



Behind the Badge

E-News from the Law Enforcement Foundation

Dear LEF Supporter,

Welcome to the Law Enforcement Foundation's November e-newsletter – *where we honor our supporters* and share news about our Foundation programs.

Thank you to our loyal supporters!

We'd like to *extend our sincere appreciation* to the following donors for their recent support of LEF:

American Electric Power, \$2,500

Emerson Network Power and Liebert Products Group, \$4,000

The English Family Foundation, \$3,000

The Sisler McFawn Foundation, \$8,000

Remember the LEF in Your 2013 Budget Planning

The Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) creates and maintains strong communities throughout the state of Ohio through its educational programs. The LEF provides management and leadership training for law enforcement executives, prepares officers to educate children about substance abuse and responsible decision making, and keeps law enforcement officers and community members abreast of trends that impact community wellness. With increased education, law enforcement officers are able to operate police departments at the highest standard, which results in reduced crime, safer schools and increased property values.



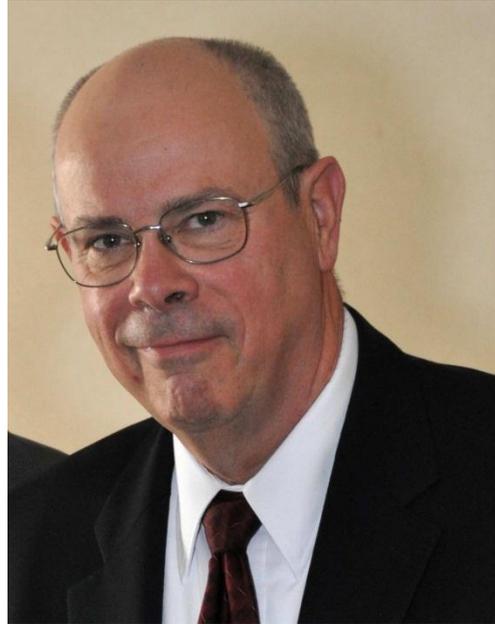
Public support enables the LEF to continue to provide its invaluable educational programs, and enhance the quality of life for all Ohio citizens. As 2012 comes to a close, please remember the LEF in your future budget planning. We look forward to partnering with all of our loyal supporters again in 2013.

Dr. Ted Oakley Retires as PELC Director

Dr. Ted Oakley joined the Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) in 1999. During his entire tenure, Dr. Oakley served as Program Director of the LEF Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) program. While under his leadership, more than 1100 officers graduated from the PELC program.

Dr. Oakley also served as Director of the OACP Education program and briefly the LEF Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) program. He also designed a statewide education program on racial profiling and organized a number of conferences on the topics of school safety and DNA. From 2004 – 2007 Dr. Oakley served as Project Director for the Ohio Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Network (OLLEISN), a Homeland Security project that enables local law

enforcement in Ohio to share local record information electronically. He assisted in linking hundreds of departments to the OLLEISN network



Dr. Ted Oakley

Photo: Police Executive Leadership College Alumni Association

Prior to working with the OACP and LEF, Dr. Oakley had a 30-year career in education, of which he spent the last 23 as an elementary school principal in Upper Arlington, Ohio. Dr. Oakley is a graduate of Cedarville University (B.S.), Miami University (M.Ed.) and The Ohio State University (Ph.D.).

The LEF is infinitely grateful for Dr. Oakley's many years of service and substantial contributions he has made to the organization. Retired FBI Agent Harry Trombitas will succeed Dr. Oakley as PELC director.

Community Policing: Westerville PD Builds Relationships with Civilians

It is critical that police build strong relationships with members of the community they serve in order to serve constituents in the most effective manner. One way for police to build relationships with citizens is through community policing. Although a neighborhood watch program may come to mind when "community policing" is mentioned, the concept encompasses much more. Community policing includes any program that builds a bridge that enables residents and law enforcement to communicate, collaborate, and work together to build safer, more caring communities, according to the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC).

The Westerville Police Department offers numerous community initiatives to build relationships with Westerville civilians and better serve the community. “We use civilians to break down barriers and support the organization,” Chief Joseph Morbitzer, CLEE,



Chief Joseph Morbitzer, CLEE, speaks to Westerville Citizens Police Academy students.

Westerville PD, said. “We

realize some people are intimidated by the police. We like to see people come out and be comfortable because we’re the ones they’ll come to if they need help.” Through its community initiatives, the Westerville PD has been able to make civilians feel comfortable with the police by enabling citizens to learn about policing and get to know the officers who serve them on a more personal level.

Westerville PD Community Initiatives

Westerville PD community initiatives include, but are not limited to, a youth finger printing and photograph program, Cops & Kids Day, Youth Police Academy, self-defense classes for women, and an internship program for students interested in criminal justice and forensics. The department also offers a quarterly Chief for a Day program, in which participants learn about the responsibilities of police chiefs, participate in a squad car ride-a-long with a patrol officer, and learn about the history of policing in Westerville. “It’s all about building relationships and creating partnerships within the community,” Chief Morbitzer said.



Cpl. Justine Alloway instructs Westerville Citizen Police Academy students before an activity.

Another popular initiative, the Westerville Citizen Police Academy (CPA), is a free program in which citizens learn about the day-to-day operation of the police department, as well as in-depth topics, such as the laws of arrest, use of force, and the criminal justice system. Participants enroll in the program for various reasons. Mary Hooker-Myers, a Columbus State Community College student, was recommended the program by a fellow student. Keith Sullivan, an aspiring police officer, “wanted to see what [he] was getting into before jumping into the process.”

Carol Hribar a graduate of the CPA who currently volunteers with the organization was curious and wanted to learn more about policing.

The academy gives insight into what policing entails and why police take certain actions for specific situations. “It’s easy to criticize when you’re not out there,” explained Hooker-Myers, a recent CPA graduate. “[The class] lets you see what police really do and why they do it.”

In addition to in-class work, program participants also get to participate in firearms simulation training and a four-hour ride-a-long with a patrol officer, which gives participants a hands-on experience and offers further insight into the role officers play in communities. “On the ride-a-long, I saw how the officer had compassion for citizens,” said Sullivan, a recent CPA graduate. “It made me more enthusiastic about becoming a police officer now. More people should do it.”

The intensive, 13-week course is “well worth the time,” according to recent CPA graduate Dan Foley who signed up for the program after recommendation from another CPA graduate. “I would definitely recommend [the academy] to others,” Foley said. Others seem to share Foley’s sentiments, as the course has grown in popularity since it was first offered in 1999. The CPA recently graduated its 27th class in October, and there is now a one-year waiting list for the course, which is offered twice a year.

Many CPA graduates go on to join the Westerville Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (WCPAAA). “We created a bond with our classmates and officers,” Hribar, graduate of the inaugural CPA class in the fall of 1999, said. “We started the alumni association because we wanted to give back.”

The WCPAAA is a nonprofit organization that partners with the Westerville PD to offer trainings and provide support for officers through activities, such as award ceremonies and acknowledgement of professional and personal milestones. The WCPAAA, which is comprised of volunteers, also helps facilitate programs, such as the Saint Nick Program, in which children receive gifts purchased by their officer parent from Santa in a police cruiser when the parent is on duty during the holidays.

Strong Relationships, Lasting Benefits

Westerville PD currently has 142 adult volunteers and 42 child volunteers who participate in various programs. The number of involved citizens is much greater, approximately 500, when members of neighborhood watch organizations are included. Having such a large group of civilians affiliated with the police department is not only beneficial for those who volunteer or participate in specific programs, the initiatives have a lasting positive impact on the entire Westerville community. Community policing is an effective way to “reduce polarization that sometimes exists between police and citizens” by increasing the level of trust



Westerville Citizens Police Academy students drive a go-cart that simulates impaired driving.

between the two groups, according to the NCPC. According to the NCPC, improved police-community relations benefits all citizens residing in a community in the following ways:

- Increased safety; specifically for vulnerable groups, such as children and seniors
- Less tension and conflict
- Greater cooperation from police
- Quicker resolution to crime

The NCPC also offers the following benefits for police in communities where community policing is encouraged:

- More effective policing
- Increase safety on the job
- Decreased threat of litigation
- Longer careers
- Increased level of respect from civilians
- Improved morale

Westerville PD has made a concerted effort to build relationships with the surrounding community that has proven beneficial for all Westerville citizens and the police department. “We are so fortunate to have the relationships we have,” Chief Morbitzer said. “It’s not a coincidence. It’s hard work, but well worth it.”