

Message from the President

Bill Hernandez

You are probably wondering how long it has been since you received a newsletter. Well, in lieu of our trying economy we have not distributed a newsletter since August 26th. We have been trimming the budget, prioritizing our expenses, and identifying specific goals that would meet for our expectations for the association without raising dues for 14th straight year. One of the items I looked at was the cost of our newsletter. Presently, we are spending \$1,271 each month on the newsletter. By eliminating the monthly newsletter to a bi-monthly newsletter the association would save \$7,626 annually. That savings could be passed on to various charities that we sponsor for our members as well as additional funding for the HPOA Foundation. If you would like to know more about the budget and the changes, please come to or monthly meetings.

Chief Lenny Burgess

Speaking of making a huge difference for our department, as many of you know Chief Lenny Burgess has accepted to be the Deputy Director for the Department of Corrections. The Corrections Department has gained a leader, a visionary and a very good athlete. We will miss his laughter and his sense of fairness. But most of all we will miss his leadership. I want to wish him much success in all his endeavors and hope that he is able to achieve all of his goals. GOOD LUCK!!!

Captains exam

Last month many of us took the Captain's promotional exam. It was comforting to see so many good people taking the exam. It was also comforting to know that the HPOA, for the first time, changed its policy and allowed all MDPD Lieutenants the opportunity to take advantage of our training. Also for the first time, we had two separate training classes. Thomas Rockhill provided training immediately after the results and Tim Gillette assisted three weeks later. I wanted to make sure that everyone had an opportunity to excel. I feel through training and education we all can make a huge difference for our department.

New promotions

I want to congratulate newly promoted HPOA members:

Captain Ignacio Alvarez, Captain Carlos Dominguez, Captain Gregg Glassel
Lieutenant Luis Fuste, Lieutenant Sergio Alvarez
Seregant Alexander Castellanos, Sergeant Franklin Roig, Sergeant Joel Bello

May you all have much success and always remember to mentor those who work for you. Congratulations!!!!

Master's Program

Two months ago the HPOA Sponsored Master's Program came to life. At present, we have ten people enrolled at Nova Southeastern University and 15 people waiting to begin class in January 2009. This project took us nine months to get off the ground and I want to personally thank Bernie Gonzalez for his time and dedication to our association. Bernie was an intricate part of putting together the Degree in Leadership. This took countless hours on our part to ensure our members were getting the appropriate courses that would suit the Departments interest. At the same time we used some creative thinking and were able to reduce the cost in several ways. First, we were able to get the University to accept several courses that we took through the County such as: Middle Management and ICS 300 and 400. By doing that we reduced the amount of credits the members needed to take and hence saving the association thousands of dollars. Another way we were able to save some money was to get the University to drop the cost of tuition by 30%. Another cost saving measure that was taken was that the HPOA purchased the books needed for each course. That allowed us to get the books at a discount and allowed use to pass those books on to the next class.

Now I don't want all of you to think that this is exclusive to only a select few. I have been able to obtain this cost savings to all HPOA members. Anyone interested in obtaining a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership through Nova, can do so by emailing me at bill@hpoadade.org However, all persons taking advantage of the discounts have to be HPOA members.

Lastly, I want to thank Ignacio Alvarez for helping me during the last two months. Ignacio noticed I was extremely busy running the organization and studying for the Captain's exam, that I did not have much time to put together the last steps of the Master's Program. Ignacio took the initiative and took over the project and completed the last steps needed. Thanks to Iggy, the program is off and running smoothly.

Passing of my Father

For those of you who were not aware I lost my father on October 21st due to a heart attack. My father was an individual who was always on the go and aspiring to do his best. I am thankful to have had him for such a long time and glad to have been able to spend so much time with him. He was extremely proud when I joined the police force and was beside himself when I became president of our association. He always spoke about how we, as Cubans needed to support Hispanics and we needed to ensure that we always strived for equality. My father's teachings are why I am the President of the HPOA, a Lieutenant, and more. I thank him for everything I am today and I thank all of you for you beautiful prayers, cards, emails, and calls. It has been a trying time for me and my family, but your support has been extremely comforting. Again, thank you!!!

Domino Tournament

We just concluded our third and final domino tournament for this year. As always, it was a great night for all. The Doral Park is a great venue and I want to thank all of you who attended. We raised nearly \$2,000 for the HPOA Fallen Officers Foundation, while spending quality time with family and friends.

The event winners were:

1 st Place Winner	Hiram Rodriguez and Eddie Cruz
2 nd Place Winner	Leo Arteaga and Nelson Andreu
3 rd Place Winner	Karel Rosario and Reward Ryes

Golf Tournament

Last year the Hispanic Police Officers Association (HPOA) hosted the First Golf Tournament to Honor the memory of Jose Somohano. The tournament was a great success; our members, friends and families shared an incredible afternoon and at the same time raised tremendous amount of money to help out the family. The Somohano family was honored and very impressed by the tournament's response.

The HPOA will be hosting the Second Annual HPOA Golf Tournament for its new foundation that is specifically for fallen and injured officers. The tournament will be held at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club, on Friday, November 07, 2008. In addition to a wonderful day of playing golf with your friends, there will be a putting contest, closest to the pin contest, a hole in one challenge, and the longest drive contest.

There will be complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks served throughout the tournament. Dinner, the presentation of the trophies, raffles and the 50/50 will follow the tournament. Not only is this tournament contributing to a great cause, but an opportunity for our brothers and sisters to spend an enjoyable afternoon of golf.

The HPOA would like to thank everyone's participation in last year's tournament. It was a great success because of all of you. We would like for everyone to come out and join us again this year and make this tournament another great success. So please don't hesitate to call me, Bobby Fortich for more information at (305) 986-2446

Changes to Come

As many of you are aware of the Bylaws were changed as of October 1, 2008. With the changing of the Bylaws this means that new members that are not part of the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) can join. Our association is almost 1,300 members strong and with the addition to all of the municipalities and state agencies we can only get stronger. Now any Law Enforcement Officer with arrest powers can now join our organization, as well as any civilian employee on our department. These new members will have the privileges that we offer to all of our members. So please inform all of your friends and colleagues to check out what the association has to offer and sign up.

With the changing of the By-Laws, a new board will be implemented on January 1, 2009. This means that the present board will vacate their position as of December 31st of this year. Joe Gonzalez, Hiram Rodriguez and Arnold Palmer have assisted me with many wonderful and needed changes throughout the years. Without them many things that we set out to do would never have been accomplished. So if you see them walking down the hall thank them for their dedication and devotion to the HPOA and its members.

As of January 1, 2009 your new board will consist of returning board members Eric Garcia, Alex Alfonso and me. Eric and Alex want to help me continue making a difference for our members, MDPD, and the community we serve. We are excited about all the new ideas that we want to implement in the coming years. To help us with these new ideas your new board will consist of the following: Willy Gonzalez as the new Treasurer. Marcos Martinez as the new Secretary and Bobby Fortich as the new Sergeant at Arms. Please welcome them and support them in helping you.

Marcos Martinez ***Secretary for 2009***

My name is Marcos Martinez and I am currently assigned to the Hammocks District FTO program. I have been with the department for three and a half years. I am currently seeking a Master's degree from Nova Southeastern University and am looking to serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Hispanic Police Officer's Association (HPOA). I look forward to being your voice and making sure that when you think of the HPOA, you don't just think of it as an organization, but as your organization.

Willy Gonzalez
Treasure for 2009

Warm greetings to my fellow HPOA members!!!

It is my honor to introduce myself to you as the upcoming treasurer for the HPOA. My name is Willy Gonzalez and I have been employed by the Miami-Dade Police Department since 1994. I am a Lieutenant currently assigned to the Communications Bureau. I have been a member of the HPOA since 2001. I am Cuban-American and am very proud of my Hispanic heritage.

To be quite honest, I did not join the organization sooner because of pure laziness and procrastination; but, as they say, "Better late than never". Since I started my membership, I was never really involved in the organization except for the parties, volunteering for La Liga Contra El Cancer, and the Lieutenant's Assessment Center training in 2005. In 2006, I participated in distributing toys to the underprivileged children during the Christmas Toy Drive. That is where I really saw what great things the HPOA does from the community. Then I learned more and more about what the organization does and I liked what I was seeing. I also realized that I had benefited tremendously from all of the membership privileges and felt it was only right to give back. That is when I made the decision to become more involved with the organization.

Now is my opportunity to give back to the HPOA and all of its members. I bring energy, enthusiasm, and of course, humor. I plan to serve in concert with my fellow board members in continuing the growth and progression of the organization. It is my goal to assist and represent my fellow HPOA members in any way that I can. By virtue of my tenure, classification, and education, I possess the qualities necessary to manage budgets; as well as the faith given to me by my fellow board members. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Robert Fortich
Sergeant at Arms for 2009

My name is Robert Fortich and I have been employed by Miami Dade County for approximately 20 years. I worked for the Department of Corrections for six years and I have worked for the Miami Dade Police Department for 14 years and I am currently assigned to Intergovernmental Bureau. I have been a member of the HPOA for approximately 4 years. I really never knew how much the HPOA did for their members and the community until the Jose Somohano shooting. I helped the HPOA organize a golf tournament in honors of Jose Somohano and that was when I learned of all of the great things the HPOA is involved in. The HPOA is going in the right direction and I would like to be part of this great organization. I am seeking the position of sergeants at arms, if I am elected, it would be an honor to serve as one of your board member. Thank you for the opportunity in serving you as a future board member.

Have you moved or changed your address

On a consistent basis we are receiving returned newsletters because of individuals changing their address. If you are planning to move in the near future or have heard of someone not receiving their newsletter, please contact our office and inform our secretary, Amy to make the appropriate changes.

Future Promotions

Bill Hernandez

As many of you know we will have two of our chiefs retiring this year and Chief Burgess being promoted. Director Parker has a difficult task in front of him. There are many qualified hard working majors that would lead our department into the future. I am proud to call many of these individuals my friends and I have been around long enough to know how successful some have been, and what they have been able to accomplish for the department and the troops.

As I look at our Table of Organization, and being the President of our association, I look at how many Hispanics we have representing the department and our community. The following is our break down of appointed positions:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Non Hispanic</u>
Director		1
Asst. Director	2	2
Chief	2	7
Major	13	23
Commander	2	6
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Total	21	35

According to the 2006 Census Bureau

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/12086.html>

The following is a breakdown of the population in Miami-Dade County:

Hispanic	61.3%
White Non Hispanic	18.3%
Black	20.2%
Other	.2%

I understand the troops want representation in our command staff positions and I understand that it is a sense of security for many. The population also needs a fair representation from the leaders of our department and local politicians.

South Florida and its communities are thriving from the influences of South America, Europe and the North East of the United States. We, as a department have to be cognizance of this and make the appropriate choices that will affect our department for years to come. There is no doubt in my mind that there are enough qualified individuals to fill in those positions and I don't envy the Director and the difficult decisions he has to make.