


# The Police Officers Journal



VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2 - SPRING 2012



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## Supreme Court upholds taxing of pensions

— By Richard Weiler, Director

**A**t the end of 2011, the Michigan Supreme Court handed down a decision, which for the first time taxed pensions of retired workers and future retirees.

Every public employee organization as well as the AARP opposed this new law. This legislation, which was part of the Income Tax Act, taxed individuals on private and public pensions.

In one piece of the act, the Supreme Court ruled by a unanimous decision that determining eligibility for income tax exemptions and deductions on the basis of total household resources created a graduated income tax, which violated the state Constitution. However, the court, by a simple majority of justices, held that all other provisions of the Income Tax Act were constitutional.

During the process leading up to Michigan Income Tax legislation (PA 38), lobbying against the taxation of pensioners was furious. It was pointed out that while businesses were receiving a \$1.5 billion tax cut, retirees' pensions were being taxed to make up for that shortfall.

We had lobbied for the Public Safety Officers Pension Fairness Amendment. This proposal outlined that any pension payable through a governmental agency not covered by the Federal Social Security Act is exempt from taxation under the following provisions: (a) the first \$34,000 for a single filer, (b) the first \$54,000 for joint filer or a filer with one or more dependants, (c) income earned from a duty-related disability, and (d) income derived from a survivor's death benefit.

It was further pointed out to our legislatures that 72 percent of Michigan public safety officers work for employers who are not covered by the Social Security Act as a result of exemptions, which were invoked years ago when the Social Security Act was first passed. Hence, these employees are not eligible for social security unless they independently acquired the necessary quarters to receive those benefits. Typically, however, individuals acquired those necessary quarters either before or after their employment as a public safety officer.

Furthermore, those whom receive a public pension and social security are penalized by offsetting and reducing the social security amount by complex formulas contained in the Social Security Act under the "Windfall Elimination Provision," enacted by congress under President Reagan. Most of our legislators did not even know about that provision. What a revelation!

The Michigan Supreme Court's split decision upheld PA 38, that taxes retirement pensions in the following manner: If born prior to 1946, no tax; if born between 1946 - 1952 and a single filer everything over \$20,000 is taxable, for joint filers everything over \$40,000 is taxable, and if born after 1952 your entire retirement is taxable!

Finally, I should point out that SB 409 has been sitting in the House since the middle of last year. This bill would amend the definition of "taxable income" in the Income Tax Act to exclude retirement or pension benefits from employment with a government agency that was not covered under the Social Security Act. Don't expect any action on this anytime soon as the state wants all the revenue it can get from the shrinking middle class. ♥



## National Police Week 2012

### May 7 – Michigan

**Monday, May 7:** The 19th Annual Michigan Peace Officers' Candlelight Memorial Service – 7 p.m. on east steps of Lansing State Capitol, at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Capitol Avenue. Families, escort officers, honorees and officials gather at 6 p.m. at City Hall (across from Capitol).

### May 8-16 — Washington D.C.

**Tuesday, May 8:** 18th Annual Blue Mass – 12:10 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 619 Tenth Street, NW (10th & G Streets). (202) 347-2713.

**Friday, May 11:** National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Law Enforcement & Legislative Seminar – 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave., NW. Continental breakfast and lunch provided. Registration \$299 for NAPO members; \$350 for non-members. Contact Elizabeth Loranger at [cloranger@napo.org](mailto:cloranger@napo.org) or (703) 549-0775.

**Saturday, May 12:** 2nd Annual Blue Valor Run – Time to be determined. Motorcycle run from Ground Zero in New York to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. [www.kentietjen.org](http://www.kentietjen.org) or (732) 887-0645.

- Police Unity Tour Arrival Ceremony – 2 p.m. at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Contact Harry Phillips at (973) 443-0030 or email [info@unitytour.com](mailto:info@unitytour.com)

- 6th Annual National Police Week 5k – 9 a.m. assembly at FBI Washington Field Office, 601 4th Street, NW. [www.nationalpoliceweek5k.com](http://www.nationalpoliceweek5k.com)

- 19th Annual NAPO TOP COPS Awards Ceremony – 7 p.m. at The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave., NW. (tickets required). E-mail National Association of Police Organizations at [info@napo.org](mailto:info@napo.org)

**Sunday, May 13:** 24th Annual Candlelight Vigil – 8 p.m. at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Take the Metro Red Line to Judiciary Square. (202) 737-3400.

- 17th Annual Law Ride – 8 a.m. line up at RFK Stadium at 19th and East Capitol St. with 11 a.m. procession to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Email Gary Lyons at [lawride@bellsouth.net](mailto:lawride@bellsouth.net)

- Officer World Expo – Free officer training seminars at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Includes Officer Down Rescue Training, Ambush/Counter Ambush Tactics and Leadership in the Field. Register at [www.officerworldexpo.com](http://www.officerworldexpo.com)

**Monday, May 14:** National Police Survivors' Conference – 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, VA. Advanced registration required. Contact Concerns of Police Survi-

vors at [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911.

- Officer World Expo – Free officer training seminars at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Includes Officer Down Rescue Training, Ambush/Counter Ambush Tactics and Leadership in the Field. Register at [www.officerworldexpo.com](http://www.officerworldexpo.com)
- Philly to D.C. Memorial Run – 12 p.m. at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.
- 18th Annual Emerald Society & Pipeband March and Service – 4:30 p.m. Assemble at New Jersey Avenue and F Street, NW. Begin March to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at 6 p.m. Contact Mike Roe at [irishroe@hotmail.com](mailto:irishroe@hotmail.com) or (314) 304-1915.
- 10th Annual Honor Guard Competition – 8:30 a.m. at John Marshall Park, Pennsylvania Avenue at 4th Street, NW. [www.policeweekhonorguard.com](http://www.policeweekhonorguard.com)

**Tuesday, May 15:** 31st Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Services – 11 a.m. West Front, U.S. Capitol. [www.policeweek.org](http://www.policeweek.org)

- Wreathlaying Ceremonies – Two ceremonies at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. One from 8-11 a.m. and another immediately following Memorial Day Services at the U.S. Capitol.
- Shomrim Society Kaddish Service – 10 a.m. at National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Contact Micheal Weinhaus at (301) 455-7991.

**Wednesday, May 16:** National Police Survivors' Conference – 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Advanced registration required. Contact Concerns of Police Survivors at [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911. ♥



The Jackson PD Honor Guard includes (left to right) retired Lt. Frank Miller, Sgt. Jeff Mazur, Officer Matt Peters, Sgt. Kevin Hiller, Officers Shane LaPorte, Marc Smith and Steven Scarpino.

Postmaster: Please send returns and all other communications to the Law Enforcement Education Program Business Office: 667 E. Big Beaver Road, Suite 205, Troy, MI 48083.

Published by The Dale Corp., (248) 542-2400  
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Jennifer Foley

# Jackson honors officers who make the ultimate sacrifice

— By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

**J**ackson Police Lt. Christopher Simpson is reminded every day about fellow Officer James Bonneau, who was killed in the line of duty two years ago.

“On my right wrist you’ll see my band with his name on it commemorating him

and what he’s done for our organization,” Simpson said. The band includes Bonneau’s end of watch date with the Thin Blue Line colors of black and blue.

Officer Bonneau was killed March 9, 2010 while assisting Blackman Township Public Safety Officer Darin McIntosh in interviewing Elvin Potts, a suspect in a domestic assault, which originally occurred in Blackman Township.

After a brief struggle at a Jackson home, Potts shot both officers. McIntosh returned fire, killing Potts. McIntosh survived, but Officer Bonneau succumbed to his wounds at the hospital.

“I have been in his situation many times answering the same type of call he went on that day,” Simpson said. “It’s very sad, obviously, but it also brings our

agency to reality. He was a young officer and full of energy.”

For Jackson Police Officer Shane LaPorte, a POLC Executive Committee member, the tragedy made him reflect on his career and what’s really important in his personal life. Having lost Bonneau and his best friend in the same 18-month period was particularly difficult. “I want to train officers better on how they can keep themselves safe,” LaPorte said, adding his emphasis is on how different officers react to real life scenarios. “Life is short, very fragile and can be gone in a moment.”

Simpson and LaPorte are Jackson PD Honor Guard members. Simpson coordinates the annual Police Week Memorial ceremony at Bucky Harris Park in downtown Jackson. The May 9 event starts at

noon and features city police as well as Jackson County Sheriff’s Department and Michigan State Police. Retired Lt. Frank Miller, Jackson PD Unit Historian and Honor Guard member, began the annual ceremonies in the early 1990s.

“At one point we were just going to the national memorial,” Simpson said, adding they also visited fallen Jackson Police Lt. William James Nixon’s gravesite annually. “It’s amazing how it’s grown,” Simpson said. “We did research and got all the names of law enforcement officers killed in line of duty from Jackson County.”

Lt. Nixon was shot and killed during a traffic stop in 1978. The suspect was arrested hiding in a ditch a half mile from the shooting scene. He had stolen the truck he was driving along with the trailer and a bulldozer. He was convicted of murdering Nixon and sentenced to life in prison.

During the memorial ceremony, officers from the three organizations post the colors and sing the National Anthem. There is a keynote speaker, roll call of heroes who died in the line of duty and a gun salute. Community members are also involved. In the past, school choirs have sung memorial songs, like Amazing Grace, and “Echoes by Buglers” is played by children with an affiliation to law enforcement.

“It’s more of a tribute, more of a remembering every year how much they sacrificed



Photos by Jackson Police Officer Craig Edmondson

and to keep in mind how important it is to go out every day and keep safe,” LaPorte said.

Family members of the deceased come from as far away as Atlanta — up to third and forth generations — to put a carnation in the wreath commemorating their loved ones. If family members cannot attend, an officer from that agency will do the honors of adding the carnation, Simpson said. Retired officers, who pass away during the year, are also honored.

Sharing stories about Bonneau helped officers, family and friends express their emotions and start to heal, LaPorte said.

“It’s a way they reconnect with the families,” LaPorte said. “I believe it helps with the healing process. I didn’t understand with Nixon’s death how important reflec-

*The Jackson Police Honor Guard flank the memorial wreath (front, left to right) Officers Steven Scarpino and Scott Goings, Sgt. Jennifer Carter, Officers Shane LaPorte, Marc Smith and Jan Noppe and (rear, from left) Sgts. Jeff Mazur and Scott Hiller, retired Lt. Frank Miller (center), Lt. Christopher Simpson and Officer Matt Peters.*

tion would be.”

Lt. Miller worked to get a memorial plaque added in the police station lobby in 2010 after sympathy cards, copies of articles, flowers, food and more were sent to the police station following Bonneau’s death, LaPorte said. The plaque honors five Jackson city officers killed in the line of duty dating back to 1906.

While Bonneau’s passing prompted the permanent memorial, Simpson said, “We wanted to do something for the rest of the officers who died in the line of duty. When (visitors) come in the front door, we want

*Continued on page 13*



*This Memorial plaque now hangs in the Jackson PD lobby.*

## Michigan officers invited to join fundraisers

— By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor

**C**osts continue to rise on just about everything and the future Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument is no exception. That’s why the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission is inviting officers and their families and friends to participate in three May fundraisers and two in the summer.

The estimated \$3 million needed to build a memorial could increase another \$1 million, said Lin Emmert of the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission. With about \$225,000 raised, the memorial commission has organized a motorcycle run, bowl-a-thon, golf outings and more to increase funds.

Last year’s inaugural Cops on the Run motorcycle run attracted several motorcy-



cle groups, especially law enforcement officers, Emmert said. With funds still coming in from 2009 state tax return donations, the group is seeking a donation check off on 2012 returns. State funding is not provided for the memorial,

but Emmert said the commission plans to explore other options with the legislature.

Some 540 officers have been killed in the line of duty in Michigan, Emmert said. “We continue to find officers from the past who should’ve been recognized,” she said, adding that it’s costly to travel to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. “It’s a beautiful, beautiful site. We don’t want to replace it. We just want something closer.”

For more information on the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument, visit [www.mleom.org](http://www.mleom.org).

### MEMORIAL MONUMENT FUNDRAISERS

**MAY 5:** *Comer Collections are taking place in southeast Michigan and Battle Creek. Volunteers will gather donations and pass out Memorial information. Contact Debbie Swofford at (586) 214-3056.*

**MAY 6:** *Family Fun Bowl-a-Thon 1-4:40 p.m. at Five Star Lanes in Sterling Heights. Contact Debbie Swofford at (586) 214-3056.*

**MAY 9:** *State Lodge Golf Outing 10 a.m. at Brentwood Golf Course in White Lake. Contact John Marascso at Rolf95@ameritech.net or (734) 216-7088.*

**JULY 18:** *Cole Golf Outing 8:30 a.m. at Eldorado Golf Course in Mason. Contact Kathy Cole at so\_cole@ingham.org or (517) 819-1284.*

**AUG. 11:** *Cops on the Run motorcycle run begins at 10 a.m. in Ferndale and ends at the Memorial site in Lansing. Contact Robert James at (313) 930-3853.*



*The Jackson PD Honor Guard fires their weapons in honor of fallen officers.*

### JACKSON CITY POLICE LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

Officer	End of Watch
Sgt. Frederick H. Booth	1906
Capt. John G. Holzapfel	1907
Officer Leonard Carey	1930
Lt. William James Nixon	1978
Officer James David Bonneau	2010

# Groups seek EFM law repeal, ban on right-to-work on November ballot

— Excerpted from the Detroit Free Press and Associated Press

**M**ichigan voters may have a lot more to decide on than the future President of the United States this November. If two labor group coalitions are successful, there will be two ballot items that could decide the fate of organized labor in the state.

Stand Up for Democracy, a non-partisan organization, said they submitted 226,000 petition signatures, which could force a referendum to repeal the 2011 emergency financial manager (EFM) law— Public Act 4.

United Auto Workers President Bob King said another coalition of unions are seeking an amendment to the Michigan Constitution that bars so-called “right-to-work” legislation which outlaws contracts that require employees to join unions. The coalition is mounting a campaign to col-

**If successful, there will be two ballot items that could decide the fate of organized labor in the state.**

lect 500,000 petition signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the state ballot.

These petition drives are in response to the Republican-controlled state legislature, which has introduced and passed a series of bills negatively impacting unions. A day after the announced right-to-work ban effort, the state Senate narrowly approved a measure to prohibit public schools from automatically deducting union dues from teacher’s paychecks and other employees. Some Republicans joined Democrats in opposing the measure, which returns with

changes to the House. The House approved the original bill in September.

## EFM LAW REPEAL

Stand Up for Democracy, a coalition of labor and community groups, is awaiting verification of signatures so voters can decide whether to keep the new EFM law in place. The Board of State Canvassers must verify 161,305 signatures as those of registered voters within 60 days for the referendum to be on the November ballot.

Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility is trying to have the petitions thrown out, saying the petition itself is printed in the wrong type size, which is contrary to state law. A bipartisan state elections panel will have a hearing on the matter in late April.

Even if the referendum is approved, Attorney General Bill Schuette said suspen-

sion of the 2011 law would revive an earlier emergency manager law, which was repealed by the new statute. “Pending the outcome of the referendum vote in November . . . the previous state law governing emergency financial managers . . . will govern in the interim,” Schuette said in a statement.

The 2011 law, however, gives EFM’s much more sweeping powers, such as voiding labor contracts. Stand Up for Democracy representatives complain the new law deprives residents of cities and school districts to which it is applied their right to self-government.

Emergency financial managers are working in Benton Harbor, Detroit Public Schools, Ecorse, Flint, Highland Park Schools and Pontiac.

## RIGHT TO WORK BAN

Republicans have been pushing for a law that would ban labor agreements with mandatory union dues.

“The UAW has been out in front advocating for in Michigan that we do a ballot initiative to change the Michigan Constitution — to protect workers against corporations and guarantee workers’ right to collective bargaining,” King said at the UAW’s national convention in Washington.

The group needs 323,000 valid Michigan registered voter signatures by July 9 to put the ban on the ballot this November. If approved by voters, the ban would effectively rescind or pre-empt dozens of anti-labor initiatives sponsored by Republican legislators.

King said other union presidents de-

ecided to support the Michigan effort in order to send a message. “We hope that Michigan can lead what will then be movements around the United States to guarantee workers’ rights to organize and to collective bargaining,” he said.

An attempted recall of Republican Gov. Rick Snyder and several legislators failed to meet the number of petition signatures needed for the November 2010 ballot — except for Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc), who was successfully recalled. A second petition drive is underway to recall Snyder. ♥

Visit [www.protectourjobs.com](http://www.protectourjobs.com) to help collect signatures for the right-to-work ban. For more about the EFM law repeal, contact Stand Up for Democracy at (866) 306-5168 or online at: [standup4democracy.com](http://standup4democracy.com) or [michiganforward.org](http://michiganforward.org) on the web.

# Judges rule against state takeovers

— Excerpted from media reports

**O**pen Meeting Act violations in Flint and Highland Park stalled emergency financial managers in those communities, and legal intervention slowed the introduction of a consent agreement in Detroit.

Ingham County Judge Rosemarie Aquilina ordered Flint emergency financial manager (EFM) Michael Brown out of office because the state team that recommended his appointment violated the Open Meetings Act by meeting in private. In her ruling, Aquilina reinstated Flint Mayor Dayne Walling and the city council, both of whom lost their authority after Brown was appointed.

Aquilina’s order followed a lawsuit brought by a union leader representing some Flint city employees. The state is planning to file an emergency appeal of Aquilina’s decision.

Brown was immediately removed as EFM. “Once the order is written, the mayor and council can actually undo everything he’s done since Dec. 1 (when he was appointed),” said POLC Labor Rep. Lloyd Whetstone, who represents Flint Police Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains. However, he added, “I think if they (state review team) have some sort of open meeting, they can reappoint him.”

In the meantime, Whetstone continues to meet with the city to negotiate a contract for Flint’s command officers. He said the city is seeking an across the board 20 percent wage cut for all union and non-union employees.

## HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOLS

Ingham County Circuit Court Judge William Collette ruled a state review team in Highland Park violated the Open Meetings

Act by meeting in private. However, the Highland Park Schools EFM was only temporarily sidelined in February. Once the review team held a public meeting, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder was allowed to reappoint the EFM.

## DETROIT

Collette ruled a state review team in Detroit also violated the Open Meetings Act by meeting in private. Collette prohibited the state from entering into a consent agreement with Detroit until March 29. After weeks of meetings, rallies and court battles, Detroit City Council voted to approve a consent agreement, which prevents takeover by an EFM.

With a deficit nearing \$200 million, the city could run out of money by April, according to an analysis by Ernst & Young.

*Continued on page 11*

# Wisconsin governor faces recall June 5

## Unions gather 1 million signatures to oust Walker

— Excerpted from media reports and Wisconsin Professional Police Association

**W**isconsin police unions joined United Wisconsin and members of the state Democratic Party in garnering the support of 1 million residents to recall Republican Gov. Scott Walker. He will face a recall election June 5.

The recall campaign was sparked by Walker’s successful effort to eliminate collective bargaining rights for public employee unions, despite massive protests at the state capitol. Five other Republican lawmakers also face recalls.

Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) sent a letter to all NAPO members seeking donations in their effort to recall Walker.

“Officers across the country appreciate that if the domino falls in Wisconsin, the likelihood that they will be next will be

exponentially greater,” the WPPA letter stated. “By contrast, if the recall effort of Scott Walker is successful, governors around the country will do whatever they can to avoid a similar fate.”

The five-member Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, which manages Wisconsin elections, voted unanimously to formally certify more than 900,000 signatures calling for Walker’s removal. Only 540,208 signatures were required for a recall election.

Two Republicans were ousted in last year’s recall elections of six Wisconsin Republican legislators and two Democrats, leaving the state Senate with a one-vote Republican majority. ♥

Visit [www.unitedwisconsin.com](http://www.unitedwisconsin.com) for more information on the recall.

## RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR

A Democratic primary will be held on May 8 to choose Gov. Scott Walker’s opponent in the June recall election.

The Democrat most likely to face him is Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. Walker narrowly defeated Barrett in the 2010 election.

Firefighter and union leader Mahlon Mitchell announced earlier that he would run for governor.

The Madison fire department lieutenant is president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin. Mitchell, who has spoken against legislation to repeal most union bargaining for public employees, said Walker and Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch favor corporate interests instead of the state’s citizens.

# Indiana is first in Midwest to become right-to-work state

— Excerpted from media reports

Indiana has become the first right-to-work state in the Midwest.

Republican Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, who had once said he did not wish to add a “right-to-work” provision to the state’s labor laws, signed legislation barring union contracts from requiring non-union members to pay fees for representation.

The new law makes Indiana the first state in over a decade to enact right-to-work legislation and the only one in the Midwestern-manufacturing belt to have such a law.

Daniels signed the legislation hours after it passed the Republican-held State Senate and days before the Feb. 5 Super Bowl in Indianapolis. It took effect immediately, making Indiana the 23rd state in the nation with a right-to-work law.

Republican leaders defended swift passage of the measure, noting “overt threats” by union members and others about intentions to raise the right-to-work issue with protests during the Super Bowl. For a month, hundreds of union members

crowded into the state House halls.

“We sized up early on that passage prior to the Super Bowl would be appropriate,” said Brian Bosma, the speaker of the House, adding that the law enforcement authorities were prepared for any efforts to disrupt the city’s first Super Bowl.

Union leaders said Republicans had overblown the union’s intentions. “They’re trying to make working men and women look like thugs, like we’re going to ruin an event,” said Jeff Harris, a spokesman for the Indiana A.F.L.-C.I.O., who added that their expectation for the Super Bowl was to have “a presence but an informational presence,” handing out leaflets on the issue.

Democrats, who hold minorities in both legislative chambers, had refused at times to go to the House floor, hoping to block a vote on the matter, which they argued would weaken unions and lower pay and wages for workers at private-sector companies.

“Seven years of evidence and experience ultimately demonstrated that Indi-

ana did need a right-to-work law to capture jobs for which, despite our highly-rated business climate, we are not currently being considered,” Daniels said in a statement.

## ARIZONA BILLS ATTACK UNIONS

Union protests at Arizona’s State Capitol in February came in response to legislation, which could virtually wipe out public employee unions. Arizona’s Republican Legislature has introduced a package of bills far broader than the collective-bargaining bills that shut down Wisconsin’s Capitol last spring. The bills would:

- Make it illegal for government bodies to collectively bargain with employee groups. Public safety unions would be included in the bill, which appeared to have died, but efforts are being made to revive it.

“It’s dead,” said Brian Livingston, head of the state’s most powerful police union. “We’ve been assured by leadership that it’s going nowhere.” However, Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group, which has

played a big role in the fight over public unions in other states, has a website posting stating the collective bargaining bill and the others “will be heading soon to floor votes.”

- End automatic payroll deductions for union dues. This bill passed the state Senate and is headed to the House.

- Ban compensation of public employees for union work. This bill passed the state Senate and is on its way to the House after law enforcement unions negotiated to be removed from the bill. Law enforcement would be the only public labor organization excluded if this bill becomes law. Livingston said his organization tried to get other types of workers included in the exception, but he wasn’t sure that would happen.

The AFL-CIO’s union’s Arizona director, Rebekah Friend said she was upset that other unions had essentially turned their backs on their fellow workers. “We’re not good with it,” Friend said. “I think they’re serving their membership. I don’t know that those actions save the greater good.”

Wisconsin’s collective bargaining law, enacted last year, made unions effectively irrelevant by limiting issues that could be bargained by a government and an employee group. Arizona’s bills could do away with collective bargaining entirely.

Nick Dranias of the Phoenix-based Goldwater Institute, a libertarian/conservative think tank that helped Republican state Sen. Rick Murphy write the bills, says public-sector workers in Arizona make about 6 percent more in salary and benefits than private-sector workers.

“You’re not in government, you know, to collect a fat paycheck,” Dranias says. “You’re in government to serve. And if you get paid reasonably, that’s nice, but the moment you feel the need to organize collectively and create laws like collective-bargaining laws that give you special privileges to negotiate and extract compensation not seen in the private sector, you’ve gone too far.”

Arizona is different from Wisconsin in that it’s a right-to-work state: No one can be forced to join a union. Still, 80 percent

of Arizona police choose to belong to a union. Livingston said police and firefighters typically get paid less, but negotiate better benefits and retirement plans. “By the time we retire, we know that most of us will not live beyond what the average private citizen does,” Livingston said. “And I’m speaking specifically about public safety; the rigors of our occupation, the hazards of our occupation take a lifelong toll on our longevity.”

Democrats in the Arizona Legislature are outnumbered by Republicans 2-to-1 in the House and by more in the Senate. “These bills are clearly the most anti-worker, anti-middle class, anti-union bills in the history of the country,” said Senate Minority Leader David Schapira, adding the bills are being considered because union leaders tend to support Democrats over Republicans.

“When the unions are the ones who are disproportionately influencing those elected officials, the elected officials are very rarely on the side of the taxpayers in those negotiations,” Murphy argued. ♥

## Chrysler recalls nearly 10,000 police cars

— Excerpted from Autoweek.com

To protect their officers, police agencies around the country will have to get their cars repaired if they use certain models of 2011 and 2012 Dodge Chargers.

Chrysler is recalling nearly 10,000 Charger police cars that could experience failure of their low beams, antilock brakes or stability control. The affected vehicles, built between July 5, 2010 and Dec. 20, 2011, have a faulty bulb-harness connector that could overheat and some have a power-distribution center that could overheat.

Chrysler said it is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to the problem.

“The conditions tend to occur when po-

lice vehicles are exposed to severe police-duty vehicle cycles for an extended period of time, including long durations of high speed, evasive driving when used as training vehicles for police forces and extended idling,” said David Dillon, head of product investigation and campaigns. “We will continue to monitor the retail fleet for any occurrence of this condition beyond police vehicles.”

Service centers will replace the headlight jumper harness and relocate the ABS/ESC system fuse free of charge. ♥

For more information, visit [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov) on the web or call Chrysler at (800) 853-1403.



## Michigan prisons end 24-hour perimeter patrols

— Excerpted from The Muskegon News

Around-the-clock armed patrols of 27 of 31 state prisons perimeters ended April 1 to cut costs.

The change, which affects Muskegon’s Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility and West Shoreline Correctional Facility among others, is expected to save \$13.1 million statewide, said Michigan Department of Corrections officials.

The union representing prison officers at the Muskegon facilities and others said the reduction poses a danger to prisons and the community. Brooks houses inmates classified as Level Four, Two and One – close, medium and minimum security. West

Shoreline has minimum-security inmates.

“It’s ridiculous to think someone would think it’s safe not to have an armed officer at the perimeter of the prison,” said Tom Tylutki state President of the Michigan Corrections Organization. “We’ve had lots of things thrown over the fence (into the prison grounds), and gun-tower coverage is already drastically reduced.”

“This idea actually came from our prison wardens,” corrections department spokesman Russ Marlan said. “This is something that came from the men and women that know these prisons best, that know what’s involved in running safe

and secure prisons.”

Five positions will be cut at each of the affected prisons and those officers will be transferred to vacant jobs, so no layoffs are anticipated, Marlan said.

Marlan said the corrections department has made technological improvements in recent years with lighting, cameras, motion sensors and electrified fences. “We really just don’t feel we need to run those patrols 24-seven, 365 days a year,” he said.

Tylutki said a perimeter-security officer stopped the attempted Upper Peninsula prison break of three convicted murderers

*Continued on page 11*



# 14th Annual Wormburners Four Person Scramble - Charity Golf Outing

**Oak Ridge / Marsh Oaks Golf Club  
Friday July 13, 2012**

**Check In: 8:30 am – Shotgun Start: 10:00 am  
Limited to the first 144 paid players**

Participants and sponsors should use the attached coupons (or copies) to register for the 14th Annual Wormburners Charity Golf Outing. All proceeds of this event support the Law Enforcement Educational Program (LEEP) charity of the Police Officers Labor Council.



### \$90 per person Golf Outing Includes:

- Continental Breakfast
- 18 Holes of Golf w/Cart
- Closest to the Pin Contest
- Souvenirs and Prizes
- Skins
- Three-Meat Dinner
- Longest Drive Contest
- Sleeve of Balls
- Mystery Drawing

**Event Coordinator – EJ Belmore 586-216-4741**

Please make checks payable to **LEEP**.

Mail to Wormburners Golf, 21618 Erben Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 or give to an event coordinator.

*\$30 per player and 100% for sponsors is tax deductible. Tax receipts will be provided upon request.*



### Registration for play - \$90/person

#### TEAMS

Department represented (and/or team nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Print the full names of all teammates:

1: Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Captain's phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

**SINGLES**, if you are playing single, provide your info below, and we will place you in a foursome:

Department (or area) represented: \_\_\_\_\_

1: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to LEEP. Mail to Wormburners Golf, 21618 Erben Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081*

### Corporate LEEP Sponsorship Opportunities

**Be a WORMBURNERS Tee or Greens Sponsor for \$150**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Tee / Green Sponsor (\$150@) \_\_\_\_\_  Award / Prize Donation (value) \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Contribution \_\_\_\_\_  Send me a tax receipt

*Make checks payable to LEEP. Mail to Wormburners Golf, 21618 Erben Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081*

# Member News

## Michigan pension tax affects younger retirees immediately

— By John Walsh, Walsh & Company, PC

**M**ichigan public and private pensions are being taxed under a new state law beginning Jan. 1 and the effect is immediate — not when pensioners file their tax returns.

The POLC and many other unions, the AARP and AFL-CIO were vocal about their disapproval of the law, questioning its constitutionality. The state Supreme Court ruled 4-3 the law is constitutional with Republican justices supporting the measure.

The court did unanimously agree, however, that eligibility for income tax exemptions and deductions on the basis of total household resources created a graduated tax, which is illegal. Changing that portion of the law is estimated to reduce the expected \$330 million generated by the tax in 2013 by \$60 million. But the change won't affect the rest of the law's legality.

Age makes all the difference with this new law. Public and private pensioners born Jan. 1, 1946 and later are affected by the tax change. Those born before 1946 will continue to receive the same tax

breaks they have been getting.

If you are receiving a pension subject to tax, you should receive Michigan form MI W-4P in the mail. This form is used to notify administrators of the correct amount of Michigan income tax to withhold from your pension. Complete the form and return it to your plan administrator to have the proper amount of State income tax withheld from your pension.

Military pensions, Social Security benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits continue to be exempt from tax.

No tax exemption applies to premature distributions or payments from 457 plans, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans or any other elected deferral plans if only the employee made contributions to the plan. These distributions are fully taxable regardless of the age of the recipient.

Starting in January, pension administrators are required to withhold taxes from benefit checks. Monthly tax withholding will range from zero for those with pensions \$1,650 a month or less and up to

\$101.49 for those with benefits \$4,000 and over, according to estimates published by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Recipients born between 1946 and 1952 will be able to deduct \$20,000 in pension and retirement benefits if single or \$40,000 if married filing a joint return. Withholding is required unless the recipient submits an MI W-4P form to adjust the amount of withholding.

For recipients born after 1952, all pension and retirement benefits are taxable. Recipients should use the monthly withholding table from the Michigan Income Tax Withholding Guide (Form 446), which can be found on the State of Michigan Treasury website, to calculate the appropriate withholding based on the number of personal exemptions claimed on the MI W-4P.

The POLC continues to oppose the pension tax because of the significant impact on pensioners who planned on the no-tax status of pensions when making their retirement decisions. ♥

### Judges rule against State takeovers

*Continued from page 6*

However, local and state leaders have suggested that wouldn't happen until late May. "We certainly don't want the city to be in a position where they can't pay police, fire and emergency service workers to show up," said GERALYN LASHER, a spokeswoman for Snyder.

The deal keeps some power with the mayor and council, but calls for creation of a nine-member financial advisory board to monitor and advise on financial issues. Board members would be appointed by the governor, mayor, state treasurer and city council. New positions include a chief financial officer, chief operating officer and

program management director, who would all report to the mayor. Recently ratified contracts will not be approved. The city would enter into new contract negotiations for contracts that were to be effective July 1 with tougher work rules and a 401K program. While the state would facilitate a \$137 million bond transaction for the city and promote certain legislative agendas, there would be no additional cash assistance. The governor reserves the right to appoint an EFM if the city doesn't fulfill the consent agreement terms. ♥

*Voters may get to decide the fate of the EFM law. See related article.*

### Perimeter patrols end

*Continued from page 9*

in July 2010, killing Muskegon County mass murderer Seth Privacky. Marlan praised the officer who stopped the break for doing a "great job," but said many corrections officers witnessed the attempt, which involved hijacking a semi-trailer.

"We believe it would have been the same outcome" even without constant perimeter patrols, Marlan said.

Tylutki said the union would have informational picketing on this and other "health and safety" issues at the corrections department's central office in Lansing. ♥

## POLC fights to reinstate disbanded Flushing Township police officers

— By Jennifer Foley, POJ Editor with excerpts from the Flint News

There's no emergency financial manager in place, but Flushing Township officials disbanded their police department, saying they could no longer afford it, and hired Genesee County Sheriff's Department to police the community.

The POLC, which represents Flushing Township officers and command, has responded with legal action to return the officers, who were laid off in February, to work. Those actions include an amended Unfair Labor Practice charge and two grievances, according to POLC Attorney Thomas Zulch.

The Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) alleges the township failed to bargain over the impact and effect of closing the department and contracting with the county. A second ULP charge is based on information the Township Supervisor admitted to the County Board of Commissioners that the department was closed because officers filed too many grievances. The two grievances, which will be arbitrated, are over the layoffs.

Flushing Township Police was staffed with five full-time positions, including three officers, one sergeant and a police chief. The department's closure comes only months after Flushing Township Board of Commissioners told residents in November 2011 that if they approved a combined police millage, staffing levels should be kept as they were. "They have money — they just approved a 5-year millage," said POLC Labor Rep. Lloyd Whetstone of the millage, estimated to generate \$825,000 per year.

The contract defines a layoff as a reduction of the work force due to the limitation of funds. "We have sworn testimony from the Township Treasurer that the dedicated police millage has always paid 100 percent of the police department budget," Zulch said. "There has been a surplus, which has allowed the township to pay an extra, unrequired \$166,000 to the MERS retirement fund over the past two years. It will be the central argument for the grievances."

In the meantime, township officials hired four full-time sheriff's deputies and one part-time detective sergeant for no more than \$445,490 covering costs through the end of 2012. Whetstone, who represents Flushing Township Police Officers, said the county will not be able to provide 24-hour police coverage because the contract doesn't cover the cost of court time, overtime, vacation, sick or personal leave time. "Either the township pays more money or they'll have no coverage (for that officer)," he said, adding the average county deputy has 25 days off per year. "We can ... give them 24/7 coverage for \$550,000 or less using part timers to fill in."

Flushing Township Commissioners had set a special meeting March 14 to discuss a possible three-month contract extension for Police Chief Dale Stevenson to tie up loose ends with the closure of the department. However, that meeting was cancelled and Stevenson's office cleared out as of March 15, when his contract expired, Whetstone said. Only the Flushing Township Sergeant remains until the end of the school year, said POLC Labor Rep. Duane Smith, who represents the sole command officer. Flushing Schools pays \$55,000 of the sergeant's annual pay since he's a school resource officer, Whetstone said. However, he will be unable to wear a Flushing uniform or a county one.

"The acting sergeant is not a sworn police officer anymore," Smith said. "He doesn't have police powers. They were keeping him there to close down the police department. He's in charge of auctioning off all their equipment and he's a resource officer at the schools and they're going to allow him to do that job until the school year is over."

"The laid off officers are not being given the opportunity to apply with the county," Whetstone added. "One of my guys tried to put an application in and they wouldn't take it."

The POLC is also continuing Act 312 contract arbitration on behalf of the officers. Briefs are expected to be filed by March 30 and a decision is expected 30 to 60 days after that. While the 312 cannot return the officers to work, the Arbitrator ruled in favor of the POLC that it should be completed. The Act 312 hearing will determine future layoff language, recall rights after layoff, and whether the contract expires in 2013 or 2014 among other issues. It is hoped the grievances and ULP can return the officers to work, at which time a new contract would likely be in place. ♥



## LEEP awards police academy grad scholarship

Anthony J. Giannola was presented with a \$500 Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) scholarship for his high academic achievement at Macomb Community College's Police Academy.

LEEP provides the scholarship award, sponsored by the POLC, twice annually to graduating Macomb Police Academy students who are paying for all of their training costs.

The scholarship is awarded to one non-sponsored student in the December and May graduating classes based on highest overall achievement, said Tom Wilk, Macomb Community College Captain of Police and POLC Executive Committee member. These candidates must complete the academy program, pass the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) certification test and meet MCOLES employment standards to become certifiable as a law enforcement officer in Michigan.

Giannola graduated Dec. 14 and is looking for a job. ♥



Macomb Community College Police Academy graduate Anthony J. Giannola received a LEEP Scholarship Award presented by the College's Captain of Police Tom Wilk, a POLC Executive Committee member.

## Jackson Memorial

Continued from page 5

people to know the history."

"I think that paying tribute to those who paid the ultimate price has become more respected in the law enforcement community," LaPorte said. "It's just kind of odd to me because Jim Nixon died in the 70s and there was never a plaque there and there should've been."

LaPorte, who grew up in Jackson, was 8 years old when Nixon was killed. "The park we used to play in all the time is called Nixon Park, which was a dedication to him," LaPorte said. "He had adopted kids — he and his wife — and he was a good family man, good husband."

Jackson PD sought a medal of bravery with valor for Bonneau, which was presented to his family in 2011, Simpson said. Last year, the Jackson PD Honor Guard and Jackson Chief of Police Matthew Heins — accompanied by Bonneau's family — traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the ceremony marking the placement of Bonneau's name on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall. In 2011, they also participated in Michigan Peace Officers' Candlelight Memorial Service by reading Bonneau's name and standing guard. ♥

*In inclement weather, the ceremony may be moved to city hall or county chambers. For more information, please contact Lt. Simpson at [csimpson@cityofjackson.org](mailto:csimpson@cityofjackson.org) or (517) 768-8721.*

## Macomb County officers crack down on teenage drivers that don't buckle up

— Excerpted from [myfoxdetroit.com](http://myfoxdetroit.com)

Teen drivers in Macomb County are being watched to ensure they are buckled up when they're behind the wheel.

The Macomb County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police and Sterling Heights Police are using Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) to map crime and crash information to develop areas where more police presence is needed.

Michigan is the only state in the country to receive a federal grant this year to implement the DDACTS. The pilot program will give law enforcement the information needed to target hot spots and eventually make the community safer.

The teen seat belt program is not just about writing tickets. "It's about safety, it isn't about revenue," said Macomb Sheriff Anthony Wickersham. "It's about having safe motorists and minimizing the chance of injuries during a crash. A warning goes just as far as a citation."

Wickersham hopes the program proves successful and can be implemented throughout southeast Michigan. "We have to get someone's attention and get their mind back behind the wheel thinking about safety," he said. ♥

## Contract Settlements

—As reported by POLC Labor Representatives

### Barry County Deputies Unit

- **New three-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2014.
- **Wages:**  
0 % effective Jan. 1, 2012.  
0 % effective Jan. 1, 2013.  
Wage reopener prior to Jan. 1, 2014.
- **Fringe Benefits:** Agreed to set Arbitration Panel for grievances. Part-time employees will be laid off first. Agreed to establish light duty positions if required. Uniform cleaning allowance is only for biohazard cleaning.
- **Health Care:** Employer defaults to caps in PA-152. New BCBS Simply Blue HSA with \$3,000 deductible for singles; \$6,000 for families; and \$10/\$40/\$80 co-pays for prescription drugs. Employer covers HSA deductibles. Plan #2 is BCN 10 HMO with \$250 deductible, 90%/10% co-insurance, 20%/50%/60% prescription co-pays.
- **Retirement:** Increase in employee contribution of 2.5% with a maximum of 6.06%. MERS B-4, E-2 for employees hired before Jan. 1, 2012. Employees hired on or after Jan. 1, 2012 receive Hybrid 1.5% DB with 1% Employer match up to 10% max for Employer.
- **Bargaining Team:** Joel Funk and Janette Maki aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Bridgeport Township Police

- **New three-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2014.
- **Wages:**  
0 % effective Jan. 1, 2012.  
Wage reopener Jan. 1, 2013.  
Wage reopener Jan. 1, 2014.
- **Fringe Benefits:** Comp time bank increased from 40 hours to 80 hours. Tuition reimbursement decreased from 100% to 50%. Eliminate carryover of \$75 equipment allowance. Allowance must be used in the year received. Vacation carryover decreased from 100 hours to 80 hours.
- **Health Care:** Employer opts out of PA-152 with stipulation that should Employer's revenue sharing be decreased

due to opt out, employees would equally share cost to reimburse the loss back to Employer. Otherwise, health care remains the same for current employees and those hired on or after Jan. 1, 2012 will pay 20% of the premium share. Opt out payment for health care changed from 50% of premiums to \$600 per quarter.

- **Retirement:** Eliminate retiree health care plan for those hired on or after Jan. 1, 2012. Current employees pay 50% of their health care premiums after retirement. Pension remains the same for current employees with MERS B-4, E-2, F-55/20 and FAC 3 with a 2.39% employee contribution. New hires will have MERS B-3, F-55/25, FAC 3 and contribute 2.39%.
- **Bargaining Team:** Sgt. Dave Duffett and Officer Jeff Roberts aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Capital Region Airport Operations Dept.

- **New two-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2013.
- **Wages:**  
1% signing bonus effective Jan. 1, 2012.  
2 % effective May 27, 2012.  
Wage reopener Jan. 1, 2013.
- **Fringe Benefits:** Elimination of \$50 premium bonus per quarter for weekends and holidays. Elimination of longevity benefit. Employees called in on a holiday receive double time. Employees scheduled to work overtime on a holiday will be paid time and one half.
- **Health Care:** Employer opts out of PA-152 for 2012. No health care change.
- **Retirement:** New hires on or after Jan. 1, 2012 have Hybrid 1.5% DB with 1% DC portion. Employer matches 1% to DC.
- **Bargaining Team:** Jason Cotton and Erik Patrick aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Hampton Township Police Lieutenants

- **New four-year agreement** expires May 31, 2015.
- **Wages:** Wage reopener each year of contract.  
No changes to any other part of the contract.
- **Bargaining Team:** Lt. Mike Wedding aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Hampton Township Police Non-Supervisory Unit

- **New four-year agreement** expires May 31, 2015.
- **Wages:** Wage reopener each year of contract.  
No changes to any other part of the contract.
- **Bargaining Team:** Brian Dansereau aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham.

### Jackson County 911 Telecommunicators

- **New three-year agreement** expires Dec. 31, 2014.
- **Wages:**  
2 % effective Jan. 1, 2012.  
2 % effective Jan. 1, 2013.  
3 % effective Jan. 1, 2014.
- **Fringe Benefits:** Eliminate longevity benefit for last remaining employee. Employees who retire on or after Jan. 1, 2012 receive HC Plan for new hire groups. Paid time off is reduced for employees hired on or after Jan. 1, 2012 as follows:

Completion Of	Paid Time-Off Hours	Carry-Over
After probation to 1 year	40	0
1 to 6 years	120	40
7 to 11 years	160	80
12 to 15 years	200	120
16 or more years	240	160

- **Health Care:** Change to BCBS Healthy Blue Incentive (HBI) with \$10/\$20/\$40 prescription drug co-pays, dental (D1) and vision (V1). Premium co-pay for employees will be as follows:  
10% - 2012; 15% - 2013; 20% - 2014.
- **Retirement:** Employees eligible to participate in DB plan will be able to purchase a maximum of four years of Universal Credited Service at no cost to Employer. Retirees hired on or after Jan. 1, 2012 will not be eligible for health insurance. They will participate in VantageCare Retiree Health Savings Plan (RHS) through ICMA-RC. Employees hired before Jan. 1, 2012 will have same insurance coverage as active employees. When active employee coverage changes, so does retirees health coverage.
- **Bargaining Team:** Jessica Grant, Jill Jones and Mallory Fullerton aided by POLC Labor Rep. John Stidham. ♥



## Arbitration

—As reported by the POLC Legal Staff

### TUITION REIMBURSED

A City of Wyoming Police Officer was awarded tuition reimbursement for his entire law school career after the POLC won a grievance on his behalf.

The contract states "courses for college credit must be directly related to the employee's job classification." It also requires the employee to submit a reimbursement request "in writing to the department head and approved by the city manager, prior to enrollment."

The City denied all the officer's requested tuition reimbursement, including some courses obviously related to police work. In the past 10 years, the City approved courses for two management majors, law courses for another employee and an entire law degree for another employee. The City approved dozens of tuition reimbursement requests even if the class had no relation to police work.

The Arbitrator granted the grievance based on past practice. He rejected the Employer's argument the city manager had discretion to approve tuition reimbursement. The Arbitrator agreed with the POLC that the city manager merely performed an administrative function by approving the requests.

### SHIFT REQUEST GRANTED

A Ferris State University officer was granted his shift bid following a grievance filed on his behalf by the POLC.

Although officers can contractually bid their shifts by seniority, the officer was denied his request for afternoon shift. The Employer said the officer was forced to work the midnight shift because the department needed to assign a probationary employee to the officer's preferred shift.

The contract allows the Employer to change the schedule for "special assignments, including but not limited to teams, task forces, investigations, etc."

The Arbitrator ruled the officer had a right to the contractual shift bid per the mandatory contract language. The Arbitrator also ruled the probationary officer did not have a "special assignment" under the contract exception. The probationary officer performed regular road patrol duties, only on a different shift, the Arbitrator said.

### TERMINATION REVERSED

A City of Owosso officer was returned to his job with back pay following a POLC grievance filed on his behalf.

The City fired the officer in July 2010 after a series of complaints by a former city employee. The officer arrested the ex-employee for drunk driving in September 2009. The man filed a complaint against the arresting officers, which ultimately concluded with no wrongdoing on the officer's part.

Over the next several months, the officer often came into contact with the ex-employee while on duty and used these instances to check up on his conduct. The City fired the officer based on the following five harassment claims:

- The officer followed the ex-employee in his vehicle after he left a bar in May 2010. After hearing the ex-employee file a complaint over the radio, the officer went to the ex-employee's house to explain his side of the story to his shift sergeant. The officer acknowledged he should not have visited the home.
- While conducting business checks in May 2010, the officer placed a door tag on a liquor store business, which the ex-employee was patronizing at the time.
- The officer parked near the ex-employee's home and ran a LEIN check on his vehicle in June 2010 to determine whether his license had been revoked after the DUI. The Employer tried to claim the officer was monitoring the streets near the man's home, but GPS showed he parked out of view of these streets then continued on patrol.
- The officer pulled over a wrecker in June 2010. He had probable cause to make the stop since he saw a man fitting the ex-employee's description driving a wrecker, owned by that man's employer, and he saw it parked in front of the ex-employee's home. A different person was driving the wrecker. When that person asked why he was pulled over, the officer told him the ex-employee had a suspended license. This was a minor LEIN violation and the officer was never prosecuted.

The officer testified he saw the ex-employee on a number of other occasions where he did not file a complaint. Aside from the harassment allegations, the City fired the officer for allegedly lying during the investigation. However, the sergeant in charge of the LEIN investigation said he did not believe the officer lied.

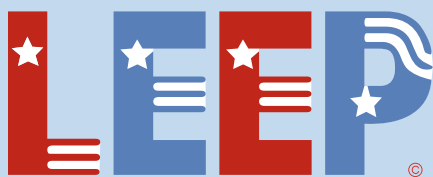
The Arbitrator ruled the officer did not harass the ex-employee and he did not lie. The officer's termination was reversed and he received full back pay except for a two-day suspension for the LEIN issue. ♥



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## **LEEP, POLC support cancer patients**

**O**ver the past 11 years, the POLC and Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) have raised over \$100,000 to support cancer patients and their families and this summer they're asking for your support.

The co-sponsors, led by event organizer and POLC Labor Rep. Will Keizer, encourage POLC officers and their families to participate in the 12th Annual Gilda's Motorcycle Poker Run for Charity Saturday, July 7. The ride benefits Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, a non-profit networking source that provides social and emotional support to cancer patients and their families and friends.

This year, LEEP is donating another \$5,000 to Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

Last year, over 80 riders followed the scenic drive through Ottawa and Kent counties. Bikers and cagers are welcome for \$30

per person or \$55 per couple including the barbeque. Dinner only is \$10.

Registration is 9-10 a.m. with a continental breakfast followed by the Poker Run, which starts and ends at Kosciuszko Hall, 935 Park SW, Grand Rapids. The pig roast begins at 5 p.m.

Sponsors can have their business name printed on the "12th Anniversary Gilda's Run" shirts for a donation of \$250 prior to June 20. Any sponsor gifts of cash or door prize donations will be recognized. Donations are tax deductible with 100 percent going to Gilda's Club. ❤️

*Pre-register and receive a free 12th Anniversary long or short sleeve shirt by sending checks made payable to "Gilda's Club Grand Rapids" c/o Will Keizer, 1293 Oakwood Dr., Jenison, MI 49428 before June 27. Please include shirt type and size(s).*