



# The Deputy



## The Oakland County Deputy Sheriff's Association

April, 2005

Volume 2005 issue IV

Steve Grandetti, Secretary

### UNITED WE STAND

Inside this issue of "The Deputy, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 10-16th on page 4. By Dispatcher Jennifer Prince.

Part 2 of The Phobia & Fears of Deadly Aggressions on page 5. Part 3 of Deputy Keith Overby's article will be published in the May issue of "The Deputy".

Important reminder: The next General Membership Meeting will be Tuesday April 26, 2005, at the Association office located at 6678 Dixie Hwy. in Clarkston. The meeting will begin at 1600 Hrs.

Notice: The sole purpose of this newsletter is to serve the MEMBERS of the Oakland County Deputy Sheriff Association. All articles submitted are subject to editing for length and content. The views expressed in the editorials are not necessarily those of the O.C.D.S.A



## The President Gary McClure

The weather is changing and summer is just around the corner. Everyone should be aware that our general membership meetings will be put on hold for the summer. Anyone that has questions or comments are urged to try an attend our next few general membership meetings. I always prefer face-to-face questions but I am always available to listen or answer members concerns by phone. I will also be asking the board to again open up our executive board meetings to members in an attempt to keep you informed thru the summer months.

I want to remind members that our current negotiations are still moving forward but will likely take at least another year to complete. It is my intention to keep members aware of our progress and of some of the many issues we are discussing. We are determined to address the many important issues that affect you and to ultimately bring you the best contract possible. We appreciate your support and patience.

I am encouraged by recent discussions with the Sheriff's Office. I hope that the discussions will continue and strengthen our relationship. I want to

thank Captain Molinar for his efforts to find a suitable shotgun rack for the inside of the patrol vehicles. He has recently shared with me some other equipment that he is looking into that may better assist officers working the road patrol. All members are aware that Sheriff Bouchard has increased the K-9 unit and even secured one for corrections. We are very fortunate to work for a county that has a AAA bond rating and we are very fortunate to work for a Sheriff's Office that has the resources to equip us with the tools to effectively perform our jobs and stay safe. While some serious problems still exist, we need not look far to realize how fortunate we really are. My hat is off to the citizens of Oakland County and its leadership.

Gary McClure, President O.C.D.S.A.

Dont forget to  
visit our web site  
[www.ocdsa.com](http://www.ocdsa.com)



# The Deputy



## Vice President Jon Peters

Hello:

I am presently on STD but am completely available to you. 24/7/365...248 830 1551. In my circumstance I can work but I am not allowed to return to work. There are many jobs in the Sheriff's Office that could utilize me during my rehabilitation. It is my opinion that the Office already use's light duty they just do not call it "light duty" ie: when they transfer someone with a "condition" to a special place during that condition. We must have light duty one day it would benefit the Sheriff's Office and its employee's.

NEGOTIATIONS: We continue to meet and have several dates into June.

CRIME LAB: We have demanded collective bargaining regarding the issue of hiring a new Crime Lab specialist. We believe that this should be kept within our bargaining unit with no outside intervention. If you are interested in a career in the Crime Lab I urge you to apply and I urge the Sheriff to honor the hard work and dedication of all Deputies in our bargaining unit interested in those positions. We have filed a grievance regarding outside hiring in the Crime Lab.

PROMOTIONS/ NEW HIRES: Congratulations and good luck to the Six new Deputy II's and also to the eight new Deputy I's and a new Communication agent.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS: I have been asked lately about Union sponsored events. I am excited about the prospects that were tendered regarding this issue. Many people have many ideas regarding this and I think we as a union should begin a new committee to organize, and implement this.

Well be safe, be strong and be UNITED.

Jon Peters, Vice President Protective Services

[www.ocdsa.com](http://www.ocdsa.com)

## Vice President Stacey Grandison

The March newsletter that I wrote for The Deputy was somehow not printed in that issue. The article was written and submitted, so therefore by the time you receive this issue the summer vacation requests will have been due.

The spring 2005 shift bump took effect on Saturday, April 2, 2005. The actual "sit-down" for this bump was held on March 9, 2005 and this went remarkably well. I did however receive one complaint. This one complaint occurred due to vacancies. Management reserves the right to scheduling manpower. Due to this right and contract language it has been agreed with the OCSO and the OCDSA that all vacancies will be split equally amongst all three shifts. This is done to avoid several vacancies on one shift and therefore causing forced overtime. When the bump was nearly completed there was one Option B request, therefore the Option B request was used to fill a vacancy. Although it appeared to some as favoritism it was done according to the contract.

On March 22, 2005 the OCDSA, OCSO, and Oakland County Personnel held a special conference regarding staffing concerns. Ultimately the staffing results in a safety concern for the Corrections Division. All locations of Corrections were discussed along with one man hospital watch. However, the OCSO is only willing to address any safety concerns that can be changed without increasing manpower. Apparently, it is a near impossible task to have the Board of Commissioners approve more staffed and budgeted positions. Unbelievable to me! I was asked recently, "why do we operate on minimum manpower? Minimum manpower is just that...minimum! What about ADEQUATE manpower?" This is an excellent question, but unfortunately I think the answer all revolves around \$\$\$\$ , not our safety.

The Corrections Academy Graduation was held on March 18, 2005. This is now an official *academy* and upon completion you are an MSCTC certified Corrections Officer. This is the new standard adopted by the Michigan Legislature. MSCTC is the Michigan Sheriff's Coordinating Training Council. Gary McClure, myself, and Lawrence Dudley attended the graduation on the behalf of the OCDSA. There were several other supportive Deputies in attendance along with some Captains, Lieutenants, and Sergeants. Commissioner Mattie Hatchett attended and gave a very appreciative and inspiring speech for all of Oakland County's FINEST!

Recently it was announced to President McClure that the Corrections Division would be getting assigned a canine position. This is very exciting news. This new position is for a DI or DII and must be MCOLES certified along with a three to five year commitment to the position. All requests must be submitted by April 24, 2005.

Continued on page 3



# The Deputy



## Alt Chief Steward David Bach

I would like to print this e-mail that Deputy Evans posted on the OCDSA website:

“Hey if you want to do some camping let us know. We are starting a list. The plan is this. If you are going camping and want to invite others send out a e-mail. If they want to go they can make the plans and show, if not well they don't. We have had this idea for a while now. It started with the union picnic. We have been camping there for the past few years and have had a good time. We are trying to make it a long weekend this year. Come on out lets fill up those group camp site's!!!!!! Send your e-mail address to me or Deputy Sherman. We will start the list.”I would like to thank Evans and Sherman for taking the initiative in getting co-workers together to relax and enjoy the outdoors. I hope every Deputy who wants to get together with their fellow Deputy's and go camping will contact Evans or Sherman. I would like to give Evans and Sherman a pat on the back and tell them that it makes me proud to work with them.

David Bach, Alternate Chief Steward

---

### V.P. Grandison, continued from page 2

I have a few reminders for the members regarding the Merit System. According to Merit rule 26 you must use your floating holiday prior to the end of the year. You will lose the day off if you do not use it.

Currently, leave without pay has been suspended for our members with the exception of extreme cases. However according to Merit Rule 13, if you are granted leave without pay and it exceeds ten days you must understand that this could affect your merit date and/or retirement date. Be sure to check on this if you use any form of leave without pay.

One final reminder is the OCDSA summer picnic. This event is scheduled for July 16, 2005 at Groveland Oaks. The picnic is a wonderful free event that the family can enjoy. I encourage all of you to come out and experience this for yourself. There is also camping available in a group site. This is so much fun with your friends, family, and even co-workers you don't know.

Stacey Grandison, V.P. Corrections

## Chief Steward Tim Rowbotham

**OVERTIME ISSUES:** Recently I have had discussions with several Sgt's about problems with overtime. They brought up a couple of issues during these discussions. One problem they have had is when a member accepts an overtime assignment and then the member gets someone else to work the entire shift, this is improper and should not happen. If you can't or decide you don't want to work the OT then turn it down. Then the Sgt will go to the next member on the OT list. When this happens the Sgt will charge you the hire per the contract and you still have future opportunities (Unlike when they used to pull your sheet for the month). The next question was what happens when a member accepts OT then later cancels it, this is handled just as if you had refused it when asked, again they will charge you for the hire and move to the next person on the list, and again you still have future opportunities to work.

**MERC:** Well on Wed 4-13-2005 OCDSA President Gary McClure, Atty Rodger Webb and myself were at MERC with OCSO and Oakland County reps to discuss the matters that are pending at MERC. Once again I feel it was a very productive meeting with some good discussions between us I remain hopeful we can continue this for the benefit of the OCDSA and the OCSO.

**NEGOTIATIONS AND ARBITRATIONS:** During the past month we have had several negotiation and arbitration meetings. We continue to make progress on the many issues in the Contract talks and continue to meet several times each month.

TIM ROWBOTHAM CHIEF STEWARD  
248-830-1555

It is the responsibility of each and every O.C.D.S.A member to ensure he or she is paying the correct amount for their union dues. If any discrepancy is found please contact Dave Curtis (Treasurer) ASAP. 830-

1547

D-1 \$48.50

D-2 \$54.26

Communications agent \$40.36

Communications Supervisor \$43.80



# The Deputy



## National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 10th - 16th

“Whereas over one-half million dedicated men and women are engaged in the operation of emergency response systems for Federal, State, and local governmental agencies throughout the United States; Whereas these individuals are responsible for responding to telephone calls of the general public for police, fire and emergency medical assistance and for dispatching said assistance to help save the lives and property of our citizens; and, Whereas America’s public safety telecommunicators daily serve the public in countless ways without due recognition by the beneficiaries of their services: Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the 2nd week in April is hereby designated as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.” The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.” — Congressional Proclamation/H.J. res. 284

First let me start by saying, I fully appreciate the work that everyone in this department does, with each and every section contributing to the overall success of this department as a whole. That being said, I would like to take a minute to commend and thank dispatch, especially as it operates in crisis mode for a second painful year. In light of this week of recognition, I want to thank my coworkers who come to work every day to do a very difficult job. What we do makes a difference. Along with our deputy counterparts, we sacrifice outside activities and family to do this job because it matters. People call us in their time of need. Some are injured, some are scared, some are victimized, and we are the first responders. Whether it’s instructing a new mother on how to perform CPR on her three week old baby, or calming an elderly citizen after a car accident, we are the first form of help they get. When major incidents happen in this department, our role and contributions are essential. When a deputy calls out for emergency assistance, how many times have we all heard “Radio, what did he/she say?” or “Radio, where is he/she at?” We relay the information we have, coordinate other required resources like medical, other agency assistance, command response or specialty unit requests, and then we sit and hope that we have done everything that we can to ensure others’ safety. We second guess ourselves and replay the situations day after day, trying to decide, what, if anything, we would do differently, just like deputies do. One important difference being, that in critical situations, deputies can work off their anxiety by going to the scene and getting involved. We, by nature of our job, must hang in limbo, waiting for someone on the other side of the radio to tell us if our efforts were successful and everything is ok, or God forbid, it’s not. Consider for a moment how you would feel if one of your partners was requesting assistance in a crisis situation and you were forced to sit in your car, or remain in your pod and wait for others to inform you of the outcome. Couple that frustration with the responsibility of handling all the radio traffic, starting medical crews to the scene,

starting a K-9 unit their way, notifying command or other bordering agencies of the situation and any pertinent offender information, maintaining radio contact with your partner to verify their status until someone else can make the scene, and starting crime lab to process the scene. All of this before you can even begin to contemplate the fact that your partner, and maybe even your friend, is involved in what could very well be a life or death situation. For example, when Deputy Chris Yon was involved in the shooting in one of the Commerce trailer parks, I was working the radio. As the radio was exploding with priority traffic often times with one transmission covering another, I had to keep everything straight and make sure those involved got what they needed, where they needed it, immediately. While coding to the scene, one deputy listed about 6 different areas that needed to be covered so as to attempt to contain one subject still outstanding. The responding deputies continued to ask for repeats of the key locations given, and, by default, it became my job to pick what unit was to cover which location, as the deputies on scene were too busy tending to both the Deputy Yon and the subject in custody to repeat their traffic and ensure that those areas were properly covered. I understand fully how this happens due to the significance of the situation and the corresponding adrenaline spike that the responding deputies experienced. I was a member of “the team” that day, and, although it might not be the same as the units on scene, I experienced my own form of stress. I wasn’t offered any form of debriefing or the chance to talk to anyone after such an experience. I think about this incident everyday, and, although it’s unfortunate that any of us had to experience it, I feel that I am a better dispatcher as a result. Just as deputies develop partnerships with each other, we develop relationships with people that we work with everyday as well. We feel the stress when those people are involved in critical situations. For example, the tragic passing of Tony Martin shocked and saddened our department. I myself have known him since I was five years old. On the day of his passing, the department, rightfully so, reached out to his substation partners and sent the midnight shift home. That night will haunt a number of us for a variety of reasons yet, three out of the five dispatchers working that night, were forced to the dayshift. Not only were those dispatchers not given any form of departmental assistance in dealing with such a terrible event, but then they were forced to live within that moment for an additional eight hours. Their grief and anxiety by no means stopped the new day’s emergencies from happening around them, as they had to answer more 911 calls, take parking complaints, and listen to citizens complain about their neighbors dog barking while trying to cope with the night before. Please take a moment to think what it must have been like to go through that night and then be denied a chance to go home and gather yourself, or grieve. Again, those dispatchers were a part of that terrible night, and, as would be expected, it impacted them beyond words. I don’t for a minute suggest that the dispatchers were treated that way out of malice, but rather neglect and empathy. The department failed to consider all those involved in this tragedy.

Continued on page 10



# The Deputy



## The Phobia & Fears of Deadly Aggressions: Part 2

We have all heard the term “Monday morning quarterbacking” and we all have an idea what we mean by that phrase. We have also seen how its been used within our workplace recently by peers and supervisors. Now let me take you on a journey how this phrase has played a part in my life.

After experiencing a deadly aggression or near deadly aggression encounter it is important for the officer to recover from the incident as much and as fast as he/she can to a level of not allowing that nightmare to affect his/her employment. The officer will still need time and support to fully recover. In this business we respond to the next waiting call or work assignment before we have caught our breath and before we clear from the current call. We have to be prepared and healthy.

I still have much sadness within me that I made a conscious commitment to kill a 10 year old with a shotgun ready to shoot me. Little did I know at the time, the shotgun he had was not loaded. Although shooting him with an unloaded weapon would have caused more grief for me, I have found there is a real difference when you act on the limited data you have and what we find out later, which can work for you or against you. The 10-year-old was real and so was the shotgun he had pointed at me. He was aiming it at me as he dropped his head down to the stock of the weapon. I think a normal person would have assumed the gun was loaded and I was cleared to protect myself, and others. Each incident is different and has its own merits of why we do what we do. When that 10-year-old picked up the shotgun and pointed it at me and other victims, I knew he made a choice, and it was not to be my friend. A 16 year old armed with a knife and charging toward you has its merits of protecting yourself and the duty to protect others nearby.

We who experience these aggressions will always have a place in our heart, as if losing a family member, when we think back to the events that changed our life. Even warriors feel a sense of loss or sadness at times after a battle. We as warriors know what crime is, we see victims on a daily basis. Sometimes we become the victim as warriors do on the battlefield. I have learned that feeling those sad feelings at times is a good thing. It reminds me and keeps me grounded. It is when we allow it to take over our lives on a daily basis over long term does it become destructive and depressing.

Due to my healing process, I do not think much about my incident now, except when asked or when I sit down to add another line or two to my book. When I am conscious of that day in September I still feel much sadness. I am recovering more each day knowing that I feel good that I was there at the scene and I did my best to keep someone else from getting hurt, including the juvenile suspect.

I remind myself that maybe a gun wielding citizen could have taken the law into his own hands and came out of his home and shot and killed that 10 year old if I had not been there. Or maybe the citizen taking the law into their own hands could have shot at and missed the 10 year old and shot and killed a bystander instead.

I have thought about the “what if”: what if I shot that 10 year old and killed him? Now thinking as a Monday morning quarterback, at the time of the event, I didn’t know the shotgun was not loaded. At the time, I only assumed the weapon was loaded and he was such a danger to the public and my partners. I’ve been told I had every right to shoot and kill him, even a 10 year old. We are not executioners, nor are we hired guns as some have printed articles about us. We are ordinary citizens hired as officers, trained to undertake a job with valor, protecting the public from jeopardy. As difficult as it is at times, we attempt to do our job with fairness, courage, and the perseverance to succeed with the thoughtfulness of public safety.

Lt. Col. Grossman writes in his book called On Combat, page 176 about Sheep, Wolves, and Sheepdogs. The wolves, being bad guys, sheepdogs as being warriors in law enforcement, and sheep being the public, or even a co-worker we call “slacker”. The sheepdog patrol the herd of sheep as he/she takes the job serious; they may expose their fangs as they patrol while responding to a small skirmish as the pack of wolves tests the sheepdog. These weapons of defense for the herd offend some. Some within the herd find it offensive to be armed with such weapons. Others in the herd don’t have an opinion because the protection provided by the sheepdog has given such good protection that a sense of denial settles in that nothing serious can ever happen; everything is just over-kill and the sheepdog is perceived as over reacting. The sheepdog gets hurt during one of the skirmishes as he/she puts it all on the line. The sheep say, “Baaa” you put yourself there, you’re on your own, you weren’t supposed to get hurt. The “aggressive sociopath”, the pack of wolves, see an opportunity as they encircle our co-worker. Remember before 9-11, we were the bad guys; during 9-11 we were heroes. We seem to be trending back to complacency again. The terror of heightened security has waned. Some officers feel that way about training. We only get serious when the threat is there knocking on the door. Training is not only for the obvious threat, but should also encompass the aftermath of the experience. Are we as officers prepared for any post crisis? I have made arrangements for Lt. Col. Dave Grossman to conduct two seminars in November here in Oakland County. He will be available after the seminars to autograph copies of his books. Lt. Col. Grossman will also have other books and CDs available while he is here. If you would rather order his book (On Combat) here is the web site, [www.killology.com](http://www.killology.com).

We talk about Monday morning quarterbacking, let me share with you where I am currently on my draft for the book. I am writing

Continued on page 11



# The Deputy



## **Oakland County Deputy Sheriff's Association, Summer Picnic**

**Saturday July 16, 2005**

**Groveland Oaks, Paradise Island**

**12:00-1700 Hrs.**

**Food, Beverages, Water slide, Swimming, Paddle boats,  
Face painting, Magician, Raffle (need not be present to win)  
Camping and much more. Mark your calendars.**

**Call For Vehicle Location**

**(248) 363-8356**

**LAKESIDE  
TOWING**

**White Lake Yard  
9463 Elizabeth Lake Rd.  
White Lake, MI 48383**

**Commerce Yard  
2025 E. West Maple  
Commerce Twp. MI 48390**



# The Deputy



## The Secretary Steve Grandetti

## The Treasurer Dave Curtis

The March 29, 2005 General Membership Meeting was held at the Association Office. All of the elected officers were present, except Treasurer Dave Curtis who was on a scheduled K-9 training exercise. The Association Attorney L. Rodger Webb was also present. The only agenda item was By-laws article VII Dues and Finances. After much open discussion, a motion was made to adhere to 1.25% union dues for all members. This amounts to 2 hours pay a month per member. All of the present Executive Board members voted in favor of this motion. There was also discussion on several grievances that either have been filed or are in the process of being filed.

The April 26, 2005 General Membership Meeting will be held at the Association office located at 6678 Dixie Hwy. in Clarkston. As of the print of this newsletter there are three agenda items. 1. To make a donation to the Rochester Hill fireworks. 2. Training for the O.C.D.S.A. Executive Board. 3. Approved financing for a Union hall. Dont forget May will be the last scheduled General Membership meeting until September 27, 2005. If you have any agenda items they must be submitted 7 days prior to the meeting.

There are a couple of upcoming events, the first is our annual summer picnic. Deputy Mark Myers is in the process of planning the food, if you have any suggestions for the menu please contact Deputy Myers, he is assigned to the main jail on day shift. There will be a magician, face painting, raffle (need not be present to win) swimming, great food and much much more. The 2nd annual Steve Garfat Memorial ride will take place this summer, I am waiting on dates/times and places, I will forward this information to the membership when it is available.

I would like to thank Deputy Keith Overby and Dispatcher Jennifer Prince, who have submitted very educational articles for our newsletter. Part 3 of Deputy Overby's article will be in the May issue of "The Deputy"

With several retirements and hopefully 5 new K-9 positions there will be openings in several areas, please make sure you have your letters of interest in.

Congratulations to the members who have been promoted, and welcome aboard to our new members.

Steve Grandetti, Secretary O.C.D.S.A.

### UNION DUES

By now almost all of you that did not attend last months meeting, when the discussion of raising the dues took place, have heard that the dues are going to be raised to the amount required in our by-laws.

Some have questioned why dues would be raised with our savings at the level it is. Dues have not been increased since 1985 when every expense we have has increased. Our monthly income from dues just covers our budgeted expenses. So yes we could, just exist, for a couple more years without raising dues. Although, we cannot grow, offer more services to our members, or obtain our own union hall. The funds we have invested now were primarily obtained in the early 1990's through phone solicitation. When the solicitation laws changed the well dried up. Since that time we have gotten a good return on our investments but those savings could be tapped out quite quickly with arbitration and/or a 312 battle.

### BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Last week I looked at the Vietnam Veterans Building in Pontiac. Myself and another member of the building committee had a very productive meeting with the president of their association. We have arranged for a market analysis so that we will have a starting point for negotiations. The building is approximately 10 years old and sits on 5 acres of land. As the building is designed it would fit our needs for office space, meeting rooms, members area, and even room for a gym. I am arranging to have the rest of the building committee do a walk through also. When we get more information it will be shared with you.

Anyone still interested in joining the building committee, please email me at: [Depdog1@aol.com](mailto:Depdog1@aol.com).

Your Treasurer, Dave Curtis 248 830 1547





## The Affinity Mortgage Program from Chase Home Finance

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A WIDE ARRAY OF FINANCING OPTIONS FROM  
CHASE HOME FINANCE – ONE OF THE NATION'S LEADERS IN MORTGAGE LENDING.**

- Money saving discounts not available to the general public
- Outstanding service
- Simple, flexible and worry-free home financing options
- Home equity loans and lines of credit

**Call your Chase Mortgage Specialist today and find out why  
Chase Home Finance is simply the best way home.**

**OCSDA \$500 off Closing Costs**

Michael Proctor @248 593-7367



This program cannot be combined with any other promotional offers or rebates, is not transferable, and is only available to bona fide members or employees of groups that participate in The Affinity Mortgage Program. All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Not all products are available in all states or for all loan amounts. Other restrictions and limitations apply. All loans are offered through JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. or Chase Manhattan Bank USA, N.A. depending on product type and property location. © 2005 JPMorgan Chase & Co. All Rights Reserved.

# STOP the PAIN!

There is a way, and **WE KNOW HOW!**



**MICHIGAN  
CHIROPRACTIC  
SPECIALISTS**

*of Waterford*

Located at 1348 Scott Lake Road in Waterford, MI

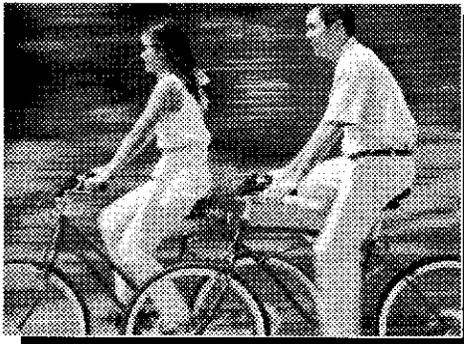
**248.706.3428**

Dr. Adam Apfelblat

*"Dedicated to the Health  
and Well-Being of You  
and Your Family."*



*Gentle, Effective Chiropractic Care for the Whole Family*



Do You Have Pain from:

- Wearing Your Gun Belt?
- Sitting / Driving in Your Cruiser?
- Tactical Training?
- Working at a Computer?
- Just Living Your Life?

We find the cause and **CORRECT IT** so you can **ENJOY LIFE AGAIN!**

*Catering to Oakland County Employees and their Families*



**MICHIGAN  
CHIROPRACTIC  
SPECIALISTS**

*of Waterford*

**248.706.3428**

We participate with BC/BS, PPOM, Preferred Choices, MESSA & Medicare.



# The Deputy



National Public Safety  
Telecommunicators Week April  
10th - 16th  
Continued from page 4

We work together as a team, and we lost one of our own, as a team. I think that in order to appreciate all members of our department, we have to lessen the divisions between us. We can do this by actively seeking understanding and trying to better identify with others. Sometimes we are able to experience a small part of the job that our coworkers do, by doing ride alongs with road patrol officers, which helps give us a better idea of exactly what they do. I ride on my own time because, in part, I know this allows me to do my job more efficiently. I am better equipped to anticipate my coworkers needs, and I have a better understanding of why they make certain requests, follow certain procedures, or require certain information. Unfortunately, we don't get the same opportunity with our corrections counterparts and the short tour of the jail that we get when we hire in can't even begin to do their job justice. I know deputies that are new to the road spend part of a shift observing in dispatch, which again is an experience that is hard pressed to offer a full view of the center's operations, and correctional deputies don't get this chance at all. I encourage any of you, regardless of where you work, to come in and spend some time in dispatch. Find out for yourselves what we do and why we do it, what our responsibilities are, what training we are required to have, who we are and what kind of backgrounds we have. I am confident that you will walk away with a better understanding of our job, and a more positive, less critical view of your dispatchers. In closing, I only ask that you take a moment to think of dispatch and the importance of the work we do. Put aside any personal conflicts you may have with a coworkers and try to view things from their perspective, if only for a moment. I am not a corrections deputy, and I won't pretend to fully know their job, but I know it's a job that is vital to this department. I know that their job has stress factors and complexities that make the people that do that job very special. I am not a road patrol, command, or special units deputy, but I appreciate their role in this department and I'm sensitive to some of the frustrations and professional obstacles that they face. This department is able to function because of all of it's members, not a select few. Since we all work in a field where appreciation is seldom expressed and criticisms are abundant, as we all witnessed with the recent Highland incident, I encourage every member of this department to make an active effort to appreciate each other and the jobs we all do.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Prince

**MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS:** You should never be ashamed of using your legal or constitutional rights. Two of the most significant are Weingarten and Garrity.  
**WEINGARTEN:** You have a right to have a union representative at any interview with a commanding officer which might involve disciplinary action. You must ask for representation.  
**GARRITY:** These concern potential criminal matters and you should assert: This statement, oral or written, has been required as a condition of my employment and may not be used for any other purpose without my expressed written consent/waiver of any constitutional or other legal rights, which are hereby preserved.

If you have any articles or announcements you would like published. Please forward them to me at [velma1215@aol.com](mailto:velma1215@aol.com). Note: all articles are subject to editing for content and length, Thank you. Steve Grandetti- Secretary OCDSA



# The Deputy



---

## The Phobia & Fears of Deadly Aggressions: Part 2 Continued from page 5

about how the juvenile suspect requested a private meeting with me after I gave my victim impact statement to the circuit court judge. The 10-year-old addresses the judge and debates how he wants to talk with me after the court hearing so he can apologize to me in person. After the hearing, as he leaves the courtroom, I perceive this child may be trying to be in control, dominate and intimate me with the requested meeting, which is now directed by the court. I tried to shuck off the mixed analytical thoughts of what may be going on with this juvenile and I reasoned to myself that his attorney may have coached him on how to behave before the judge.

There was a part of me that wanted to believe that there was no way a 10 year old could be so manipulating. Once I entered into the tiny private holding cell, the juvenile tells me why he wanted to see me and tells me how sorry he was, and that he was only trying to scare me. I ask him what he meant by “scaring me” and I respond that I was not scared so much as sad. The juvenile looks at me in the eyes and states he was pulling the trigger of the shotgun repeatedly. Playing the Monday morning quarterback I thought to myself, if I would have been aware of him pulling that trigger, there is no doubt I would have shot and killed him right then and there. I do not remember him pulling the trigger of that shotgun; some of the of events that day are still returning to me to this day.

I have left much of that meeting with my 10-year-old out of this article, but let me share this with you. Before leaving the meeting I ask this child what he wants to be when he grows up. My heart fills with pride as he yells out, “I want to be a Marine!”. I smile, he then says “because they know how to kill people”. I am crushed with his complete answer. It is interesting to note that the juvenile wrote letters of apology to his juvenile victims, but refused to write an apology to any of the deputies at the scene, when he was asked to do so by the Family Court staff. His reason, as he relates to me in the meeting, “I hate cops”.

I think about who my witnesses would have been that day. My only witness would have been the babysitter chasing the suspect down the street as he ran in a panic stricken mode from her. It was the babysitter’s husband’s shotgun that the juvenile was using in his crime wave. The babysitter, who didn’t like police officers either, would have been the hero as she gave her fraudulent eyewitness “facts” of the events to the media. Her account would have been an editorializing recall of the events leaving out the facts. This

babysitter was subsequently arrested and charged with R & O and has been bond over to the 6th Circuit Court.

John Douglas, (Retired FBI Profiler) wrote a great book titled Crime Classification Manual. This is also a must read book. John Douglas talks about the different witnesses we encounter, and how they can help and/or destroy lives depending on what kind of witness you have come forward. We should be prepared for parents, other family members, and friends who can be a “Distraught witness”. This means, the witness feels extreme distress and is filled with emotion. Their interpersonal conflict knows we are needed at the crime scene, but they really don’t want us there. This type of witness feels they need an end to the events, then turn upon the officer if the event has an adverse outcome for their family member. My only witness, the babysitter, could have destroyed my life if I shot that child. Sometimes I wonder if the babysitter or the 10-year-old’s parents would have been saddened and outraged that an officer had been shot and killed by their neighbor or son. Would the parents or babysitter have taken responsibility for allowing that 10-year-old access to the weapon? This is why when I hear the comment “just get over it” I feel it is insulting and degrading to me, and to you.

Let me conclude this months article that I had to find that inner peace within me so I could continue to function so that if there is a next time, I do not under-react and I get hurt, or over-react by pulling that trigger too soon. It takes time and support and understanding from our peers and the public to heal. I sank to the level of my training, instead of rising to the level of an aggressive incident, and I survived. I will explain later what I mean.

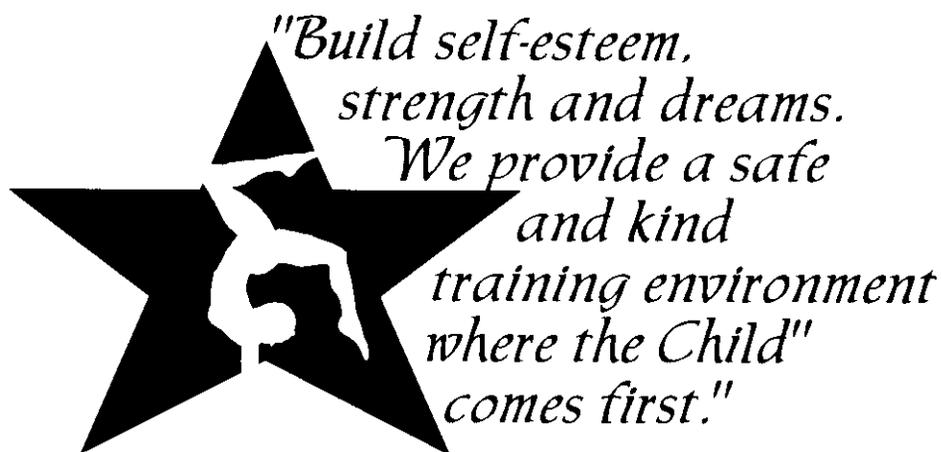
KEITH OVERBY

# Stars & Stripes Gymnastics Academy

7152 Gateway Park Dr.

(248) 625-FLIP

[www.StarGymnast.com](http://www.StarGymnast.com)



★ *Girls Gymnastics*

★ *Birthday Parties*

★ *Boys Gymnastics*

★ *Private Lessons*

★ *Cheerleading*

★ *Apparel Shop*

Call or visit us today for more information.  
See you there!