



FBINAA Chapter Chat

Chapter Chat is a monthly communication bringing you all updates submitted by members and chapters!

Please submit each month what's happening among your fellow Chapter and Session mates such as Chapter News, Retrainers, Promotions, Retirements, Awards, and Passings.

December 2024
By Our FBINAA Members

Passings



Roger Trott passed on on November 21, 2024, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. As a career law enforcement officer, Roger truly embodied the FBI's motto of Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity.

A graduate of West Muskingum High School, Zanesville, Ohio, Roger earned a bachelor's degree at The Ohio State University and a master's degree from the Marine Corps University. After working in law enforcement for the state of Ohio, Roger joined the FBI in 1983. He was assigned to the Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Miami, Florida offices before being promoted to FBI headquarters, Washington D.C., working in Eurasian/Russian organized crime. Roger then led the FBI/DEA Violent Traffickers Task Force in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His last assignment before retiring from the Bureau was Chief of the New Agents Training Unit at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia. He retired as a supervisory special agent after 23 years.

Yet, Roger did not know how to truly retire. He was Executive Director of the FBI National Academy Associates for a number of years, creating & launching their charitable foundation. Having a passion for those in need and not finished yet serving the Lord, Roger then became the Executive Director of Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He also served on the Board of Directors for Justice Federal Credit Union for over thirteen years.

Roger was a very active and adventurous man who enjoyed tennis, sailing, skiing, playing ice hockey, biking, and hiking. He loved to travel and explore new places but his "happy place" was the Colorado mountains. Roger's faith was a top priority in his life which he shared by leading Bible Studies over the years. He was also an avid reader, often devouring several books a month.

California Chapter News



Left to right: Chief Justin Lovvern, Greenville, AL/ Assistant Director Mark Adamchik, FLETC/ Major Ed O'Carroll (Retired), Fairfax County, VA/ Tricia/ Major Kathryn Mone, York County Sheriff's Office, ME/

California Chapter Board member **Tricia Campbell Seyler, NA 269**, attended the IACP conference in Boston and met with some of her 269 session mates from around the country.

Promotions



Taurino Valdovinos, NA Session 281

On November 13th, the Oceanside Police Department promoted Assistant Chief **Taurino Valdovinos, NA Session 281**, to Chief of Police. Congratulations!



Paul Connelly, NA Session 275

On December 9th, the Coronado Police Department introduced their new Police Chief **Paul Connelly, NA Session 275**. We wish Paul all the best in his new position.



Chief Josh Ehlers, NA Session 259

Many congratulations to our very own Chapter Past President, **Josh Ehlers, NA Session 259**, who is being promoted to Chief (January 1, 2025) with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Josh will lead the CHP's Information Management Division, based at the Department's headquarters in Sacramento and will serve as the Department's Chief Information Officer. This is the nation's fifth largest police department's information technology, telecommunications, cyber security, and computer crimes investigations command. Way to go Josh!

Connecticut Chapter News

On October 12th, about thirty members of the CT Chapter joined the New York/Eastern Canada Chapter for a fantastic day of Army Football at West Point. It was a gorgeous day, and we thank the New York/Eastern Canada Chapter for their hospitality.



Retired Chief Brian Gould is presented a certificate from New Haven SAC Fuller.



VUE 24 Annual Dinner Meeting



Outgoing Chapter President Vincent DeMaio speaks at the meeting.

The CT Chapter held its annual dinner meeting at the VUE 24 in the Foxwoods Resort on December 5th. One hundred members and guests celebrated the new incoming Chapter Executive Board: **Tom Madera, NA Session 234**, President; **Kelly Walsh, NA Session 267**, First Vice President; **Fred Jortner, NA Session 275**, Second Vice President; **Vincent DeMaio, NA Session 260**, Immediate Past Present; and **Tim Edwards, NA Session 235**, Historian. A special thank you and best wishes to **Dave Caron, NA Session 169**, who served on the CT Chapter E-Board for 24 years in various roles, most recently as the Chapter Historian.

Promotions

Congratulations to **Ken Cain, NA Session 275**, on his new role as Captain with the

Clinton, CT Police Department. Ken recently retired after 23 and a half years of service with the Connecticut State Police, where he held the position of Lieutenant Colonel and served as the Field Operations Commander.

Passings

The CT Chapter is sad to report the passing of retired Captain **Arthur Bates, NA Session 98**, of the Darien Police Department. Captain Bates served the Darien Police Department from 1956-1983. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter News



Session 292

On November 2, 2024, board members welcomed Session 292 as they arrived at Philadelphia Police Lodge 5 for lunch and cocktails to begin their trip to the city. It was a great turnout and we're certain everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the Philadelphia Police Department. Thanks for visiting!

Promotions



Chief Bill Peoples, NA Session 271

Congratulations to **Bill Peoples, NA Session 271**, who was promoted on November 11, 2024 as the chief of police for Montgomery Township. Bill is veteran of the United States Army and a graduate from Penn State University and California University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained his master's degree in criminal justice. He has been with the police department since 1997. Good luck in your new position!

Retirements



Chief John Chambers, NA Session 277

Congratulations to Chief **John Chambers, NA Session 277**, who retired today after 25 years of service to the Township of West Deptford Township (NJ). A 1993 graduate of Gloucester Catholic High School, Chief Chambers holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a proud graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 277. Rising through the ranks as Patrolman,

Investigator, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy Chief, and finally Chief, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment. From coordinating DARE/LEAD Programs, organizing National Night Out and the Junior Police Academy, and volunteering as a community coach, to serving as President of the Gloucester County Chiefs Association, Chief Chambers has truly embodied what it means to be a community leader. His dedication to providing the best for his officers and the community will be remembered for years to come. Thank you, Chief Chambers, for your service and sacrifices. We wish you a joyful and well-deserved retirement!

Nebraska Chapter News

Promotions



Jennifer Birkhofer, NA Session 285

Congratulations to **Jennifer Birkhofer, NA Session 285**, who has been appointed to Deputy Chief at the Fremont Police Department. Deputy Chief Birkhofer has previously served since 2005 with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in Uniformed Patrol, Administrative Services, Court Services, and the Public Security Division. While working her way through the ranks she held the positions of Officer, Sergeant, and Lieutenant during her nearly 20 years of distinguished service with DCSO, before taking on the responsibilities of Deputy Chief for the Fremont Police Department, beginning October of 2024. Jennifer is the first woman to serve in this role with the Fremont Police Department, please join us in wishing her the very best in her new position as she continues on with her remarkable career.

Retirements



Sheriff Jeff Davis, NA Session 155

Congratulations Sheriff **Jeff Davis, NA Session 155**, who will retire from the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office in January of 2025. With over 50 years of service with Sarpy County, Sheriff Davis has been a dedicated public safety officer who has been fully committed as a leader, professional, and community pillar throughout his professional career. Sheriff Davis began his career with Sarpy County at the age of 18 as a dispatcher for the Emergency 911 Operations Center. Sheriff Davis then attended his law enforcement basic training and became a sworn Sarpy County Deputy Sheriff. While assigned as a deputy, Davis gained valuable experiences working in various divisions including road patrol, investigations, jail, and administration. Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Davis advanced through the ranks of the office, eventually being promoted to Chief Deputy. Davis was sworn in as Sarpy County Sheriff in 2005 and will end his career in law enforcement as Sheriff on January 7th, 2025. Congratulations Sheriff Jeff Davis on a remarkable career serving the people of Sarpy County and many surrounding communities. Your professional impact has been tremendous and your contributions will be felt for generations, Well Done & Enjoy!

New York/Eastern Canada Chapter News



NYS/EC West Point Football Game

The Chapter's Annual West Point Game was a resounding success...and much drier than the 2023 game. October 12th was a perfect day for a football game. The sun was shining, there was plenty of grub, and cocktails with a Louisiana flare all contributed to a well attended event. And the Black Knights took the "W" over University of Alabama - Birmingham, crushing them 44-10.

Passings



Robert A. Johnston, NA Session 182

Retired Yonkers Police Captain Robert (Bob) A. Johnston, NA Session 182, lost his hard fight to overcome a long illness on October 19, 2024. Bob began his police

career in March of 1979, retiring in January of 2008. Bob is survived by his wife, Mary, his son, and grandchildren, all of whom reside in TN.

Ohio Chapter News



Chief Phil Cannon, FBI Agent Jen Hall and retired FBI Agent Mark Rogers



Presidents Matt Fisher and Ron Sallows



Eric and Bonnie Burgett



Dr. Kevin Gilmartin

The Ohio Chapter held its annual Fall Retrainer which featured nationally renowned presenter, Dr. Kevin Gilmartin, who brought his timeless message about emotional survival for law enforcement personnel. Approximately 200 people were in attendance for the two-day training program. Outgoing chapter president and Powell, Ohio Police Chief Ron Sallows helped us welcome 2025 President and Wooster, Ohio Police Chief Matt Fisher.

The Northern Ohio Golf Outing was spearheaded by relatively new member and **NA Session 281** grad, Eric Burgett of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The successful event was attended by 40 golfers, many of whom hadn't been active for quite a while. Eric was assisted by his lovely wife Bonnie and father-in-law, Rick Gedeon. Talk about family support!

The Southern Golf Outing was played in memory of recently deceased member and retired FBI legend, Keith Coy. Retired Forest Park Police Chief Phil Cannon was at the helm for the 13th year and was assisted by FBI Agent Jen Hall and retired FBI Agent Mark Rogers.

Oklahoma Chapter News

Retirements



Deputy Chief Scott Bennett, NA Session 256, presenting Chief Berryhill's retirement certificate



Crowd at retirement event for Chief Berryhill



Chief Brandon Berryhill and family

The Broken Arrow Police Department celebrated the retirement of Chief **Brandon Berryhill**, who served over 30 years with the department. Family, friends, and colleagues from across Oklahoma gathered to honor his dedication and impact on the community.

Chief Berryhill, **NA Session 219**, will now serve as a full-time Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Northeastern State University. He and his family will continue to be active members of the Broken Arrow community.

Oregon Chapter News

The following law enforcement professionals will be representing Oregon at Session 293: Sgt. Bill Garland (West Linn PD), Lt. Monty Fox (Tigard PD), and Captain Michael Copenhaver (Clackamas County SO).



Brenda Hamann

Where are they now...

Brenda Hamann started her FBI career in June 1987 and retired in November 2019. She hit the jackpot when she landed the Portland FBI Field Office's Training & Civic Liaison Specialist position in 1992, which handles the National Academy Program. The very first NA session she processed was the 168th! The last NA Session she processed was the 278th. The National Academy program and graduates were her passion.

Since retiring from the Portland FBI, Brenda has been spending more time with her family and two pups, doing more time traveling, and she has become a local artist creating yard art/jewelry/holiday items. She works part-time at a clothing consignment store in Vancouver, WA.

Brenda's son, Austin, graduated with a BA from Washington State University, in 2021. He landed his career job as a Content Marketing Specialist soon after graduating.

Brenda truly misses her NA family!

Retirements



Please join the Oregon Chapter in congratulating Independence Police Chief **Robert “Bob” Mason, NA Session 226**, on his retirement on December 31, 2024. Chief Mason started his law enforcement career with the Oregon State Police as a cadet in 1989. He served in many Oregon State Police Post for 11 seasons while attending Western Oregon University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Corrections & Police Studies in 1992. He was hired by the Independence Police Department as a reserve officer in November 1991. Chief Mason was hired as a full-time officer by the Independence Police Department in October 1992. He was promoted to Sergeant in May 1997 and was sworn in as the Chief of the Independence Police Department in March 2014.

Chief Mason was a member of the Polk County Tactical Team for several years and served as the team leader for over 10 years until he became the Chief of Police. Chief Mason has been an instructor at the Oregon Police Academy (DPSST) for over 25 years and taught several recruits in many disciplines with a focus on firearms training.

Chief Mason said his retirement plans will be to spend more time with his wife, kids, and 3 grandkids. He said he would spend more time in Hood River, on the family property he grew up on. He plans to travel more with his wife, Jennifer - They did a Greece trip earlier in 2024 and would like to do more travel abroad. Also, more trips to Hawaii, one of their favorite places.

Chief Mason has been a dedicated member of the Oregon Chapter of the FBINAA in addition to helping the state mold many recruit officers at DPSST. Chief Mason has been a board member of the Northwest Accreditation Alliance for several years.

We wish Chief Mason a well-deserved retirement!



Mike Iwai, NA Session 285

Also, the Oregon Chapter would like to congratulate Ontario Police Chief **Mike Iwai, NA Session 285**, on his recent retirement on November 1, 2024. Chief Iwai served in the United States Army as a Military Police Officer from March 1992 until his honorable discharge in December 1996. He was hired by the Oregon State Police

on January 1, 1997, and rose through the ranks as Trooper, Senior Trooper, and Sergeant to Lieutenant. Chief Iwai retired from the Oregon State Police in February 2022 after 25 years of service. He was hired as the Ontario Police Chief on March 1, 2022. Chief Iwai had many duties and assignments with the Oregon State Police. He served as the State of Oregon's Drug Recognition Coordinator for 6 years and has taught DUI/DRE Enforcement across the country. He has served on the IACP DRE Curriculum Development Committee for several years.

Chief Iwai started as director of compliance for Lifeways, the Ontario-based mental health provider on November 4, 2024. He must ensure the organization complies with state and federal regulations governing the kind of care it provides. After 28 years, Chief Iwai opted to move out of law enforcement after realizing "there's got to be more than the constant grind." He said he intends to continue his volunteer service to local organizations in addition to starting his new job at Lifeways. He plans to continue to live in Ontario, Oregon.

Good Luck with your new position Chief Iwai and a well-deserved retirement!

Want to share updates from your Chapter?
Submit chapter news on the [Chapter Chat Submission Form](#) by the 25th of every month to be in the next edition.

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