

President's Message

January 2010

By: Deputy Sal Anicito, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office



Hello Florida DARE Officers. I hope everyone had a great holiday and got to spend some quality time with your families. I wish you all a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year.

It's a new year and there is a lot to get done. There was a meeting held on Saturday Jan. 9, 2010 at the Hallandale Police Department. My thanks to Officer Chris Taylor for hosting the meeting. If any of you are interested in hosting an FDOA meeting at your agency, please contact me at anicitos@stluciesheriff.com or call me at 772-370-2715.

The meeting was very productive. John Lindsay from DARE America attended as well as Steve Emerson from FDLE. My thanks to John and Steve for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting. It just goes to show the dedication and support these guys have for F.D.O.A.. Also present was Treasurer Terry Allen from Lake County Sheriff's Office as well as Sgt. at Arms Fred Jones also from Lake County. It was nice to see Officer Cora Montgomery from Miami Dade Police Dept. at the meeting. Miami Dade's D.A.R.E. Program was in jeopardy but due to some hard work by the agency and John Lindsay, the program was saved. Kudos to them!

The Executive Board discussed the status of the Conference. We are presently in negotiation with Marco Island Hilton Hotel to possibly postpone the conference until next year (2011). Some of the reasons for this is the number of counties in the State of Florida that have discontinued their DARE programs and the state of the economy as well as the freezes that are taking place throughout the state when it

pertains to travel expenses. Another issue to be taken into consideration is that the conference is scheduled during the same week as the Florida Police/Fire games. This would negatively affect attendance to the conference. It is our intention to present you with the best conference possible. We are working with DARE America and FDLE on the possibility of presenting classes at our 2011 conference for certifications and mandatory retraining. Please do not become discouraged by all this. Sometimes we have to sit back and regroup because of situations that present themselves that are beyond our control. Stay positive. "IF" we do postpone this year's conference, we will move forward and present you with a bigger and better conference in 2011 than in years past.

The Miami Dade Police Department is holding their DARE Walk on Saturday February 20, 2010 at the Miami Zoo. This is a great event and many of us will be attending to set up a table for FDOA to distribute information on Over The Counter Drugs (O.T.C./RX).

Speaking of O.T.C. drugs, please remember that Feb 22, through Feb. 28 is "**RxOTC Awareness Week**". Prescription and over the counter drug abuse has become a huge problem in our society today. It is imperative that we get the information out about the dangers of this problem to our youth. For more information about how you can be involved in RxOTC Awareness Week, contact John Lindsay at john.lindsay@dare.org

If you are a district Rep, remember that we need members. There are many District Reps who we never hear from. I will be sending out a letter to find out who is still active and who is not. If you are no longer serving FDOA as a District Rep. or if you are interested in becoming a

member of our executive Board as District Rep, please contact 1st Vice President Chris Taylor at 321-439-6722 or email him at gatornation44@bellsouth.net

We were all saddened to hear of the death of F.D.O.A. District Rep. Captain Chad Reed of The Dixie County Sheriff's Office on January 14, 2010. Capt. Reed was fatally shot during an incident that began in Hernando County where the suspect shot four persons and vowed to "shoot as many deputies as possible" The suspect and vehicle were tracked northbound from Hernando County. Deputies from Dixie County and officers of the Cross City Police Department located the suspect and vehicle in Dixie County. While still seated in his vehicle the suspect brandished a weapon and engaged the officers. Captain Reed was fatally shot in the exchange of gunfire. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chad's wife Holly and his two young sons, he was 33 years old.

Until next month, please be safe in all that you do. Thank you for your dedication to the children of our wonderful state and for all that you do each and every day. You do make a difference. God Bless

Sal