



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Frank Noonan – Chairman
Commissioner, Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

James W. Adams
Chief, Upper Allen Township PD
Cumberland County

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.
First Class Township Official
Delaware County

Anthony F. Boyle
Chief Inspector, Philadelphia PD
Philadelphia County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.
Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Barbara A. Butcher
Certified School Director
Tioga County

Lawrence M. Cherba, Esq.
Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Christopher J. Delozier
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Robert “Bo” Fean
Borough Official
Pike County

Stewart J. Greenleaf
Senate of Pennsylvania
Montgomery County

Joseph T. Hackett
PA House of Representatives
Delaware County

Mark E. Hall
Chief, Clarion Borough PD
Clarion County

Richard W. Long, Esq.
Representative, Public at Large
Cumberland County

Stephen L. Margeson
Chief, Carlisle Borough PD
Cumberland County

Todd E. Naylor
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Allegheny County

Keith R. Sadler
Chief, Lancaster City PD
Lancaster County

Ronald L. Stern
Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Sonia M. Stopperich
Second Class Township Official
Washington County

Vacancy
City Official

Vacancy
FBI, Special Agent-In-Charge

MPOETC Reimbursements

by Dr. E. Beverly Young, MPOETC, Director, Fiscal & Staff Services

In the latter months of 2013, Act 89 was enacted providing funding for the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (Commission) to reimburse municipalities for costs associated with basic and in-service training programs. Beginning in 2015, this new law will allow Commission staff to begin accepting requests for reimbursement for a portion of tuition and salary (while attending basic training), as allowed in the Municipal Police Education and Training statute (Act 120). The Commission will accept and process requests to reimburse for two 2014 mandatory in-service classes completed through a Commission-certified school. Additionally, the Commission will review requests for reimbursement to a municipality who paid tuition for basic training, to a Commission-certified school, and a portion of a hired officer's salary for basic training that began during 2014.

Commission staff will review and process requests in three (3) phases. The priority will be requests for reimbursements of mandatory in-service training that was completed and passed in the classroom between January 1 and December 31, 2014. The second priority will be given to requests for tuition reimbursement for basic training. Based on the availability of funding, the Commission will process requests from municipalities for salary reimbursement of hired officers who attended basic training during 2014. All reimbursements will be distributed on a pro rata basis in accordance with Act 120 and its attendant regulations.

To be eligible for consideration for reimbursement funding, courses in the basic and in-service training programs must have included lesson content addressing bridge and highway safety. Commission staff has determined that in-service courses Legal Update (Course No. 14-201) and Crimes against the Elderly: Transient Criminal Groups (Course No. 14-321) meet the criteria for reimbursement. Based upon course content, the Commission will evaluate courses and equitant training for reimbursement in subsequent years. Therefore, this determination applies solely to 2014 in-service training classes. In the basic program, 75% of the lesson content being instructed meets the criteria and as such, 75% of the tuition assessed by the Commission-certified school is eligible for reimbursement to a municipality. Additionally, salary reimbursement is only applicable to those hours of the basic training program meeting this criterion.

Requests for reimbursement will be accepted between January and March 2015. Commission staff will provide more information in the December 2014 newsletter.



2015 MIST Legal Update

MPOETC Commission members, staff, and course participants at a pilot course for 2015 Legal Update mandatory in-service training, discussing legal issues during the course.

MPOETC staff thanks all the police chiefs, supervisors, and police officers who attended the pilot sessions.

Photo by Sandy Myers, MPOETC

Highlights of the June Commission Meeting

Colonel Frank Noonan, Chairman, called the quarterly meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (Commission) to order on June 19, 2014, at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, Pennsylvania.

The Commission approved the minutes from the previous meeting on March 13, 2014.

Major Douglas E. Grimes presented his Executive Director's report. The report consisted of the certification exams administered, professional standards interviews conducted, school inspections performed. Staff attended meetings, training, and gave presentations. MPOETC staff held an Act 120 school directors meeting. Major Grimes met with the President of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Executive Director and President of the PA Chiefs of Police Association, and Lackawanna College firearms instructors. Major Grimes attended the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training Northeast Regional meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts, and the International meeting in Miramar Beach, Florida. Major Grimes spoke at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners at their annual meeting and educational conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Commission voted to approve the extension of Act 120 school certification for the Harrisburg Area Community College Police Training Academy for one (1) year or until the time of their next inspection.

In the absence of Commissioner Bart Burne, Ed.D., Commissioner Stephen Margeson presented the Executive Committee Report. Each Committee Chair gave their report.

Commissioner Stephen Margeson presented the Training Committee Report. The report was turned over to Commissioner Christopher Delozier. He presented a motion to table, until the September Commission meeting, action on four (4) police officers who requested an extension for training. The four (4) police officers sustained debilitating injuries, on the job, and were unable to meet their training obligations. Additional information will be requested from their physician.

In the absence of Commissioner Bart Burne, Ed.D., Commissioner Christopher Delozier presented the Waiver of Training Committee Report. The committee reviewed 230 full applications and 50-plus basic applications. The Commission approved all applications.

Commissioner Barbara Butcher presented the Instructor Certification Committee Report. The committee reviewed 62 new instructor applications and 14 amendments. One of the new applications was missing information. The Commission approved 61 of the new instructor applications and the 14 amended instructor applications.

Commissioner Lawrence Cherba presented the Rules and Regulations Committee Report. Legislature, in the near future, will be receiving the final draft of the rules and regulations.

Commissioner Richard Long presented the Professional Standards Committee Report. The first matter of vote was in regards to the reinstatement of certification policy. A proposed amendment is the role of the district attorney, of the county, where the candidate has a conditional offer of employment. It was deemed that the district attorney's participation in the process, or input on the process, optional. It is to benefit the district attorney and the candidate. A motion to approve the

revision to the reinstatement policy, and authorize the executive director to make all necessary actions to have it published and put in place as the new policy, was approved by the Commission. The second matter of vote was the applications for consideration of reinstatement of certification for Scott Ely Jr. and Michael K. Irely. The Commission accepted the recommendation of the Professional Standards Committee and voted to accept both candidates application for consideration of reinstatement of certification.

Commissioner Ronald Stern presented the Strategic Planning Committee Report. The report was turned over to Major Grimes. MPOETC is proposing to change the style and structure of the Mandatory In-Service Training. Staff would like to reach out into the community and talk more about the benefits of MPOETC, and how we can help improve the level of professionalism amongst our law enforcement peers.

In new business, it was proposed that the Training Committee will make a preliminary review if Mansfield University is going to decide to discontinue their Act 120 program. In addition, if Mansfield University decides to discontinue their Act 120 program, what is the required process for a school to apply to be their replacement?

Colonel Noonan recognized the newest member of the Commission – Commissioner Jacob (Jack) Bierling. He also recognized Chris Braun from the PA Chiefs Association and Gerry Gallagher representing Lackawanna College.

The next Commission meeting will be September 16, 17, and 18, 2014, at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Meeting was adjourned.

Information Regarding the September Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on September 16, 17, and 18, 2014, at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503, phone (570) 342-8300.

For the committee meeting schedule and full Commission meeting time; please refer to the insert on the next page. 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 or Editor. You may also find information about the meetings, including a link to the hotel, by visiting our web site at www.mpoetc.state.pa.us, by first clicking on "About Us" and then on the "Quarterly Commission Meetings" link.

The Executive Committee will hear reports from all committees. In addition, the Executive Committee will also open the 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.

Retail Theft Amended

by Adam N. Nowicki, LPI, LPQ

PFMA Loss Prevention Committee

Editor's Note: The MPOETC received a request from the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association to get information on the latest law changes regarding Retail Theft to municipal police departments throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because of the scope of this problem nationwide.

Does your jurisdiction have a Shopping Center? Retail theft arrests? On the surface, retail crime can be regarded as petty — yet often enough offenders are linked to activities on the radar of professional law enforcement (regional and interstate organized crime, gang activity, and narcotics to name a few). The FBI has consistently linked revenue of Organized Retail Theft (ORT) groups to terrorist organizations since September 11, 2001.

On December 23, 2013, Pennsylvania again strengthened its retail theft law by passing Senate Bill 731 (Act 131) into law. The retail theft section of the law, being a cooperative effort led by Sen. John Rafferty (R-Berks/Chester/Montgomery) and Rep. Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery) provides a stricter penalty for burglary, robbery, and theft by specifically amending the grading for the offense of retail theft. Act 131 comes on the heels of the 2010 passage of HB 1720 (Act 33), which added §3929.3. Organized Retail Theft to the crimes code, a felony offense for individuals guilty of managing an ORT "Enterprise". The FBI estimates merchants lose in excess of \$30 billion each year due to this activity, the revenues of which have been linked to organizations including Hamas and Hezbollah.

This activity poses a significant health risk to consumers who unknowingly purchase stolen infant formula, medication, and healthcare items which could have altered expiration dates or may have been improperly stored. Furthermore, the lost tax revenue reduces funding for municipal agencies. The good news is that agencies in the Commonwealth are now prosecuting offenders under §3929.3.

The passage of Act 131 also reduces the felony threshold for retail theft from \$2,000 to \$1,000. Doing so brings Pennsylvania more in line with other states in the U.S. with lower felony level thresholds. The

spirit of the law is to discourage organized crime from viewing Pennsylvania as a target-rich environment as they have in years past. The average shoplifter requires a substantial haul to reach this level and the summary and misdemeanor thresholds remain \$150 for first-time offenders. Another section of this act provides language that now constitutes the use of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program as a prior offense, stating "...the court shall include a conviction, acceptance of Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition or other form of preliminary disposition, occurring before the sentencing on the present violation, for an offense under this section...".

These two recently updated laws have given Pennsylvania law enforcement additional resources to combat retail crime. "Whether or not you signed up for the first time offender program, it is still a prior offense and this law will help clarify for the patrolman and district magistrate where sometimes the law is interpreted differently", said Detective Gary Hammer of the Colonial Regional Police Department, who has a number of retail locations in his agencies' jurisdiction. "Hopefully this eliminates the catch-22".

Pennsylvania Asset Protection Division Manager Wade A. Hess of Wegmans Food Markets Inc. had this to say, "We need not only the law-enforcement and retail community, but our Judges and elected officials to understand some of these so-called retail thefts are actually fueling much more dangerous enterprises. We can talk at length about the negative impact on the retailers, increased prices passed onto the public and millions in lost tax revenue to our state, but when you talk about crimes

that impact the safety of people there is a much greater sense of urgency. It is clear that Organized Retail Crime (ORC) has links to gang violence, drug activity, and even terrorism. This puts our children and our communities at risk. Hopefully these laws will provide law enforcement officers with the correct tools needed to prosecute offenders to the fullest."

With up-to-date retail theft statutes on the books, Pennsylvania retailers and police agencies have the ability to continue combating and mitigating the persistent issue of retail crime, which adversely affects citizens and government across the Commonwealth.

Schedule for the Next Quarterly Commission Meeting

TUESDAY, September 16, 2014

- 11:00 AM Waiver of Training Committee
- 2:30 PM Training Committee
- 4:00 PM Instructor Certification Committee

WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2014

- 9:00 AM Strategic Planning Committee
- 11:00 AM Budget Committee
- 1:00 PM Professional Standards Committee
- 2:00 PM Rules and Regulations Committee
- 2:30 PM Executive Committee

THURSDAY, September 18, 2014

- 9:00 AM Full Commission Meeting



Tim Ebersole, MPOETC Police Education Training Specialist (foreground), listens as new Commission member, Chief Jim Adams (third row, first seat) makes a point at a recent pilot course for MPOETC's 2015 mandatory in-service training. MPOETC staff thanks Beth Dombrowsky, HACC Police Academy School Director, for hosting the pilot courses at the Piccola Law Enforcement Training Center on August 25th and 27th. Photo by Sandy Myers, MPOETC

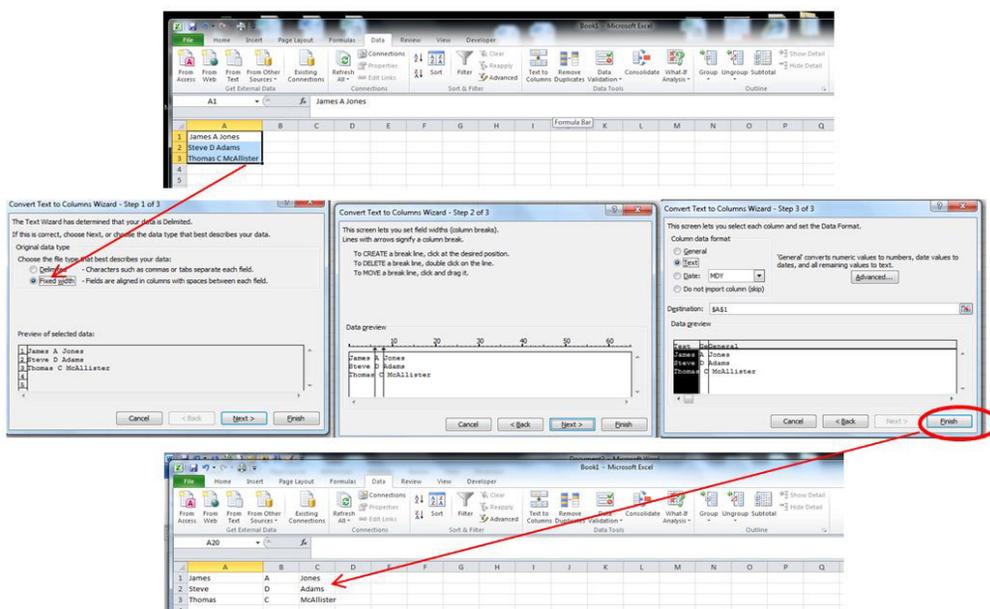
New Agency Executives

Chief Brandon L. Alexander	Mahanoy Township PD Schuylkill County	Chief Clifford J. LaFever	Glassport Borough PD Allegheny County
Chief Matthew L. Bartal	North Annville Township PD Lebanon County	Chief Jason C. Loper	Fairview Township PD York County
Chief Heath L. Boyer	Kane Borough PD McKean County	Chief James L. Mitchell	Philadelphia Housing Authority PD Philadelphia County
Chief Craig L. Campbell	Collier Township PD Allegheny County	Chief Michael E. Pitkow	Springfield Township PD Montgomery County
Chief Jason S. Dubernas	Old Forge Borough PD Lackawanna County	Chief Eric G. Porter	Charleroi Regional PD Washington County
Chief Brian D. Hughes	North Strabane Township PD Washington County	Chief Stephen D. Powell	West Reading Borough PD Berks County
Superintendent Joseph M. Jacob	PA Capitol Police Department Dauphin County	Chief Daniel J. Reynolds	Sayre Borough PD Bradford County
Chief John C. Kaczmarczyk, Jr.	Mahanoy City Borough PD Schuylkill County	Chief Robert E. Stout	Halifax Area Regional PD Dauphin County
		Chief Richard D. Young	Bentleyville Borough PD Washington County

Microsoft Excel 2010--Text to Column Function

By David Davis, MPOETC

Cells that contain data that should be separated can be corrected using the text to column function. In the example below, full names are displayed in a single cell. When data is entered in this fashion, it is very difficult to perform sorting and export functions. To display each data element (First Name, Middle Initial and Last Name) highlight the data you wish to convert. Next, on the data tab under data tools, select Text to Column. The Text to Column Wizard will appear. Follow the instructions and make the appropriate selections. When finished is selected, the data will be separated into distinct columns.



COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER TRAINING SCHEDULE

October - December 2014

10/09/2014	Introduction to Word
10/16/2014	Introduction to Access
10/23/2014	Introduction to Excel
11/06/2014	Intro to PowerPoint
11/13/2014	Intermediate Word
12/04/2014	Intermediate Excel
12/11/2014	Intern. PowerPoint
12/18/2014	Intro to Publisher

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.

CERTIFICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

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

e-mail: 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

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

FISCAL AND STAFF SERVICES

Fiscal, Procurement, Facility Management, Computer Learning Center

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

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

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

Columbus Day
Monday, October 13, 2014

Veteran's Day
Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 27, 2014

Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, November 28, 2014

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

Questions, 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 Major Douglas E. Grimes, Executive Director, or the Editor, Mr. Rudy M. Grubesky, by calling toll-free at (800) 342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses shown on this page, or 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.