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Behind the Badge

E-News from the Law Enforcement Foundation

Dear LEF Supporter,

Welcome to the Law Enforcement Foundation's February e-newsletter, where we share the accomplishments of our recent graduates and stories of your generosity in action.

Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) Graduation

The Law Enforcement Foundation commends the 16 recent graduates of Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) Class XIV!

Chief Michael Harnishfeger, CLEE, of the Ada Police Department spoke at the graduation, held on Friday, February 12. A CLEE graduate himself, Chief Harnishfeger praised the students on their completion of "one of the most challenging courses offered in executive leadership and certainly the highest level of police executive leadership training offered in the State of Ohio."

"If you choose, if you desire, you can take this past year and make it one of the most valuable years of your life. CLEE has equipped you with the knowledge and understanding to affect and benefit many, many people," he added. "From your supervisors and peers to those you supervise, let the principles of CLEE guide and direct your leadership. Find ways to make your department the best police agency in the land."

We wish these officers well in their future careers as Certified Law Enforcement Executives!

CLEE is one of the programs exclusive to the Law Enforcement Foundation. If you are interested in sponsoring the CLEE program or a student of CLEE, please contact Donna Braxton at donna.braxton@oacp.org or 614-761-4630.

Thanks to Our Recent Donors

We extend our sincere thanks to our most recent donors for their generosity.

- The Davey Tree Expert Company, \$2,000
- Ethicon Endo-Surgery, \$1,000
- The Edward A. & Catherine L. Lozick Foundation, \$2,500
- City of Springdale, Ohio, \$1,000

As you prepare your 2010 philanthropic budget, please don't forget those who ensure our public safety. Supporting law enforcement is an investment in your community. Please make a tax-deductible donation at www.lef-oh.org to show your support!

Tip of the Month

In January's newsletter, we offered some tips to prevent identity theft by properly disposing of personal records. The process begins by sorting through all of your documents and then shredding those that are no longer needed. Some documents such as birth certificates and social security cards should be kept for a lifetime. Others may need to be stored for only a few months or years. Here is a list of common personal documents and suggested retention lengths from shrednation.com:

Tax Returns: Recommended retention is 7 years. The IRS has 3 years from your filing date to begin an audit, in which case you are required to present all of the backup information that was used to prepare your return. Keep in mind, however, that the IRS has 10 years to find mistakes in your taxes and collect on any amounts you may have underpaid.

Bank Statements: If you are planning to apply for a mortgage, you will need to present 3 months of bank statements. Otherwise, the bank has all of your records.

Credit Card Statements: Keep 3 months on file.

Pay Stubs: Your pay stubs contain all the information that an identity thief needs to open a financial account in your name. Keep only the most recent pay stub, which has

a running history of your previous earnings and deductions. The only exception is when you're planning to apply for a mortgage, when you may need to present 3 months of pay stubs.

Medical Insurance Documents: These documents include doctor bills, prescriptions, hospital bills, etc. Recommended retention is 5 years from the date of service rendered.

Remember to store all records you decide to keep in a secure place such as a safety deposit box or locked filing cabinet.

Keep in mind that these are general recommendations. Please check with your accountant if you have special circumstances.

Safer communities through education and leadership in law enforcement education.

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