



# NEWSLETTER

## Commission Membership

### **Tyree C. Blocker – Chair**

Commissioner  
Pennsylvania State Police  
Dauphin County

### **Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.**

First Class Township Official  
Delaware County

### **Richard M. Bosco**

Chief, Lincoln Borough P.D.  
Westmoreland County

### **Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.**

Law Enforcement Educator  
Luzerne County

### **Robert J. Carroll**

Noncommissioned Police Officer  
Delaware County

### **Christopher J. Delozier**

Noncommissioned Police Officer  
Dauphin County

### **Beth Dombrowsky**

Director Certified School  
Dauphin County

### **Stewart J. Greenleaf**

Senate of Pennsylvania  
Montgomery County

### **Douglas E. Grimes**

Chief, Peters Township P.D.  
Washington County

### **Barry J. Jozwiak**

PA House of Representatives  
Berks County

### **William J. Kelly**

Office of Attorney General  
Dauphin County

### **Richard W. Long, Esq.**

Representative, Public at Large  
Cumberland County

### **Guy A. Salerno**

Chief, Blakely Borough P.D.  
Lackawanna County

### **Ronald L. Stern**

Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.  
Dauphin County

### **Sonia Stopperich Sulc**

Second Class Township Official  
Washington County

### **Christopher M. Werner**

Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.  
Philadelphia County

### **Vacancy**

Borough Official

### **Vacancy**

Borough Police Chief

### **Vacancy**

City Official

### **Vacancy**

FBI, Special Agent-In-Charge

## 2017 Holiday Message

As the year comes to an end, the holiday season is upon us. It's a time to celebrate family, friends, and all that we are thankful for. Many times we, in law enforcement, are so busy helping and serving that we forget to stop for a minute and take pride in all we've accomplished throughout the year.

Across the Commonwealth, I see heroic deeds and outstanding work being done by our law enforcement professionals. I appreciate and applaud the many chiefs, officers, and department personnel for their ongoing dedication to maintaining the safety of our communities on a daily basis.

In looking at the many training facilities, their expert instructors, and the array of training opportunities, it's easy to see why Pennsylvania law enforcement is well-trained and highly respected.

We at the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) are proud of the many things we've been able to accomplish this past year. We are excited and look forward to 2018. The new year will mark the beginning of a new and expanded basic curriculum, expansion of the Training And Certification System (TACS), additional training opportunities, and much more.

So as we come to the end of 2017, my staff and I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season. Thank you, and we look forward to our continued work together.

Major Troy S. Lokhaiser  
Executive Director



## MPOETC Certification Requirements

All municipal police officers must comply with initial and ongoing certification requirements.

Through the use of the new Training And Certification System (TACS), the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) monitors compliance in real time and takes appropriate action as needed.

Departments are required to maintain accurate email contact information in the TACS, and notifications are sent via email to Chiefs and designated administrative personnel in advance indicating that a training requirement has not yet been completed. Officers who log in as guest users and add email addresses to their profiles also receive the notifications when training is required.

Below are the specific requirements each officer must comply with to maintain certification:

- Officers must maintain current CPR/AED and First Aid certification. The cards you receive at the time of training are good for two years and refresher training must be accomplished before the two years expires regardless of when that falls within the overall certification cycle or calendar year.
- Officers must complete 12 hours of in-service training each calendar year, inclusive of any mandatory courses set by MPOETC. The Commission establishes some courses as mandatory for all officers, but the remainder of the hours can consist of either MPOETC developed courses or Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) courses. CLEE courses can only be applied to the training year during which they are taken. Both requirements (overall hours/mandatory courses) must be met by December 31 each year.
- Officers must qualify on all firearms used on duty. At a minimum, officers must successfully qualify on their primary duty weapon once per calendar year. Qualifications must be completed by December 31 each year.
- Officers who fail to accomplish one or more of the requirements listed above will have their certification status changed to EXPIRED and will be removed from the list of certified officers maintained by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). Officers will be marked certified again once all required training has been completed and verified.

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, 2017**

**New Year's Day: January 1, 2018**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 15, 2018**

**President's Day: February 19, 2018**



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

## 2018 MPOETC In-Service and Continuing Education Courses

The MPOETC Training Unit has begun conducting instructor training workshops for police trainers who will be teaching the following Commission-approved 2018 In-Service courses:

### **18-001 Legal Updates (Required Course)**

A three-hour course to discuss significant pieces of legislation passed after July 1, 2016, that affect police operations and investigations, specifically changes and updates to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Vehicle Code, and Rules of Criminal Procedure. The training program would also address pertinent court decisions from the Pennsylvania Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts, and the United States Supreme Court and other federal courts and explains legal issues directly impacting police procedures and the case preparation process.

### **18-002 PJ Tactics and De-escalation Techniques (Elective Course)**

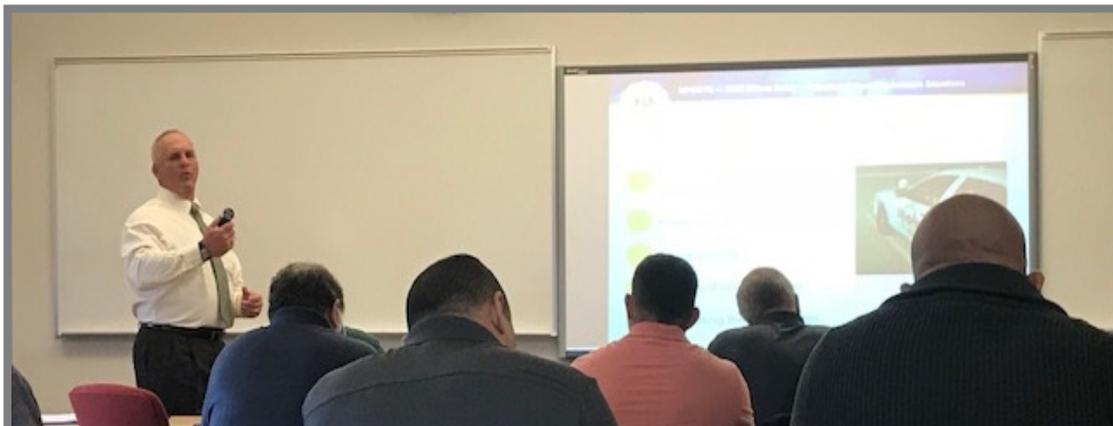
A three-hour course to build on the core concepts of procedural justice and police legitimacy being taught in 2017. This course will teach officers specific tactics and de-escalation techniques that support these concepts. As with 2017 PJ, some of the material will be drawn from two existing courses; Philadelphia's De-Escalation Techniques and Pittsburgh's Procedural Justice Tactical Legitimacy. Although optional, this course would build on the material taught to all officers in 2017 and would provide more specific guidance and recommendations to officers facing a multitude of challenging situations. The end goal, as with 2017 PJ, is to teach officers how to build respectful and effective relationships with the community while improving officer safety.

### **18-003 Assessing and Planning for Active Assaults (Elective Course)**

A three-hour course intended to develop police officers' ability to assist various community entities wishing to prepare for, prevent, and respond to active assaults. The intent of this training is not to replace other law enforcement active assault training, but rather to bridge the gap between knowing how to respond as an officer and knowing how to assist in the development of active assault response plans in schools, businesses, etc., throughout the community. Training would prepare officers to understand and conduct assessments, articulate the various first responder roles, and assist in the development of appropriate prevention and response plans.

### **18-004 Officer Safety - Detecting and Avoiding Ambush Situations (Elective Course)**

A three-hour course to address officer safety issues related to ambushes. Appropriate tactics, techniques, and procedures would be discussed related to the full spectrum of officer interaction with the public. Specific focus would be placed on identifying and detecting indicators of planned ambushes, as well as identifying situations that lend themselves to spontaneous ambushes. Emphasis on the role of officer complacency during routine activities, as well as discussions of effective responses during ambush situations would round out the course.



Chief Alexander Coghill of Canonsburg PD presenting the Officer Safety - Detecting and Avoiding Ambush Situations in-service training to instructors.  
*Photo by: Sgt. Jim Gress, Allentown PD*

## Highlights of the September Commission Meeting

In the absence of Colonel Tyree C. Blocker, Chair, Commissioner Richard W. Long called the quarterly meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (Commission) to order on September 14, 2017, at the Woodlands Inn Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The Commission approved the minutes from the June 15, 2017, meeting.

Major Troy S. Lokhaiser, Executive Director, presented his report. Major Lokhaiser, and members of his staff, attended the Harrisburg Area Community College Act 120 graduation in June. Major Lokhaiser personally thanked Director Dombrowsky and her instructors for piloting the new curriculum and for their willingness and cooperation with the project. Major Lokhaiser, and members of his staff, met with Chief Inspector Christopher Werner, and the Philadelphia Police Academy staff, to discuss the Training And Certification System (TACS) and to tour their Academy. Major Lokhaiser met with Pennsylvania Inspector General Bruce Beamer, and his staff, to discuss training needs for officers in the Inspector General's Office. Lt. George Peach, Assistant Director, attended the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Annual Conference in Camp Hill. He addressed their executive staff regarding TACS and the Commission office in general. He also taught Incident Command System classes to PSP Cadets. Mr. Isaac Suydam, Director of Training, met with the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing to discuss recognizing special needs and best practices for interacting with individuals with hearing loss. He completed the final work on the new basic training curriculum. Two Training Unit members attended a three-day training course on Officer Safety, Wellness, and Resiliency at Widener University. One Training Unit member monitored a three-day Field Training Officer course in York. The State Municipal Police Officer Certification Exam was administered 14 times to 419 applicants, which were given at the Commission office, Harrisburg Area Community College, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Lackawanna, and Mercyhurst police academies.

Commissioner Bart Burne presented the Executive Committee Report. Each Committee Chair gave their report.

In the absence of Commissioner James Adams, Commissioner Sonia Stopperich Sulc presented the Training Committee Report. In 2012, the Commission began the process of revising the basic police officer training curriculum taught at our certified police academies. A Job Task Analysis was completed, new training objectives were identified, and the curriculum was developed. In 2015, the revised 946-hour curriculum was piloted at Harrisburg Area Community College. Based on the feedback from students and instructors, a decision was made to delay the second pilot to allow for further revisions. After revisions were made, a second pilot of the now 922-hour curriculum was conducted from January to June 2017. The results of this pilot were used to make final revisions. A motion was made and approved by the Commission to accept the new basic curriculum effective January 1, 2018, as the single curriculum required for training and certification under Title 53 Chapter 21 Subchapter D of Act 120. As part of the new curriculum update and certification process, applicants must take and pass the State Certification Exam. The mandated certification exam has been completely revised to match the new curriculum. Part of the revision process involved validation testing that took place across the state to determine the most appropriate questions and acceptable scores for determining if an individual is qualified to be certified as a municipal police officer. In light of the validation testing and the results of the exam when administered to the graduates of the new pilot curriculum, Commission staff has recommended that the passing score be adjusted to more accurately evaluate individuals seeking certification. A motion was made and accepted to change the minimum passing score of the

certification exam from 68 percent to 72 percent for all individuals pursuing certification as a municipal police officer in Pennsylvania. Due to the increase in training hours, the certified police academies were directed to request tuition adjustments based on the new requirements. A motion was made and approved by the Commission for the certified municipal police academies to increase their tuition as they were proposed at the September Quarterly Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Bart Burne presented the Certification Committee Report. There were five revocations of Act 120 municipal police officer certifications that were presented. A motion was made and approved by the Commission to revoke all five Act 120 municipal police officer certifications. The Committee also reviewed three Act 120 school director applications—Scott Henry, Mansfield University Police Academy; Steven Vangelo, Allentown Police Academy; and Major William White, Pennsylvania State Police Academy. The Commission voted and approved all three school directors. The Committee reviewed 226 basic applications, 244 waivers, 63 new instructor applications, and 10 amendments to existing certifications. The Commission approved all applications, waivers, and amendments.

Commissioner William Kelly presented the Rules and Regulations Committee Report. The Committee received a report from the staff suggesting some proposed amendments to the Bylaws, which were considered and conditionally approved for later.

Commissioner Richard Long presented the Professional Standards Committee Report. There were no action items to report to the Commission.

Commissioner Jacob Bierling presented the Strategic Planning Committee Report. The Committee discussed some of the strategic initiatives that will be considered later this year.

Commissioner Jacob Bierling presented the Budget Committee Report. Last quarter's 2016 Grant Reimbursement balance was \$2,366,241.60. From June 2017 to August 2017, there were 15 requests for reimbursement, which totaled \$982,877.50. As of August 31, 2017, the balance of the 2016 Grant Reimbursement monies is \$1,383,364.10.

Commissioner Beth Dombrowsky presented the Special Committee Report. The Committee convened to deliberate and make recommendations to the Commission regarding Montgomery County Community College (Montco) raising their tuition on two separate occasions without seeking Commission approval as required by regulation. Montco has been forthcoming and cooperative with the investigation in follow up negotiations. The Special Committee and Montco have negotiated a remedy for this situation. Whereby, Montco will audit the records to determine all students affected by the increases and contact the impacted students. They will then refund proper amounts to each student, or where sponsored by a police department, payment will be made to the correspondent department. Montco will be tasked with completing this repayment within 90 days of Commission approval. They will also be tasked with providing follow up information to the Committee regarding the amount refunded and to whom. At the conclusion of the 90 days, if Montco has satisfactorily complied with the conditions, a final letter will be sent to Montco closing the matter and directing Montco that such conduct is not acceptable to the Commission. A motion was made and approved by the Commission to accept this report.

The next Commission meeting will be held on December 6 and 7, 2017, at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Information Regarding the December Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on December 6 and 7, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. Phone: 610-337-2000.

The Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, December 6th, at 12:30 p.m.

The Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, December 6th, at 3:30 p.m.

The School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, December 7th, at 8:00 a.m.

The full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, December 7th, 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.



**Q**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 Troy S. Lokhaiser 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 6. You may also write to:

### **M.P.O.E.T.C. 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](http://www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC), under Newsletters.

# New Agency Executives

- Chief Christopher A. Albright** Ferguson Township PD  
Centre County
- Chief David K. Clemens** Lewistown Borough PD  
Mifflin County
- Police Commissioner William D. Harden** Exeter Borough PD  
Luzerne County
- Chief Jennifer L. Lyon** Stroud Area Regional PD  
Monroe County

# Congratulations!



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