



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Christopher L. Paris – Chair
Commissioner,
Pennsylvania State Police

William C. Barrett
City Official
Luzerne County

Richard M. Bosco
Chief, Latrobe Borough PD
Westmoreland County

Jason D. Brinker
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.
Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Anthony C. Clements
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr.
FOP Representative
Allegheny County

John Kitzinger
Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Yvonne J. Lemelle
Local Government Policy Manager Dept.
of Community & Economic Dev. Dauphin
County

Kevin F. Mahoney
Director Certified School
Lackawanna County

Richard L. Mendez
Chief, Lancaster City PD
Lancaster County

Corey B. Meyer
Township Official of the Second Class
Lancaster County

Brian Munroe
PA House of Representatives
Bucks County

Steven J. Plaughter
Borough Official
Chester County

Senator Mike Regan
Senate of Pennsylvania
Dauphin County

Guy A. Salerno
Chief, Blakely Borough PD Lackawanna
County

Samuel M. Sanguedolce, Esq.
District Attorney, Public at Large Luzerne
County

Donald E. Sedlacek
Chief, Hopewell Township PD
Beaver County

Vacancy
Township Official of the First Class

Training Director's Corner

"It's already summer and I still have to get my MIST training done..." MIST or more formally, "Mandatory In-Service Training" is clearly not something that creates excitement or enthusiasm. Most people dread having to do these trainings. Some recognize it's a condition of employment and required by law, so they get them done as soon as possible (see 37 Pa. Code § 203.52). Others wait until the end of the calendar year and scramble to complete them. Some don't bother and then wonder why their certification is suspended.

Since I was appointed to this position, the loudest issue I continually hear is "Can't you do something about these courses?" Speaking for the MPOETC training team, let me start by saying first and foremost, **WE GET IT!** We have over 100 years of combined law enforcement experience and we've all had to do MIST trainings for decades. We also recognize we have roughly 21,800 customers and the work you do is different throughout this Commonwealth. Although there are obvious similarities, the challenges faced by Philadelphia officers are often different than what officers face in Elk County. So how do we meet the legal requirements and provide quality training that benefits everyone? With that, let me briefly walk you through the process:

Around September, the MPOETC Commission identifies the four topics they want for the following year. These topics are often the result of issues impacting our communities. A training specialist from our team is assigned to serve as the lead course developer for each topic. They solicit volunteers and build a team of subject matter experts (SMEs) who both develop and teach the curriculum. SMEs are not just picked from the Harrisburg area but across the Commonwealth.

Once a team is formed, they meet at least monthly to develop goals, an outline, and content. We then collaborate with a private production company who adds professional videos, voice-overs, and other creative content. Once the course is complete, we run a pilot course to work out any final details or edits. We then conduct three initial train-the-trainer workshops across the state for instructors. The PA Chiefs of Police Association also provides the course through PAVTN for those that cannot get to a live training event.

"Ok Director, I still don't see any value to taking these MIST courses, do I have any options?" For required courses, the answer is no! For example, Legal Updates is always a required course and must be completed. If the MIST course is "Elective" you can choose another offering from PAVTN or one of over 200 Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) courses (see <https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/training>).

A couple of notes on elective courses: you can't take a 24-hour CLEE course and have it count for two years. You can't take the same PAVTN course and count it more than once for MIST credit. If you take, but don't pass a PAVTN course, you need to contact the PA Chief's Association to reset the course and try again. You only get two tries and then you must find an in-person location to take the training.

We solicit ideas for MIST and CLEE course so if you have something you believe others would benefit from, let us know! Please don't email and suggest something generic like "we want fraud training." Be specific in your request and why this would be important for PA police officers. If appropriate, we will present it to the Commission for consideration. Our email is ra-mpotraining@pa.gov.

Thank you all for your service!

Director Michael J. Corricelli

Quarterly Legal Updates

The Commission recognizes that both statutes and case law can change frequently and throughout the year. While officers take mandatory Legal Update training, many times the officers would have benefitted from knowing about the changes when they happened rather than waiting months to attend the class. To help reduce the time it takes for officers to hear about recent changes to the law, the Commission's quarterly newsletter includes a synopsis of the most significant recent changes.

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro signed into law House Bill 1661, known as Act 17 of 2024, on May 15, 2024, which criminalizes the misuse of xylazine. Xylazine is now classified as a Schedule III drug under Pennsylvania's Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, effective immediately. Anyone manufacturing or distributing xylazine in Pennsylvania could face up to five years in prison and a \$15,000 fine.

Not approved by the FDA for human consumption, xylazine is a non-opioid animal tranquilizer sedative which is frequently used as an adulterant for heroin and can be inhaled, injected into veins or muscles, smoked, snorted, or swallowed. Central nervous system depression, respiratory depression, low heart rate, low blood pressure and even death are the serious side effects, which are instantaneous and can last for several hours. Because xylazine intoxication and overdoses look very similar to opioid abuse, it is difficult to determine what type of drug a person has ingested. Even though xylazine does not respond to naloxone, law enforcement officers should carry it and administer it in any overdose situation as xylazine is often used as a cutting agent with opioid drugs.

There are several exemptions in the new law. Xylazine is not a controlled substance when it is used by a veterinarian for the prescribing and treatment of a nonhuman species, or the manufacturing, distribution, or use of xylazine by a licensed pharmacist for pharmaceutical compounding.

Governor Shapiro also signed into law **Act 18 of 2024, also referred to as Paul Miller's Law, on June 5, 2024.** Act 18 prohibits the use of hand-held devices while driving. Governor Shapiro was also joined by a bipartisan group of legislators, including SB 37 prime sponsor Senator Rosemary Brown. This bipartisan legislation makes Pennsylvania the 29th state in the nation to ban distracted driving.

Paul Miller Jr. was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident with a tractor-trailer in 2010 in Monroe County as the result of a distracted driver who reached for their phone while driving. Since Paul's death, Eileen Miller, Paul's mother, has become a national advocate for stronger laws to curb distracted driving.

Act 18 allows law enforcement to issue a ticket when a driver uses a cell phone while driving. Drivers can still use their phones to alert emergency responders and to make phone calls, use a GPS, and listen to music, if they are using hands-free technology.

"Limiting distractions while behind the wheel makes Pennsylvania's roadways safer for everyone," said Colonel Christopher Paris, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police. "Eliminating the handling of cell phones while driving will certainly reduce the number of crashes and save lives."

In 2023, distracted driving was the leading cause of car crashes in Pennsylvania with traffic deaths rising by 2.25% compared to 2022, according to PennDOT's annual crash information report. The report showed 1,209 deaths in motor vehicle crashes, up from 1,179 in the prior year. There were more than 11,262 distracted driving crashes in 2023, compared to 8,330 alcohol-related crashes.

"In 2023, there were over 11 thousand crashes in Pennsylvania that involved a distracted driver," said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll.

Act 18 will also work to prevent bias in policing by requiring law enforcement to collect data on drivers pulled over during traffic stops, including race, ethnicity, and gender. The data will be made publicly available in an annual report. This amendment – which the Governor advocated for in conjunction with the Legislative Black Caucus – builds on the Shapiro Administration's work to ensure Pennsylvanians can have the utmost faith in the law enforcement officers serving and protecting them every day.

PA officers will be writing written warnings for any violations until January 2026, after which they will begin citing drivers.



The office of the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission will be closed on the following dates for the purpose of transacting public business:

Independence Day: July 4, 2024

Labor Day: September 2, 2024

Regular office hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Monday through Friday

MPOETC Staff Updates

Gianna Marte was promoted to Administrative Officer 1 and now serves as the MPOETC Certification Unit Supervisor. Gianna was previously employed with the State Police as a Police Communications Officer (PCO) from June 2020 to June 2023, Troop L, Jonestown Station, and as the supervisor of the Records Automation Unit in the Bureau of Records and Identification, at DHQ, from June 2023 to April 2024, before coming to MPOETC this past April.

Potential New Act 120 Academies

During the June meeting, the MPOETC Commission voted to accept applications for potential new schools. Those interested in opening a new police training academy may submit an initial application from August 1 – November 30, 2024. The initial application form, (MPO-246 - New School Letter of Interest Application), will be available in the Forms Library on the MPOETC website (https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/Pages/Forms_library.aspx). Once initial applications are received, MPOETC will conduct studies to determine the police population in the area and if there is currently adequate police training available. The Commission will then vote to accept full application packages from potential schools in areas where there is a demonstrated need for a new academy.

Interested parties must be in compliance with applicable portions of 37 Pa. Code §§ 203.31 – 203.37.

Act 89 Grant Reimbursement Updates

There has been an increase in demand of the Grant funding this past Fiscal Year. A record number of departments have submitted for reimbursement. A total of 75 departments submitted for reimbursement so far this Fiscal Year compared to 40 departments at this same time last year.

There are multiple factors contributing to the rising demand of the grant funds:

- Tuition rates and officer salaries continue to increase.
- The grant is also being advertised more through the MPOETC Newsletter and website.

MPOETC staff anticipates the 2023 Fiscal Year funds will be depleted by July of this year compared to late summer / fall in most other years. MPOETC does anticipate receiving another \$5,000,000.00 this July for Fiscal Year 2024.

Highlights from the June 2024 Commission Meeting

On June 12-13, 2024, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission held its regular quarterly meeting in Radnor, PA at the Inn at Villanova University. On Wednesday afternoon, June 12, 2024, the Commissioners held committee meetings to discuss the business of the Commission. On Thursday morning, June 13, 2024, the Commissioners met in an Executive Committee meeting, which was followed by the formal meeting of the full Commission, where they took the following actions:

- The Commission revoked certifications of six officers: Five officers for convictions of one or more of the following disqualifying offenses: Simple Assault, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, Terroristic Threats, or Promoting Prostitution. One officer was revoked for submitting fraudulent Act 57 Separation Records while serving as a chief of police for a department.
- The Commission approved an increase in Delaware County Community College Academy tuition from \$5,800 to \$6,400.
- The Philadelphia Police Academy provided an update on the implementation of PA Act 37 (formerly HB 863). All cadets tested under the 20% Cooper Standard, which represents their first milestone after starting the academy, completed the test at 20% or higher.
- The Commission received a presentation from Elizabethtown College on a proposal to create a new Act 120 police academy in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, PA. Following the presentation, the Commission voted to accept applications for potential new police academies in the Commonwealth.
- Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel attended the meeting and thanked the MPOETC Staff and the Commission for all they do for Philadelphia and all the municipalities in Pennsylvania.

Information Regarding the September 2024 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on September 25 and 26, 2024 at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort, 2138 Business 200, Bedford, Pennsylvania, 15522. Phone: 814-623-8100. Further information about the meeting, including a topical agenda, will be available at <https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/Pages/about-us.aspx>. *Please note that a public notification will be made if this meeting is rescheduled.*

- Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, the 25th at 12:30 P.M.
- Executive Committee meeting begins on Thursday, the 26th at 9:00 A.M.
- Full Commission meeting begins on Thursday, the 26th at 10:00 A.M.

The Commission encourages attendance by police chiefs, law enforcement officers, police academy directors, instructors and other interested parties. If you have further questions concerning the meetings, please feel free to contact the Executive Director.

The Executive Committee will hear reports from all committees. In addition, the Executive Committee will also open their meeting to comments from the audience. If you would like to make a presentation to any committee, please contact the Executive Director in order to be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee.



Questions, comments and information for inclusion in the *Newsletter* are always welcome. This is your opportunity to submit your concerns or suggestions to the Commission. To do so, please contact the Executive Director, Major William A. Brown or the Editor, Suzanne M. Williams by calling toll-free at 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses on page 5. You may also write to:

MPOETC Newsletter

Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission

8002 Bretz Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9748

The Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission was established in 1974 to set hiring and training standards for police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through strict certification procedures and standardized basic and continuing professional in-service training for police officers. The Commission needs the support of the entire law enforcement community, state and local government officials, and the general public to be successful. Please circulate this Newsletter throughout your agency and to the government officials in your municipality. The quarterly newsletter is also available on the MPOETC website at www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC, under About Us > Quarterly Newsletters.

New Agency Executives

- Chief David Lennon** Conshohocken PD
Montgomery County
- Chief Jeffrey Shull** Springfield Township PD
Delaware County
- Superintendent Andrew J. Block** Lower Merion Township PD
Montgomery County
- Chief Jason Jay** West Hempfel Township PD
Lancaster County
- Chief Scott C. Smith , Jr.** Lower Moreland Township PD
Montgomery County
- Chief David Scirrotto** Buckingham Township PD
Bucks County

CONGRATULATIONS!

Areas of Responsibility and Contact Information for Commission Staff

The following resource accounts are provided to allow your questions and concerns to reach the Executive Director, Staff Member, or Members of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

Act 120 Applications and Certification, Act 120 Instructor Application and Certification

Email: mpocertification@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

TRAINING

Basic Training Curriculum, Mandatory In-Service Training, Instructor Training, Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act

Email: ra-mpotraining@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

Continuing Law Enforcement Education Reimbursement (Mandatory In-Service Training), Basic Training Tuition and Salary

Email: RA-SPMPOFSS@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

Email: mpostandards@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782