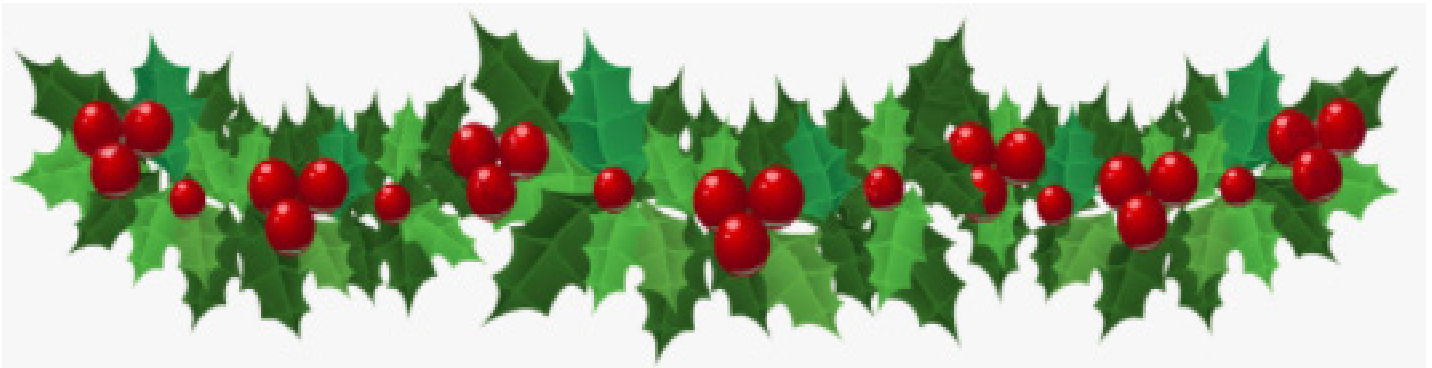
Christmas Day: December 25, 2020

New Year's Day: January 1, 2021

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 18, 2021

President's Day: February 15, 2021

Regular office hours are from 8:15 A.M. to 4:15 P.M.
Monday through Friday



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uestions, comments and information for inclusion in the *Newsletter* are always welcome. This is your opportunity to submit your concerns or suggestions to the Commission. To do so, please contact the Executive Director, Major Steve J. Ignatz or the Editor, Mr. Craig L. Hevalow, by calling toll-free at 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses on page 5. You may also write to:

MPOETC Newsletter
Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission
 8002 Bretz Drive
 Harrisburg, PA 17112-9748

The Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission was established in 1974 to set hiring and training standards for police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through strict certification procedures and standardized basic and continuing professional in-service training for police officers. The Commission needs the support of the entire law enforcement community, state and local government officials, and the general public to be successful. Please circulate this Newsletter throughout your agency and to the government officials in your municipality. The quarterly newsletter is also available on the MPOETC website at www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC, under About Us > Quarterly Newsletters.

New Agency Executives

- Chief Fredrick J. Chadwick III** Saxton Borough PD
Bedford County
- Chief Joseph J. Gabe** Darby Borough PD
Delaware County
- Chief Michael J. Hobbs** Tamaqua Borough PD
Schuylkill County
- Chief Michael J. Sitoski** Upper Macungie Township PD
Lehigh County

Areas of Responsibility and Contact Information for Commission Staff

The following resource accounts are provided to allow your questions and concerns to reach the Executive Director, Staff Member, or Members of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

Act 120 Applications and Certification, Act 120 Instructor Application and Certification

Email: mpocertification@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

TRAINING

Basic Training Curriculum, Mandatory In-Service Training, Instructor Training, Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act

Email: mpotraining@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

Continuing Law Enforcement Education Reimbursement (Mandatory In-Service Training), Basic Training Tuition and Salary

Email: RA-SPMPOFSS@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

Email: mpostandards@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

Congratulations!

