



# OREGON PEACE OFFICER

Vol. 33 No. 3

Summer 2007

## President's Page

By Officer Steve Piper,  
Gresham PD and  
OPOA President



Greetings,

I'm happy to report that the membership of OPOA has climbed over 1200 members, the highest it has ever been, and it is still rising. We have been offering some great training seminars and getting excellent evaluations. We have a number of classes coming up so please check our website and sign up. As always if there is training you would like to see and/or area in the state we need to come, let us know. You can either contact our training coordinators, click the suggestions link on the website, or email me at [steven.piper@ci.gresham.or.us](mailto:steven.piper@ci.gresham.or.us) or call me at 503-618-2316. We can't guarantee to fulfill every request but we will try our best. If your agency would like

some specific training and is willing to host, let us know.

The dates for the OPAO conference have been set and it will be in Newport at the Best Western Agate Beach, November 14-16, 2007. As usual we will have an outstanding array of topics and lecturers, followed by the awards presentation and banquet. If you haven't been to an OPOA event, this would be a good one to attend. Keep an eye out for the mailings, faxes, and LEDS notices of the event schedule and registration information. Also OPOA award letters and criteria have been mailed out to all members and sent to departments. Please return those nominations as soon as possible. We are more than willing to honor all those that go above and beyond that call of duty in order to serve the citizens of Oregon. They do not need to be OPOA members to get an award.

Special Olympics Oregon is having their big Summer Olympics games June 29 though July 1, 2007 at the Hillsboro Stadium in Washington County. This is a wonderful event to attend, greet and hand out awards to the games participants. I was on the color guard for the recent event in Gresham and the appreciation of the athletes, parents, and organizers was overwhelming.

Also if you are willing to get more involved with OPOA let us know or come to a meeting. We meet at 1000 hrs on the third Friday of the month at the Public Safety Academy in Salem, and would welcome your attendance.

We have a date for the Major Crimes Conference of Tuesday January 22nd to Friday 25th, 2007. We are waiting for the proposal but we have the dates secured at Seven Feathers.

Sincerely Yours, Steve

### Inside the *Oregon Peace Officer*

President's Page	Page 1
OPOA Scholarship winners	Page 2
38th Annual Training Conference	Page 2
Lend A Hand	Page 3
Digital Voice Recordes	Page 3
Ethical Survival <i>by Randy Sutton</i>	Page 4
Lt. Colonel David Grossman	Page 7

## **The Oregon Peace Officer**

The *Oregon Peace Officer* is published by the Oregon Peace Officers Association (OPOA). The opinions expressed herein may not necessarily be those of the OPOA, it's officers, Editor or its advisors.

### **OPOA Executive Board:**

President: Officer Steve Piper, Gresham P.D.  
1st VP Wendy Svaren, Lake Oswego Police Department  
2ND VP Mark Posler Corvallis Police Department  
Treasurer: Analyst Marian Nemeth, Oregon State Police  
Chris Woolcock, (ret.) Immediate Past President  
Robert Morris Law Enforcement Data System  
Bob Keyser  
Deputy Micah Smith Linn Co SO  
Lt. D. Scott Dye DPSST  
Robert Bartholomew Polk Co. SO  
Deputy Brian Sutter Marion Co SO.  
Grant Davis Salem Police Dept

Exec. Secretary: Sgt. Larry Stephens Retired, Salem PD

### **Alternate Board Members:**

Sgt. Rick Igou, Independence Police Department  
Brenda George, Admin Supervisor, Myrtle Creek P.D.  
Sgt. Mike Harmon, Linn Co. Sheriff's Office  
Richard Rivera  
Investigator Paul G. Smith, Oregon DOJ  
Sgt. Stephen Duvall, Oregon State Police, GHQ  
Sgt. Malcolm T. Lewis, Oregon State Police

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Richard Karman, Portland Police Bureau, Retired

### **OPOA Business Contacts:**

Exec. Secretary Sgt. Larry Stephens Retired  
P.O. Box 9211, Brooks, OR 97305  
Business phone (503) 393-9237  
E-mail: OPOAOFCA@aol.com  
Web Page [www.opoa.info](http://www.opoa.info)  
Webmaster Marian Nemeth, OSP

### **Editorial Submissions:**

Off. Richard Karman, Portland Police Bureau, Retired  
P.O. Box 9211, Brooks, OR 97305  
Message phone 503-393-9237  
Or [editor@opoa.info](mailto:editor@opoa.info)

## **OPOA Scholarship**

We will have two scholarship recipients this year -

**Christian Hennessy** is the son of Sgt. Dean Hennessy of Oregon City PD. He is graduating from Oregon City High School with a 4.0 gpa, attending OSU, and majoring in civil engineering.

**Randalee Winter**, daughter of Neal Winter, is a cadet and student volunteer for the Independence PD. She will be a second year student at WOU, majoring in criminal justice. She was recommended for this scholarship by Rick Igou.

## **38th Annual OPOA Training Conference**

The Oregon Peace Officers Association 38th Annual Training Conference will be held November 14-16, 2007 at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn conference facility, located at 3019 North Coast Highway, Newport, Oregon. The website for the Inn is [www.agatebeachinn.com](http://www.agatebeachinn.com). The annual OPOA Awards Banquet will be at the same location on the evening of Friday, November 16, and will conclude the conference.

The OPOA Executive Board and training staff are working hard to make this conference enjoyable, pertinent, and successful. As in the past, the content will be appropriate for all the members of OPOA and our partner agencies.

We are still in the process of obtaining presenters for the conference, however, we are pleased to announce that Lieutenant Randy Sutton of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department will be instructing a class on "Policing With Honor," which covers ethical issues related to law enforcement. Lt. Sutton will also be the Banquet Speaker at the Awards Banquet.

Lt. Sutton is an experienced law enforcement professional who is also an accomplished author and speaker. Additional information regarding Lt. Sutton can be viewed at his web site, located at [www.policingwithhonor.com](http://www.policingwithhonor.com).

[Read the article on **ethics** written by Lt Sutton beginning on Page 4.]

## Lend a Helping Hand



Three year old Madisyn Jenkins, daughter of Polk County Detective Tyrone Jenkins, was recently diagnosed with leukemia and is being treated at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon.

Madisyn is like any other 3 year old child; fun loving, with a zest for life. Right now, she's fighting the toughest fight she'll ever fight. We know she's up to it and that she'll be able to overcome whatever challenges that come her way. In the meantime, treatment for her illness is quite expensive. While insurance covers most things, it doesn't pay for everything. In the past, some families have been saddled with an almost insurmountable debt once treatment is complete and insurance companies have paid the limit to their policies.

OPOA has made a \$500.00 donation to assist the family in meeting the financial challenges incurred by this dreaded disease. On top of this, OPOA's sub-chapter, the Reserve Peace Officers Association made an additional contribution to further help also. Anyone wishing to join the cause, is encouraged to donate by making a check to 'Donations for Madisyn' and mailing it to the Polk County S.O. at 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR. For additional information, go to [www.caringbridge.org/visit/madisynjenkins](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/madisynjenkins).

## Don't Reinvent the Wheel

Departments are moving to the use of digital voice recorders. Instead of reinventing the wheel, Lake Oswego PD wanted to know how other agencies were handling the change.

Wendy Svaren asked for comments from agencies that already made the switch:

(Ashland PD) Our department just recently converted to the use of digital recorders EXCLUSIVELY. Every officer, including my position, was issued a new Olympus digital voice recorder WS-100. We also have a new G.O. outlining the use of the recorder. The recording must be downloaded onto a CD and submitted into evidence whenever there is a concern that the case may require that evidence, such as a DUII etc. The

recorder holds 5 folders at 199 files per folder before it needs to be cleared. [David Day ]

(Lincoln County SO) Our detectives use these recorders & download the interviews onto a cd: Olympus digital voice recorder WS-100. I just see the cd when it is placed in evidence. [Kerry]

(Jackson County Sheriffs Office) All of our criminal division deputies (30 plus) are issued a digital recorder. When they record a conversation for a case, the deputy downloads the file to a standalone computer for that purpose only. We then periodically burn these files to CD (one work copy and one archive copy). Lieutenant Rich Fogarty, Criminal Investigations Section, .

(Eugene PD) Our officers download their recordings directly from their recording device to CD and submit the CD to our unit as evidence. [MEL]

(Lane County SO) Digital is the only way to fly....Our guys use the small digital voice recorders and transfer the files to a disk for impound. Saves huge blocks of time and space. We have a system that parallels our county-wide digital imaging system for transferring audio files to the DA's office. Most of the time we never have to leave the office, just upload the file (titled with case & item numbers) to the audio system and the DA's office picks it off the drive on their end. We almost never have to present the original recording at trial. I like digital.....a lot! [Sandy]

(Astoria PD) Astoria PD has been using digital for about one year. It has been great, all pros, no cons. The officer downloads the recording to our records computer system and to a CD for the evidence room. [Barb]

(Albany PD) Our department has been using digital recordings since late 2005—love them! At least they don't take up any physical storage space. The officers download the recording into a temporary file in the computer. When they do this, they name the recording using the incident number, the name of the person they are recording, what number of recording, and their badge number. Once this is done, they cannot make any changes (even if they incorrectly name the file). Only P&E has administrative authority to make changes. The officers can still listen to the recording and, if they wanted to, can make a copy. Once we get a property report, we then move the recording into a

permanent file in computer that is set up by the year. If there is a request for a copy, we then copy the recording onto a disc. I can't even think of a con. Let me know if you need more specific information. [Judy]

(Forest Grove) We use the digital recorders but it is mostly used by our dets. They download the recording and submit it to a secure folder on our network and then I move it over to the evidence drive where I store my digital photos. We have been doing this for about a year. So far, no issues. [Tracy]

I hope these comments help everyone as much as it did my department. I am sure we will be moving into the digital phase of audio recordings. It looks like it is working well. Oh and shall we have a prize for the most inventive comment while still actually giving us the answer? Thanks to all of you for making this work and helping each other out. Thanks again,

Wendy Svaren, Lake Oswego Police Department  
380 "A" Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034  
Evidence Division (503) 534-5694

## **Ethical Survival:**

### **Officers must prepare for not only physical danger but ethical danger as well**

By Randy Sutton

*Lt. Randy Sutton is our featured speaker at the 38th annual OPOA training Conference next November at Agate Beach on the Oregon Coast. This is an article that will provide a preview of what to expect. [Used by permission of the author.]*

An LAPD honor guard stands tall and represents everything that's right about police work. Ethics allegations hurt everyone who wears a badge.

On a dreary autumn morning seven years ago, Sgt. Philip Ross stuffed his fully loaded 9mm SIG into his waistband and headed into the wooded area behind his home. He thought of his wife, his daughter and his 14 years at the police department where his fellow officers were more like family than co-workers. A note in his pocket said, simply, "I'm sorry, please forgive me." Attached to the note was a New Jersey grand jury indictment bearing his name.

Fortunately, Ross' wife was home. Running into the woods, she came upon him in time to stop him from his planned suicide attempt. Back at the house,

he showered and dressed, and together they drove to the court for his sentencing.

Now, seven years later, with pain still etched on his face, former police Sergeant Phil Ross told me, "For years I trained . . . firearms, tactics, officer safety, and in the end I destroyed my own career and almost my life with one stupid decision."

### **What was that decision?**

Ross had bolstered the strength of a case against a major narcotics trafficker by claiming in an investigative report that narcotics found in the suspect's residence were discovered after a search warrant was issued. In reality, the evidence had been discovered during a protective sweep before a search warrant was issued.

Ross' motives were noble - he wanted justice to prevail in a case where the suspect was clearly guilty - but by lying, he violated his oath of office. Noble-cause corruption is still corruption.

### **The New Survival Challenge**

Physical danger is among the most fundamental aspects of law enforcement, and so, in order to survive, we train to protect ourselves both physically and mentally. Yet the last decade has seen a leveling off of line-of-duty deaths of law enforcement officers. Most point to better equipment, body armor and training, and as a police trainer for one of the largest police agencies in the United States, I must agree. The training budget in most police departments is geared heavily toward firearms training, tactical training and officer safety, and, accordingly, those are the concerns in the minds of our nation's law enforcement officers each day as they pin on their badges and strap on their gun belts.

But ethical danger, as Ross experienced, can also prove fatal, at least career-wise.

For example, in my department alone, for every officer lost in the line of duty in the last five years, 70 were fired for ethical misconduct. And unlike those who died honorably, these officers are alive but disgraced.

### **The Concept of Ultimate Responsibility**

I recently saw an interview with a corrections officer caught on video forcing prisoners to abuse one another sexually while he watched. He denied he was in the wrong, claiming no written rule forbade his behavior.

This ignorant justification, a denial of personal responsibility, rings closely to what every law enforcement officer hears on the street every day. The constant exposure to the array of excuses that spew from criminal suspects contributes to the hardened cynicism in street cops. But we cannot allow either the I'm-not-responsible mindset or unchecked cynicism to pollute the perspective guiding our actions.

Our job entails a great amount of discretion and autonomy; we must accept a degree of responsibility commensurate with our positions. If I make a decision, however big or small, I am accountable for it. Ownership of each decision, from the mundane to the life changing, lies with the one who makes it. This is the concept of ultimate responsibility. If we embrace this basic idea, we can avoid myriad ethical pitfalls.

Take the case of Officer John Black, a three-year police officer in a large urban police department. Black came under investigation for logging out for an unauthorized coffee break during a follow-up investigation. When questioned, Black compounded his mistake by denying taking the coffee break, unaware he had been observed by another officer. Thus, where he had faced minor disciplinary action, he now faced - and received - termination.

He made a mistake he compounded by not being accountable.

Statistically, law enforcement agencies across the country are seeing higher rates of termination for truthfulness issues than ever before. Regrettably, in many cases, had the officers not lied about the initial conduct under investigation, they would not have been terminated.

Aside from basic ethical duty, a number of pragmatic reasons indicate why law enforcement agencies nationwide increasingly hold officers strictly accountable for truthfulness, including public awareness of officer conduct and oversight scrutiny provided by citizens' review boards. Court decisions, such as U.S. vs. Henthorn, that allow a judge to examine a law enforcement officer's personnel file in order to determine an officer's credibility pose another factor. If an officer has a truthfulness issue on record, their usefulness as a witness is basically forfeited.

## **Preparing for Ethical Survival**

Lack of truthfulness, however corrosive, is not the most potentially destructive enemy of an on-duty law enforcement officer: complacency is. Complacency means more than dropping your guard. It means shortchanging yourself and the quality of your life by doing only the minimum necessary to get by. Ethical survival requires preparing the psyche with the same vigor you use to prepare for tactical survival.

I asked a highly respected and decorated 20-year police veteran how he had escaped ethical pitfalls during his career. He said simply, "I know myself, and I respect who I am." He discovered one of the most important strategies in mental preparation: self-definition.

Each of us is unique in our life's experience, personal values and goals. But few of us take the time to reflect on who we truly are. How can we do this?

### **Complete a Personal Inventory**

This isn't as easy as it sounds. A personal inventory requires taking a long, introspective look at your personal traits and characteristics.

Ask yourself:

- What are the qualities I like about myself?
- What are the aspects of myself I am not proud of?
- When I look at my actions and interactions with others, am I honest and compassionate? Or am I selfish and petty?
- Who you are is not a matter of chance but a matter of choice.

If you like what you see, you can probably clearly visualize the hard road of self-evolution you traveled. If, however, there are areas you feel need improvement, this is the opportunity to identify those aspects and consciously change them.

### **Believe**

Religious belief and spirituality have long played a vital role in guiding the decision-making of those who contribute to their communities. Our nation's law enforcement officers come from every religious background known, and many have been drawn to the profession because of the corresponding values that law enforcement represents. The label you attach to your set of beliefs isn't as important as the existence of those beliefs; those officers who have strong belief

systems are far less inclined to stray ethically than those without.

### **Honor Yourself & Your Co-Workers**

Law enforcement officers are special people. Unfortunately, we honor ourselves rarely, typically for funerals and retirements. But each day, heroic actions are commonplace.

How often have you watched a professional sports game in which a player accomplishes a difficult play? More often than not, teammates acknowledge the player with encouraging words and vigorous pats on the back.

Law enforcement is the ultimate team sport. When another officer accomplishes a good arrest or makes a positive difference in someone's life, celebrate it. Be vocal, congratulatory, encouraging. Honor your co-workers, and, when your moments come, they will honor you.

### **Conclusion**

Law enforcement continues to lose dedicated, talented officers to ethics-related mistakes. Just as we prepare ourselves tactically for physical threats, we must prepare ourselves mentally for ethical threats.

By embracing the concept of ultimate responsibility - the principle of accountability - we take charge of our own professional destinies. By equipping ourselves with self-knowledge, we protect ourselves with the armor of values and professional honor. Otherwise, as Ross can attest, it's a long and lonely walk into the courtroom for sentencing, but it's an even longer walk into the woods.

### **Awards Nominations:**

Each year the OPOA recognizes the work that "peace officers" contribute to their agencies, and the citizens they serve.

Law enforcement administrators are encouraged to nominate outstanding personnel from their agencies NOW. The criteria for each award classification is clearly defined and can be reviewed on the OPOA website [www.opoa.info](http://www.opoa.info).

**Nominations for the 2007 Awards Banquet must be received by August 1, 2007.** For additional information, please call the OPOA office at 503-393-9237

## **Lt. Randy Sutton**

### **2007 Training Conference Featured Speaker**

Lieutenant Randy Sutton is a 29-year police veteran, serving 10 years with Princeton (N.J.) Police Department and the past 21 years with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He is the author of *True Blue: Police Stories by Those Who Have Lived Them* and the autobiographical collection of stories, *A Cop's Life*, released in 2005 by St. Martin's Press. Contact him through his Web site at [www.policingwithhonor.com](http://www.policingwithhonor.com).

Randy Sutton is the most decorated officer, in terms of commendations for saving lives, valor and meritorious service and exemplary service, in his department's history. His assignments have included: Narcotics Detective, Federal Task Force Commander, Field Training Sergeant, Community Oriented Policing Sergeant, Advanced Training Supervisor, and Certified Police Instructor.

He is also certified as a Law Enforcement Ethics Instructor by National Institute of Ethics. Aside from his day job in the profession he loves, LT. Sutton is an award-winning author in the field of short non-fiction, a novelist, and an actor of some regard. He most recently appeared in the pilot for the new CBS series *Las Vegas* with James Caan, and has appeared in numerous television shows, commercials and feature films including *Casino* opposite Robert DeNiro and Sharon Stone. His writing ability has recently taken him into the world of filmic entertainment where he currently has a cable television series in development with a major studio. He also has an extensive background in musical theater and is an accomplished singer. He has produced a critically acclaimed CD of swing and big band era standards and original compositions and continues to sing at venues in and around Las Vegas when his schedule allows. LT. Sutton also sits on the board of several charitable organizations and fights "the good fight" on a daily basis: assisting America's law enforcement in any way he can.

## Lt. Colonel David Grossman Returns to Oregon

### Clackamas County Training

Grossman's nationally acclaimed seminar, the Bullet Proof Mind: Mental Preparation for Combat will be presented on Thursday, November 15, 2007 0800 to 1700 at Willamette Falls Hospital (Community Health Education Center) 519 15th S. Oregon City, Oregon 97045 for all interested Law Enforcement personnel. Registration is \$60.

This training is sponsored by the Clackamas County Criminal Justice Training Committee. For more information contact Sgt. Tom Broomfield (Milwaukie PD), 503-786-7493 or e-mail broomfieldt@ci.milwaukie.or.us. To Register contact Joan Lebaron (Clackamas County Juvenile), 503-655-8342, ext. 7129 joanle@co.clackamas.or.us

**Overview:** Drawing on interviews, published personal accounts and academic studies, Lt. Colonel Grossman investigates the psychology of killing in combat. Stressing that human beings have a powerful, innate resistance to the taking of life, he examines the techniques developed by the military to overcome the aversion. Lt. Colonel Grossman is a dynamic speaker who is sure to bring his experience to bear on this important topic related to the law enforcement community.

## Safety Warning

### Thumb drive spy

A product looking very little different from a conventional "thumb drive" or jump drive is being marketed by Solid Oak Software. Their intent is to monitor the use of a computer when parents are not at home. Instead of being just a USB storage device, this device can spy on every transaction and every E-mail performed on any computer. The ramifications in a law enforcement work place are obvious.

If your office allows outside personnel to use "personal USB devices" on departmental machines in a controlled environment, your policy makers should first review the Department of Defense, Criminal Intelligence Bulletin #2007-003. To learn more about this product visit [www.snoopstick.com](http://www.snoopstick.com).

## OPOA Presidents:

These are the men and women who have lead the Oregon Peace Officers Association for over 38 years.

- 1969-70 Orlo McGee Medford Police Department
- 1970-71 Ken Goin Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 1971-72 Joe Burchfial Jackson County Sheriff's Office
- 1972-73 Leonard Skinner BPST
- 1973-74 Paul Miner Roseburg Police Department
- 1974-75 Ed Spiruta Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 1975-76 David Conner Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 1976-77 Melvin Scofield Salem Police Department
- 1977-78 L. Dale Morris Lake Oswego P.D.
- 1978-79 Jim Willis Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- 1979-81 Art Martinak Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 1981-82 Marion Valburg BPST
- 1982-83 Charles Knight Coos Bay Police Department
- 1983-84 Richard Tenderella Oregon State Police
- 1984-85 Darrell Hill The Dalles Police Department
- 1985-86 Randy Martinak Oregon Department of Justice
- 1986-87 Mark Caillier Salem Police Department
- 1987-88 Richard Vannice Albany Police Department
- 1988-89 G. Scott Barnes Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 1989-90 Mike Bishop Coos Bay Police Department
- 1990-91 Randy Wight Eugene Police Department
- 1991-92 Rick Brady Oregon State Police
- 1992-93 Ken Davis Law Enforcement Data System
- 1993-94 Barbara Phillips Coos Bay Police Department
- 1994-95 Bob George Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- 1995-96 Larry A. Ward Gresham Police Department
- 1996-97 Larry Stephens Salem Police Department
- 1997-98 Steve Asp Portland Police Bureau
- 1998-99 Pat Harmon Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 1999-00 Louis Lamprecht Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 2000-01 Malcolm Lewis Oregon State Police
- 2001-03 Michael Harmon Linn County Sheriff's Office
- 2003-04 Brenda George Myrtle Creek Police Depart.
- 2004-05 Rick Igou Independence Police Department
- 2005-06 Chris Wolcock Gresham Police Department
- 2006-07 Steve Piper Gresham Police Department

The OPOA has been around for nearly four decades, serving the men and women of the criminal justice community.