



# NEWSLETTER

## Commission Membership

### Robert Evanchick – Chair

Acting Commissioner  
Pennsylvania State Police  
Dauphin County

### Jarrad P. Berkhiser

Chief, Lancaster City P.D.  
Lancaster 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

### 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

### Joseph M. Pizano

Borough Official  
Luzerne County

### Guy A. Salerno

Chief, Blakely Borough P.D.  
Lackawanna County

### Ronald L. Stern

Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.  
Dauphin County

### Christopher M. Werner

Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.  
Philadelphia County

### Vacancy

City Official

### Vacancy

Second Class Township Official

### Vacancy

Senate of Pennsylvania

## Expanded Use of Mental Health Record Information

by Major Troy S. Lokhaiser, MPOETC Executive Director

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) is charged with the responsibility to administer the provisions of the Uniformed Firearms Act (UFA) as per 18 Pa CS § 6111.1(a). This charge has been described as “broad authority” for the purpose of “ensuring public safety and welfare by keeping firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals”. The UFA prohibits an individual who has been adjudicated as an incompetent or who has been involuntarily committed to a mental health institution for inpatient care and treatment under the Mental Health Procedures Act (MHPA) from possessing, using, controlling, selling or manufacturing a firearm in this Commonwealth.

Recent interpretation of the MHPA, and amendments to 37 Pa Code § 33.103(e), now permit PSP to expand the use of these mental health records in an effort to keep firearms out of the hands of individuals who have been adjudicated incompetent or involuntarily committed pursuant to the MHPA.

This change enables the use of the information to screen Academy police officer candidates, Act 120 certification candidates, and certified officers to ensure they are not prohibited from possessing firearms due to a mental health commitment. During the December 2018 MPOETC Commission meeting, the Commission members approved MPOETC staff to begin these screening(s) in 2019.

In addition, future enhancements may provide law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth to request mental health database searches in appropriate active investigations. The request to access this information will most likely be made via the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center, (PACIC).

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

## 2019 Mandatory In-Service Training

by MPOETC Training Unit

The MPOETC Training Unit has completed conducting the instructor training workshops for police trainers who will be teaching the following Commission-approved 2019 In-Service courses:

### 19-001 Legal Updates (Required)

A three-hour course to discuss significant pieces of legislation passed after July 1, 2017 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 also addresses 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.

### 19-002 Officer Safety – Unknown Risk Vehicle Stops (Elective)

This three-hour elective course reviews the skills required to perform a traffic stop with a focus on officer safety. Officers will review the practical application of basic concepts of how to affect an unknown risk vehicle stop. Methods of approaching the violator vehicle will be reviewed in terms of best practices, keeping in mind officer safety features. A key component to be discussed will be how to read pre-attack clues and effectively communicate with people while maintaining a position of safety. Officers will also review standard skills to be used in a sudden physical attack. Officer safety issues, both physically and mentally, will be an overriding theme.

### 19-003 Advanced Interviewing Techniques (Elective)

This three-hour elective course will sharpen the patrol officer's interviewing skills by discussing when and how to apply advanced interviewing techniques while initially interacting with victims, witnesses, and suspects. The training focuses on developing the skills of the patrol officer who takes interviewing seriously, practices good communication skills, and embodies the characteristics that produce an effective interviewer.

### 19-004 Criminal Technology and Electronic Evidence (Elective)

This three-hour elective course will study how technology has changed over the past decade with a focus on what types of technology are most frequently used in criminal enterprise and how to investigate accordingly. Instruction will include what electronic evidence and/or investigative information is available, how to collect it, and how to get it processed. The course will build on and update material provided in previous MIST courses 11-417 and 14-422.

Unknown Risk Vehicle Stops Training Committee Members pictured left to right: Ofcr. Bob Bennett (Derry Twp PD), Lt. Tony Palermo (Pittsburgh City PD), Ofcr. Brant Maley (Penbrook Borough PD), and Jeanne Crawmer (MPOETC).

Picture taken by: Isaac Suydam, MPOETC



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, 2018**

**New Years Day: January 1, 2019**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 21, 2019**

**Presidents' Day: February 18, 2019**

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

## We Are First Responders

by Craig Hevalow, MPOETC Training Unit

The first 9-1-1 call was made 50 years ago in the town of Haleyville, Alabama. With that, the 9-1-1 service took off. In the early days, it was not uncommon for a telephone operator in a police department to answer the line, then pass the details on to local first responders.

Today's 9-1-1 workers are more advanced. They use computer dispatch, geographic systems, and vehicle location technologies. Training for the job is extensive. The job has become an essential part of emergency response.

Representative Torres who represents California's 35th District is focused on having the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, make 9-1-1 operators classed as first responders. Having policymakers recognize them as such will better reflect the work they do.

In an article on Goerie.com posted on April 11, 2017 written by Ron Leonardi, the Erie County Dispatch Center was focused. Megan White, who was a shift commander at the time the article was published, said "I hope people will see that the telecommunicators are the first, first responders. I hope the community realizes what everybody here does is to help the community, but also it's a tough job and not everybody can do it."

9-1-1 workers are the first voices people hear during the worst moments of their lives. It is an important thought to consider, whether dispatch telecommunicators should be made first responders or not.

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### MPOETC Staff Updates

Jourdan Diem is the new Administrative Officer 1/Supervisor in the Certification Unit. Jourdan has been employed with PSP for over 12 years and recently promoted to MPOETC from the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

Vickie Shenberger is the new Clerk Typist 3 in the Lethal Weapons Section. Vickie was employed with Department of Corrections since 2011 and transferred to PSP in March of 2018. Vickie was recently promoted to MPOETC from the PSP Training Academy.

Clerk Typist 3 Laura Lenhart has left the Lethal Weapons Section and accepted a promotion to a Legal Assistant 2 with PennDOT on October 20, 2018.

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### 2018 Holiday Message

Dear Law Enforcement Friends,

The end of 2018 is near, and the Holiday season is upon us. A time to remember all that we are thankful for, and to reflect on the year gone by. It is also a time for renewed excitement and optimism of the new year to come.

We at MPOETC would like to Thank You for the commitment and service you provide to the citizens of our great Commonwealth. As we move towards a new year, we look forward to our continued work together.

We wish you a joyous holiday season, and a new year filled with hope, prosperity and happiness.

Best wishes,

Major Troy S. Lokhaiser

Executive Director



# Highlights of the December Commission Meeting



On December 6, 2018, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission met at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA for their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Evanchick, acting Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, called the meeting to order and reviewed the minutes from the September 13, 2018 meeting.

Major Troy S. Lokhaiser, the Commission's Executive Director reported on staff activities since the previous meeting, which included visits to certified municipal police academies, delivery of instructor development training, development of in-service training courses for police officers, administration of the municipal police certification examination, temporary certification actions for police officers and instructors, and the administration of both the Lethal Weapons (Act 235) and Retired Law Enforcement Identification (Act 79) Programs.

Commissioner Bart Burne reported on the committee meetings held the previous day, December 5, 2018, during which Commission members received detailed reports from staff and held in-depth discussions in preparation for the full Commission meeting. Following Commissioner Burne's report, the Commission members voted on and approved the following significant decisions to:

- Establish the following topics for 2020 Mandatory In-service courses: Legal Updates, Officer Safety - Explosive Devices, Operational Planning, and Individual Leadership Skills. Staff was directed to begin development of these courses immediately.
- Reduce the approved basic training tuition for the Reading Police Academy from \$6,700 to \$5,860 as requested by the Director of the Police Academy.
- Approve certifications for 256 new police officers, 20 new municipal police instructors, and to amend certifications for three municipal police instructors.
- Revoke certifications for 10 municipal police officers. Revocations were based on various disqualifying criminal convictions including False Reports to Law Enforcement, Theft, Tampering with Evidence, Forgery, Homicide by Vehicle while DUI, Stalking, Official Oppression, Voluntary Manslaughter, and Corruption of Minors.
- Revoke certification for one municipal police instructor for conduct which reflected poorly on the certified academy, specifically inappropriate conduct with a recruit/trainee.
- Utilize the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) to verify initial and ongoing eligibility of all municipal police applicants and certified officers by conducting checks for involuntary mental health commitments that would disqualify applicants and officers from possessing firearms.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on March 6-7, 2019, at the Wyndham Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA beginning at 12:30, March 6, 2019.



## Information Regarding the March 2019 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on March 6 and 7, 2019 at the Wyndam Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325. Phone: 339-0020.

The Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, the 6th at 12:30 P.M.

The Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, the 6th at 3:30 P.M.

The School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, the 7th at 8:00 A.M.

The Full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, the 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:

### **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. 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

<b>Chief William C. Bair</b>	Folcroft Borough PD Delaware County
<b>Chief Joseph J. Coffay</b>	Wilkes-Barre City PD Luzerne County
<b>Chief Michael E. Eves</b>	North Wales Borough PD Montgomery County
<b>Chief Duane M. Fisher</b>	Allegheny Township PD Westmoreland County
<b>Chief Samuel J. Iacono</b>	Oxford Borough PD Chester County
<b>Chief Mark E. Kasterko</b>	Meyersdale Borough PD Somerset County
<b>Chief Dustin D. LeGoullon</b>	Titusville City PD Crawford County
<b>Chief Stephen L. Margeson</b>	Camp Hill Borough PD Cumberland County
<b>Chief Matthew J. McCormack</b>	Milford Borough PD Pike County
<b>Chief Robert A. Rizzo</b>	North Huntingdon Township PD Westmoreland County
<b>Chief John W. Sleasman</b>	Latrobe Borough PD Westmoreland County
<b>Chief Bryan K. Smith</b>	Cumberland Township PD Greene County
<b>Chief Jonathan E. Wharton</b>	Upper St. Clair Township PD Allegheny County
<b>Chief Ryan S. White</b>	Spring City Borough PD Chester 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