



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Robert Evanchick – Chair

Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

William C. Barrett

City Official
Luzerne County

Jarrad P. Berkihiser

Chief, Lancaster City P.D.
Lancaster County

Richard M. Bosco

Chief, Lincoln Borough P.D.
Westmoreland County

Jason D. Brinker

Noncommissioned Police Officer
York County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.

Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Anthony C. Clements

Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Madra L. Clay

Local Government Policy Manager
Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Kristen L. Denne

Township Official of the First Class
Chester County

Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr.

FOP Representative
Allegheny County

Beth Dombrowsky

Director Certified School
Dauphin County

David A. Ellis

Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Douglas E. Grimes

Chief, Peters Township P.D.
Washington County

Barry J. Jozwiak

PA House of Representatives
Berks County

Richard W. Long, Esq.

Representative, Public at Large
Cumberland County

Corey B. Meyer

Township Official of the Second Class
Lancaster County

Joseph M. Pizano

Borough Official
Luzerne County

Guy A. Salerno

Chief, Blakely Borough P.D.
Lackawanna County

Christopher M. Werner

Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.
Philadelphia County

Vacancy

Senate of Pennsylvania

Police Training

by Isaac Suydam, MPOETC Training Unit Director

Most of us have heard about the push for law enforcement reform over the last few weeks. Certainly, in my role as the Director of Training for municipal police in Pennsylvania I've been involved in many conversations about what needs to be fixed and how it might be fixed. While there is no question that good training is critical, sometimes we fall into the trap of believing operational mistakes indicate a lack of effective training, and while they may, that is not always the case. Sometimes, despite the training they have received, officers make bad choices. More often, the situations officers face in real life are incredibly complex with unique aspects and time constraints that make them more difficult to resolve than any training scenario ever developed. Despite the challenges, most officers successfully accomplish their mission day after day, due in large part to the training they received, but also due to the professional operational environment in which they work.

Developing training is a complex task that requires identifying the behavior that you want the officer to exhibit when the training is complete. Armed with a clear understanding of what the officer is supposed to do in various situations, training is developed to help the officer identify the situation and choose the best response for a safe and effective resolution.

Current training for basic police officers consists of 919 hours of training at a certified municipal police academy and includes training not only in the law and things like driving, shooting, and medical training, but also in the finer points of interacting with people. For example, a class called Personal Bias and Procedural Justice teaches officers lessons learned from the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Other classes discuss cultural and religious differences, teach officers to recognize special needs and mental health situations, and teach strategies for successful intervention in crisis situations.

Once officers graduate and are certified, they attend annual in-service training to maintain their certification. Recent in-service classes included Use of Force in 2016, Procedural Justice in 2017, and De-escalation Techniques in 2018. Classes currently in development address the challenges of successfully engaging juveniles, combating human trafficking, and responding to individuals with special needs. While these classes teach skills defined by police officers during previous job task surveys and incorporate information from numerous topical specialists, there is always room for improvement.

Hopefully, with the increased attention it is receiving right now, police officer training will get even better as the Commission, in cooperation with the community, continues to revise existing training and develop new training to improve the way Pennsylvania's municipal police officers conduct the job society wants them to do.

MPOETC Updates

by Major Steve J. Ignatz, Executive Director

Greetings. As summer begins, it is my hope that the pandemic is waning, and normalcy will soon be returning to all. Until that time, MPOETC will continue to work through the challenges we have been presented with our many partners to provide for the timely certification of new officers and the best training for the 22,000 plus Act 120-certified officers across the Commonwealth.

I thank the Commission members for the faith they have placed in me by nominating and confirming me as the Executive Director on May 15, 2020. In the short time I have been at MPOETC, several things have become very clear. First, the Commission members work tirelessly to ensure the state's officers get the tools they need to perform their important work. Secondly, the MPOETC staff is eager to assist and always attentive to the needs of those served. Finally, Pennsylvania police officers are second to none anywhere in the world. They have an excellent basic training program and many opportunities for continual education which ultimately enhances the police services provided to those who live, visit, or work in Pennsylvania.

I ask that you all take the opportunity to thank the first responders and medical personnel you may encounter during your day. They have not had a break since the pandemic emergency began and a "thank you" would undoubtedly be appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact the MPOETC Office with any issues or concerns. The staff stands by ready to help. Lieutenant Andrew Wilk transferred from MPOETC to Troop P, Wyoming, where he will serve as the Staff Services Section Commander. Good luck to Lieutenant Wilk in his new position. Thank you for the outstanding work you did at MPOETC. MPOETC welcomed Lieutenant Rahn Richards to the Assistant Director position on June 13. Lieutenant Richards was most recently a Sergeant in Troop L, Reading. Lieutenant Richards has served at the Bureau of Training and Education and a variety of other roles over his years with the PSP.

Farewell and Thank You by Lieutenant Andrew Wilk

It is with a heavy heart that I will be leaving my position as Assistant Director of the Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission (MPOETC). Two years ago, when I was offered the position at MPOETC, I had some pre-conceived notions as to what the job might entail. I came here with a solid background in police training and had several experiences interacting with MPOETC staff during my time as a Commander at two different training centers. I really thought that these experiences would allow me to hit the ground running in the position and would maybe give me a leg-up. But what I came to realize was that my assumptions as to what happens at MPOETC was seriously inaccurate.

My training and experiences gave me a familiarity with the Act 120 curriculum and the daily operation of the statewide Academies, however this is only a fraction of the MPOETC duties. Officers' initial certification and then re-certification every two years would seem like a cut and dry, specifically laid out process that must be followed. However, there are countless situations that arise that can't be dealt with that easily. MPOETC staff along with input from our Chief Counsel's Office must then research all the factors so that we can give the Commission a proper background for them to make an informed decision. This also occurs with officers' suspensions, revocations, certification extension requests, training waivers, military deployments, etc. Academy issues ranging from financial, personnel, instructors, college campus restrictions, etc. must all be review and decided upon in the best interest of proper training. The continuous development of the yearly mandatory in-service training topics that are thoroughly researched by full committees of experts willing to give their time in the pursuit of providing the most up-to-date and innovative learning to our officers. Research, input, or development of policy is often requested from MPOETC staff due to current events or political hot topics. All of these and more are part of the daily activities completed by the MPOETC team. Additionally, outside of the municipal police duties, MPOETC administers the Retired Law Enforcement Act (RLEIA) and acts as oversight of all Act 235 certifications and training.

To say the least, my time at MPOETC was a huge learning opportunity that was both challenging and rewarding. I can't say enough about all the members of the team at MPOETC. I have found every one of them to be hard working, dedicated people all focused on the task of ensuring that the members of police departments and security teams across Pennsylvania are properly appointed and equipped to handle their duties. Each one of them had a personal impact on me. I thank them for working alongside me collaboratively so that together we could move MPOETC forward. It was an incredible experience and I could definitely say that I truly benefited from having this opportunity. Thank You.

Quarterly Legal Updates

The Commission recognizes that both statutes and case law can change frequently and throughout the year. While officers take mandatory Legal Update training, many times the officers would have benefitted from knowing about the changes when they happened rather than waiting months to attend the class. To help reduce the time it takes for officers to hear about recent changes to the law, the Commission’s quarterly newsletter now includes a synopsis of the most significant recent changes.

Kansas v. Glover:

On April 6, 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States decided *Kansas v. Glover*. A law enforcement officer stopped a pickup truck because he had run the license plate, the truck was registered to Charles Glover and Charles Glover’s license had been revoked. Before making the traffic stop, it was unknown whether or not Charles Glover was currently driving the pickup truck. The legal issue was whether it was reasonable for the officer to assume that the pickup truck was, at that time, being driven by the registered owner, Charles Glover.

The Court held the following: (1) Reasonable suspicion does not require 51% certainty; it is a lesser standard. (2) It was reasonable for the officer to assume that an individual with a revoked license may continue to drive a vehicle in spite of a revocation. (3) At no time did the officer learn any facts that eliminated reasonable suspicion that the pickup truck was being driven by its registered owner. (4) The stop of the pickup truck was lawful.

The Court noted that its holding was narrow. The justices relied on the fact that Glover’s license was revoked, not merely suspended. Under Kansas law, license revocations are for serious criminal offenses or for those who have multiple traffic violations. It was more likely that those offenders would violate the law by continuing to drive their vehicle, even after a license revocation.

Police officers should act prudently:

1. Where it can be done so safely, the officer should attempt to verify that the driver of the vehicle matches the age, gender and race of the registered owner before the vehicle is stopped.
2. As soon as the officer realizes that the driver of the vehicle is not the registered owner, the basis for a vehicle stop no longer exists. The driver must be free to leave.

Act 21 of 2020:

On May 21, 2020, the Governor signed HB 327 (PN 3678) into law. Now known as Act 21 of 2020, it made two temporary but significant changes to the way liquor is distributed in Pennsylvania. These changes allow certain retail licensees to sell prepared beverages and mixed drinks to go to non-licensees and allow certain retail licensees to sell liquor to each other. Officers should read the Act so they are familiar with the new laws.

Highlights from the June Commission Meeting

On June 18, 2020, the Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission conducted a telephonic meeting for their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Colonel Robert Evanchick, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police called the meeting to order and reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Lt Rahn Richards, the Commission’s Assistant Director, then reported on staff activities since the previous meeting.

Commissioner Bart Burne reported on the committee meetings held earlier in the day, during which Commission members received detailed reports from staff and held in-depth discussions in preparation for the full Commission meeting. The Commission members then heard full reports from the chairperson of each committee and voted on and approved the following significant decisions to:

- Increase the basic training tuition for Mansfield University Police Academy to \$5,500
- Extend the period of validity during which physical and psychological exams obtained by cadets can be accepted. Exams will now be valid for up to six months after a cadet leaves the academy.
- Approve certifications for new police officers, instructors, and academy directors.
- Revoke certifications for nine officers for criteria including physical or psychological impairment and convictions for False Statements, Corruption of Minors, Obstruction, Forgery, and Aggravated Indecent Assault.
- Approve policies that allow certain individuals to be suspended pending revocation in cases where relief is an option, such as mental health commitments and temporary firearm prohibitors.
- Approve a policy that allows cadets who are dismissed for cheating to reapply after one year.

Information Regarding the September 2020 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on September 9 and 10, 2020 at the Kalahari Resorts, 250 Kalahari Boulevard, Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania 18349. Phone: 877-525-2427.

The Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, the 9th at 12:30 P.M.

The Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, the 9th at 3:30 P.M.

The School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, the 10th at 8:00 A.M.

The Full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, the 10th 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.



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 the Executive Director, Major Steve J. Ignatz 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 5. 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, under About Us > Quarterly Newsletters.



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

Independence Day: July 3, 2020

Labor Day: September 7, 2020

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

New Agency Executives

- Chief Dale R. Binker** Plains Township PD
Luzerne County
- Chief Brandon J. Graeff** Marple Township PD
Delaware County
- Chief Michael D. McGovern** Washington Township PD
Franklin County
- Chief James L. Morehead** West Chester Borough PD
Chester County
- Chief Matthew R. Podsiadly** Scott Township PD
Allegheny County
- Chief Matthew J. Wright** Meyersdale Borough PD
Somerset 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
 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
 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
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

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