

May 24, 2010

Dear F.D.O.A. Family,

I hope this letter finds everyone, everywhere, well. I knew there would come a time when I would have to regretfully write this letter. I was holding out for as long as I could but I realized that the time has come.

In November of 2009 I was assigned as the Senior Advisor to our Explorers Post 400. For our agency, this is a full time position. We currently have about 43 Explorers whose program I oversee. I was humbled by being offered this position exclusively, by the Sheriff, and after careful consideration, accepted the position.

Throughout the year we host many huge events in our County to include The Explorers Annual Fishing Tournament in September, the Civil War Reenactment in December, Delegates weekend in September which includes Explorer Posts coming to St. Lucie County from all around the State of Florida, The St. Lucie County Fair in February, which is a ten day event, The Boy Scouts Pow Wow in March, The PBR Rodeo in June and many more events on a monthly basis. Because of this, my time has become somewhat consumed, especially weekends. I find it harder and harder to find time for anything other than running the Explorers Post. Although I am very busy, I do love this job because I get to work with kids in a positive way in both teaching and training.

Okay, now the hard part. I am at this time, tendering my resignation as President of F.D.O.A.. Effective immediately, Deputy Fred Jones from Lake County Sheriff's office will assume the Presidency of F.D.O.A.. Fred is a very capable individual whose heart and soul is teaching children. Lake County has a very active D.A.R.E. program and a Sheriff who supports D.A.R.E.. I am very sorry that I have to do this. My heart was broken last June when our School Board (not the Sheriff's Office) decided to discontinue the D.A.R.E. program in St. Lucie County as well as the G.R.E.A.T. program for our middle schools. For many years, I have headed up our D.A.R.E. program and my life and career revolved around D.A.R.E.. I brought the D.A.R.E. Carnival into St. Lucie County which became an annual event for three consecutive years. The carnival raised thousands of dollars each year to run the program successfully. Our D.A.R.E. graduations went a new level and D.A.R.E. was becoming a very recognized name in St. Lucie County. Then the rug was pulled out from beneath me. We still no longer have these programs in our schools and do not foresee them returning in the future. Due to my working schedule now with the Explorer Post, and my time being consumed as it is, I feel that my effectiveness as your president is in jeopardy. I do not want to take anything away from F.D.O.A. so I felt that it would be in the best interest of F.D.O.A. to hand the reigns over to someone who is actively teaching D.A.R.E. with an active D.A.R.E. program.

I want to thank everyone in this wonderful organization for being the strong people that you are. I know that because of your dedication to children, D.A.R.E. will remain alive and well in Florida for a long time. My involvement in D.A.R.E. and F.D.O.A. has been the high point of my entire Law Enforcement career. Although I must now step down, as I move forward please know that you are all in good hands and I will always believe in you, believe in D.A.R.E. and believe that together we can and do make a difference in children's lives. I will continue to support F.D.O.A. in anyway that I can. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Sincerely,

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