



# 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.

## October 2024

By Our FBINAA Members

### California Chapter News

#### Promotions



*Eric Sonstegard, NA Session 246*

Congratulations to Chapter Past President, Eric Sonstegard, NA Session 246, who

has been appointed as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Oxnard. Eric was previously the Assistant Police Chief for Oxnard PD, so he is totally knowledgeable about the City and a great person for the job. We look forward to seeing Eric back at Chapter events.



*Sheriff Rachelle Whiting, NA Session 288*

Congratulations go out to **Rachelle Whiting, NA Session 288**, who was recently sworn in as the new Sheriff of Calaveras County. Rachelle is the first woman to serve in that role and we wish her all the very best in her new position.

## Connecticut Chapter News

### Retirements

Best wishes to Western Connecticut State University Police Sergeant **Michael Casey, NA Session 235**, who recently retired. Prior to joining the WCSU Police Department, Mike served the town of Ridgefield, where he retired as a Captain.

### Passings

The Connecticut Chapter is sad to announce the recent passing of members, retired New Milford Police Department Chief **Colin McCormack, NA Session 161**, and retired Fairfield Police Lieutenant **Richard Gunter, NA Session 110**. The chapter sends condolences to the families and friends.

## Florida Chapter News



*Dan Purcell with Florida NA Session 291*

Florida Chapter Treasurer Dan Purcell, NA Session 259, visited Florida NA Session 291 members in Quantico. Dinner, networking and camaraderie with the newest members of the Florida Chapter.



## Promotions



*Adrian Vega Hernandez, NA Session 288*

We proudly announce that **Adrian Vega Hernandez, NA Session 288**, was promoted on September 12th, 2024, to Lieutenant Colonel of the National Police of Colombia. Congrats Lt. Colonel Vega!

## Nebraska Chapter News



*Nebraska Chapter Members attending the FBINAA Fall Training Conference*

The Nebraska Chapter was well represented at this year's signature event, "The FBINAA Fall Conference" held in Kearney, Nebraska. From the Executive Leadership Committee thank you members, sponsors, and guest speakers for taking part in a very informative Fall Conference packed with training, equipment, and many professional networking opportunities.



*Robert Frock Centurion Award winner - Ret. Omaha Police Lt. Catherine Milone*

During this years Fall Conference Nebraska Chapter President, Chief Ken Kanger presented this year's recipient of the Robert Frock Centurion Award to Ret. Omaha Police Lt. **Catherine Milone, NA Session 266**, for her exemplary accomplishments in both her professional and personal life. This award serves as an inspiration to the public as well as the membership of the FBI National Academy Associates.



*Lt. Jason Koettters, NA Session 291*

Congratulations to Kearney Police Departments, Lt. **Jason Koettters** on his successful completion and graduation from the FBI National Academy Session 291 in Quantico, Virginia on Thursday, September 12th, 2024. Lt. Koettters becomes the 7th member of the Kearney Police Department to attend and graduate from the FBI National Academy, continuing a long-standing tradition of leadership development and education at KPD. Lt. Koettters is a thirty-one-year veteran with the Kearney Police Department with extensive experience in the Uniformed Patrol Bureau, Criminal Investigations and Staff Services. Currently Lt. Koettters is a Watch Commander of two Uniformed Patrol Units. Reflecting on his experience, Lt. Koettters said of his FBINA Session 291 that, "It was hands down the best law enforcement training that I have ever attended! I met so many outstanding law enforcement leaders and instructors from various organizations who I could call upon at any time for assistance, guidance, or any type of advice that could benefit the people within our community. I am extremely grateful to those that provided me with the opportunity to attend the FBI National Academy, and look forward to bringing those valuable experience, training and knowledge back to our community".

**New Jersey Chapter News**



*Class Session 291 graduate Captain John Stollsteimer III (center) with the Gloucester Township Police. Also pictured is Chief David Harkins (left), NA Session 247, and Deputy Chief Anthony Minosse (right), NA Session 257.*

Congratulations to Captain John Stollsteimer III with the Gloucester Township Police in New Jersey on his graduation from NA Session 291!

## New York/Eastern Canada Chapter News



*Chapter Leadership at the New York/Eastern Canada Chapter Conference*

The Chapter conference was held September 15th -17th, 2024 at the Saratoga Casino and Hotel. The conference included presentations from NA graduates **Greg Veitch (NA Session 235 - Honor of Command)**, **Chris Barrella, NA Session 234**, **Mike Ranalli (NA Session 225 - Limitations of BWC)**, and **Doug Goerke (NA Session 277 - Navigating Complex Critical Incidents)**. The conference also included presentations about a serial killer investigation occurring in Toronto, cardiac

concerns for LEO's and the digital forensic capabilities of the FBI CAST Team. The conference culminated with the Awards Banquet where the Joseph Monteith Award was bestowed posthumously to **Joseph Hardiman, NA Session 135**. The plaque was accepted by his son, **Tim Hardiman, NA Session 194**. The Ed Moore award was given to Deputy Commissioner of DCJS **Michael Bonse, NA Session 284**.

The conference was held on the heels of the Suffolk County Bart Hose Shoot and Surf & Turf Luncheon. The event, held on September 13th, 2024 in Westhampton, began with a breakfast and lecture at the Suffolk County Police Firearms Training Facility. The speaker was journalist and author Richard Esposito, who also served as a Deputy Police Commissioner for the NYPD. Esposito spent a year imbedded with the NYPD Bomb Squad, which he covered in his book, "Bomb Squad: A Year Inside the Nation's Most Exclusive Police Unit." Following the shoot, the attendees retreated to Rogers Beach in Westhampton Beach for a lobster and filet mignon lunch, which included the "Chief's Chili". Pictured below is retired SCPD Assistant Chief **Robert Oswald, NA Session 190**, as he prepares the coveted chili. This year's Bart Hose Award recipient was Insp, **John Sumwalt, NA Session 242**, of the Suffolk County Police Department.



*Retired SCPD Assistant Chief Robert Oswald, NA Session 190, as he prepares the coveted chili.*



*Joseph Monteith Award - Tim Hardiman on behalf of his dad, Joe Hardiman*

## Retirements





*John Sumwalt, NA Session 242*

Inspector **John Sumwalt, NA Session 242**, retired from the Suffolk County Police Department on September 28th, 2024. Sumwalt began his police career in 1992 with the New York State Park Police and transitioned to the Suffolk County Police in March of 1995.

## Passings

Chautauqua County Undersheriff **Richard Telford, NA Session 279**, passed away on Sept. 23rd, 2024. Visitation, funeral service and a luncheon was held at the Bemus Methodist Church in Bemus Point NY, on Friday, September 27th, 2024. Please keep his family, friends and co-workers in your thoughts and prayers.

## Oregon Chapter News





*Swearing in of new Executive Board including  
Silverton Chief Todd Engstrom*



*Lieutenant Joe Hogue receiving plaque for  
serving as President of Oregon Chapter*

We hosted our annual fall conference September 10th -13th, 2024 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon. We had a very successful conference and was enjoyed by thirty-three active FBINA Graduates, eight retired FBINA Graduates and eleven Law Enforcement Personnel who attended Lt. Grossman's class. Gladstone Chief **John Schmerber, NA Session 223**, won our annual golf tournament. Gresham Chief **Travis Gullberg, NA Session 274**, and Corvallis Lieutenant **Gabriel Sapp, NA Session 290**, split our annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament. St. Helens Chief **Brian Greenway, NA Session 243**, won our Glock Raffle.

We had a great presentation by our YLP attendee Tatum Hoffman of Bend, Oregon.

Tualatin Captain Brian Struckmeier will be representing Oregon at the NA Session 292.

Our 2024 Oregon Chapter President, St. Helens Lieutenant **Joe Hogue, NA Session 266**, was presented with a plaque by incoming Oregon Chapter President Washington County **Erroll Mccrea, NA Session 282**. Chief Hogue did an outstanding job as our President!

Silverton Police Chief **Todd Engstrom, NA Session 287**, was elected by the membership as our 3rd Vice President/Sergeant at Arms for 2025. The Oregon Executive Board for 2025 will be composed as:

President: Washington County Chief Deputy **Erroll McCrea, NA Session 282**  
1st VP: Redmond Lieutenant **Jesse Petersen, NA Session 279**  
2nd VP: Linn County Undersheriff **Micah Smith, NA Session 285**  
3rd VP: Silverton Chief **Todd Engstrom, NA Session 287**  
Past President: St. Helens Lieutenant **Joe Hogue, NA Session 266**  
Secretary/Treasurer: Retired Marion County Undersheriff **Greg Olson, NA Session 174**



*James McQuay, NA Session 121*

It is with sadness that we have to announce the passing of retired Clackamas County Captain **James McQuay, NA Session 121**. Captain McQuay started his career as a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Officer. In January 1969 he was sworn in as a Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1973 and to Lieutenant in 1977. He was promoted to Captain on January 1st, 1986, a position he held until his retirement on June 30th, 1997. For the majority of his career as a captain, he oversaw the Clackamas County Patrol Division. In the last couple of years, he was assigned as the Clackamas County Jail Captain. Captain McQuay is survived by his wife Jeannette of over 60 years. They still have the same sports car they drove around when they dated (Pictured with McQuay). In addition to Jeannete, Captain McQuay is survived by his daughter and two grandchildren.

## Rocky Mountain Chapter News



*Pueblo PD Deputy Chief Jim Martin, NA Session 283*

Congratulations to Pueblo Police Department Deputy Chief **Jim Martin, NA Session 283**, who was elected at the Fall Conference to be the next 2nd Vice President for the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Retired Denver Police Department Lieutenant **Bill Mitchell, NA Session 260**, was elected to be the next Secretary/Treasurer for our chapter.



*Retired Denver PD Lt. Bill Mitchell, NA Session 260*

## Tennessee Chapter News

### Promotions



*Tommy Greer, NA Session 243*

Congratulations to **Tommy Greer, NA Session 243**, who was appointed Chief Deputy by Sheriff Eric Craddock.

Chief Greer has spent his entire career with Sumner County starting as a corrections officer and has worked his way through each rank to Chief Deputy. Chief Greer attended the 243 Session of the FBI National Academy in 2010.

## Passings



*Richard Higgins, NA Session 112*

We are sad to announce the passing of **Capt. (Ret) Richard Higgins, NA Session 112**. Richard Lain Higgins was hired by the Jackson Police Department in September, 1970. He graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and was assigned to the Patrol Division.

Then Officer Higgins was transferred in 1974 to the Criminal Investigation Division when he was later promoted to Investigator in 1975. In 1978, Higgins was promoted

to Sergeant while in Criminal Investigations. Higgins was later promoted to Lieutenant in 1981. While still serving in the Criminal Investigation Division, Higgins was promoted to Captain over Criminal Investigation Division in 1987.

During his career, Captain Higgins served on several community boards and committees. He attended a variety of training and received certifications as Severe Storm Spotters, Defensive Driving, Domestic Crisis Intervention and Middle Management Law. He was also recognized by the FBI National Academy as an Expert with firearms.

Captain Higgins received several Letters of Appreciation and Letters of Commendations. He also was selected to attend the 112th Session of the FBI National Academy.

Captain Richard Lain Higgins retired after over 37 years of service with the Jackson Police Department on June 27th, 2008.



*Charlie Harris, NA Session 211*

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Master Patrol Officer **Charlie Harris**, who courageously battled cancer until the very end. Officer Harris, **NA Session 211**, dedicated 27 years to the Gallatin Police Department, serving in many roles, including Bike Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, and most notably, spending much of his career with the FBI Violent Crime Task Force. His commitment to protecting and serving extended far beyond our city.

Before his time with the GPD, Charlie proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps as part of the Marine Helicopter Presidential Squadron. As a crew chief aboard Marine One, he had the honor of flying presidents and dignitaries across the world. Charlie's leadership, dedication, and infectious spirit touched everyone he worked with. He will forever be remembered for his service, strength, and unwavering courage. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him.



*Greg Geist, NA Session 275*

Congratulations to Deputy Chief **Gregory Geist, NA Session 275**, who was appointed as South Hill Police Chief on September 12th, 2024.

Greg has been employed with the South Hill Police Department since January 2023. Prior to South Hill, Greg served 19 years in various law enforcement capacities held with the Petersburg Bureau of Police including Captain of Field Operations Division, Captain of Administrative Services Division, Lieutenant of Criminal Investigations Division, Major Crimes Unit Sergeant, Patrol and Narcotics Unit Sergeant, and Detective for Central Virginia Regional Narcotics Task Force along with additional department capacities.

Greg holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems from Philadelphia University, PA and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Liberty University, VA. He is a graduate of the 275th session of the FBI National Academy, the 53rd session of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Professional Executive Leadership School, as well as other state recognized law enforcement training, associations, and leadership programs. His dedication to the department and this community has been exemplary, making him the ideal candidate to step into the role of Chief of Police.

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