



# NEWSLETTER

## Commission Membership

**Christopher L. Paris – Chair**  
Commissioner  
Pennsylvania State Police  
Dauphin County

**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

**Barry J. Jozwiak**  
PA House of Representatives  
Berks County

**John Kitzinger**  
Office of Attorney General  
Dauphin County

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

**Altovise Love-Craighead**  
Chief Inspector, Philadelphia PD  
Philadelphia 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

**Steven J. Plaugher**  
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

## 2023 Holiday Message

Dear Law Enforcement Friends,

It has sincerely been a pleasure and privilege to be the Executive Director of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission. I have had the opportunity to visit many of our Police Academies and I am extremely proud of the work the instructors are putting in and the education and training that they are providing the Police Cadets in training.

The challenges we face in Law Enforcement continue to be daunting but the women and men of the Law Enforcement family continue to do heroic deeds day in and day out. I want to personally thank everyone who is in the Law Enforcement profession, striving for professionalism in the Law Enforcement Community. You answer the call every day for the citizens and visitors of this Commonwealth.

As we continue to face recruiting and retirement challenges, MPOETC has seen an increase of 19.5% for our Police Academy enrollments compared to last year. I encourage everyone to continue to recruit the next generation of Law Enforcement Officers in this great Commonwealth.

The staff here at MPOETC and I say "Thank You" for your commitment to this noble profession of Law Enforcement.

We wish you all a joyous holiday season, and a new year filled with hope, prosperity, and happiness.

Major William A. Brown  
Executive Director



## 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 now includes a synopsis of the most significant recent changes.*

### Six-Hour Exception

The jail removal requirement at 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(13)(A) allows the detention or confinement in an adult jail or lockup of juveniles accused of delinquent offenses (i.e., offenses that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult), under the following circumstances:

1. A juvenile accused of a delinquent offense may be securely detained for no more than six (6) hours for the purposes of processing or release or while awaiting transfer to a juvenile facility.
2. A juvenile who has been adjudicated as delinquent may not be detained in an adult jail or lockup, for any length of time, without resulting in an instance of noncompliance with the jail removal requirement.

A juvenile accused of a delinquent offense may be securely detained in an adult jail or lockup for a combined total of no more than six (6) hours, so long as the juvenile does not have contact with adult inmates, and the state has in effect a policy that requires individuals who work with such juveniles and adult inmates to be trained and certified to work with juveniles. This does allow a department to detain an accused delinquent offender in a jail or lockup for adults for more than a cumulative total of six (6) hours, for instance for three (3) hours before, and then for an additional three (3) hours after an interview, non-secure holding does not count within the six-hour requirement.

There are areas within the building that could also be classified as non-secure, like a conference room, office, lobby removing the juvenile from the area where a jail removal/six-hour violation can occur and placing them in non-secure areas can prevent a department from violation of the six-hour requirement.

## MPOETC Staff Update

Lisa Welker joined MPOETC in November and comes to us from Williamsport (Home of Little League Baseball) where she worked at the Pennsylvania College of Technology for 20 years. She held clerical positions in Student Activities as well as Workforce Development in the Clean Energy Center offices. She lives in Annville with her husband, Mark. She has five children and three grandchildren.

Welcome aboard, Lisa!



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

**Christmas Day: December 25, 2023**

**New Year's Day: January 1, 2024**

**Martine Luther King, Jr. Day: January 15, 2024**

**Presidents' Day: February 29, 2024**

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

## 2024 Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST)

The MPOETC Training Unit has finished conducting the instructor training workshops for certified police trainers who will be teaching the following Commission-approved 2024 MIST courses. The 2024 MIST courses will become available in-person at the MPOETC-certified police academies and online via pavtn.net in the new year.

### 24-201 Legal Update (Required)

A three-hour course highlighting pertinent court decisions and significant pieces of legislation that affect police operations and investigations. Lessons will address changes and updates to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Vehicle Code, and Rules of Criminal Procedures as well as decisions from Pennsylvania's Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts, various Federal Courts, and the United States Supreme Court.

This course is being offered in two segments online via pavtn. The first segment was made available in the middle of 2023. The second segment will be released in January 2024 at the same time the entire course will be released also as an in-classroom training.

### 24-301 Suicide by Cop (Elective)

A three-hour course specifically focused on the phenomenon of suicidal individuals who choose to end their lives by confronting a law enforcement officer. The course will define suicide by cop, identify risk factors and warning signs, discuss intervention techniques, tactical communication, de-escalation techniques, and best practices to increase the chances of a successful and safe outcome. The course will also assist officers in recognizing and recovering from the trauma in the aftermath of such an encounter, as well as providing resources for officers to maintain their health and wellness.

### 24-601 Community Relationships (Required)

A three-hour course focused on the importance of building and maintaining trusted relationships with the communities police officers serve and protect. The course will review how to strengthen awareness regarding cultural diversity, competency and sensitivity within various communities; and to recognize trauma's impact on members of the community and the importance of applying a trauma-informed approach. The course will conclude with highlighting strategies that officers can implement when working with their community members.

### 24-602 Law Enforcement Ethics (Elective)

A three-hour course exploring the issues of modern-day ethics in law enforcement and discussing what, if any, changes have occurred throughout the history of policing in Pennsylvania. The course will examine how hiring standards influence hiring ethical police officers and what impact that has on Pennsylvania law enforcement. The course will also suggest ideas which can assist officers in remaining ethically sound throughout their careers.

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## TACS Update: Use of Force & Control Tactics Requirement

Beginning January 1, 2024 all municipal police departments will be able to add Use of Force & Control Tactics training for their officers by accessing the **Use of Force & Control Tactics tab in the officer's TACS profile**. The officer's profile can be accessed by selecting the name of the officer within the department's Act 120 TACS roster.

The entry must include the training year, training date, and the name of the MPOETC-approved instructor.

The capability to update more than one officer at a time will not be available on January 1st, but will be available sometime in early 2024.



## The Importance of Roll Call Training

by Jonathan Schuhart, MPOETC Police Training Education Specialist

As law enforcement professionals, we can never get enough training. While it may not be lengthy or require traveling outside of your department, jurisdiction, or state, training should be viewed as an opportunity and with an open mind. We should (or hope to) learn something from each training we attend and apply it to our profession. Whether it is five minutes or 50 minutes, training should have value and be relevant. One of the best places to conduct training and educate your squad, is roll call. Assuming calls aren't stacking up and the sky is still intact, roll call is the perfect time to impart some information.

How many times have you heard your contemporaries grumbling about the lack of training? If you are like most of us, I would suspect quite often. I realize the concept of training has a certain gravity or weight associated with it that makes it feel worthwhile and noteworthy. Training is the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies regardless of the duration, instructor, or location. Keeping this in mind during roll call, why not take advantage of the opportunity? As a supervisor, patrol officer, or detective, you have people gathered together preparing to take on the world, teach them something they can use and make it relevant. This information could cover topics like recent case law and how it applies to the profession right now, intel reports from patrol, specialized units, or the intel analyst (invite them to attend), or a refresher on tourniquets (your issued equipment and/or other options) and how to properly apply them. These are just a few examples, so be creative and take a dip in the topic pool.

Supervisors to patrol officers are all responsible to keep up with training and educating themselves and each other. If you find yourself in a position of authority or leadership, delegate topics to less-experienced officers to learn and present briefly at roll call training; everyone should learn something. For example, at my last agency, my squad met at headquarters on the Sunday we worked and had a 30-to-60-minute training session. These topics included agency business, case law application, emerging trends in law enforcement, Tac-Med, etc. This training was usually attended by command staff as well to include the Sheriff and Under-Sheriff. Our squad LT asked deputies to teach and choose a topic they were familiar with that would most benefit the squad. The squad on duty handled the county until we were finished. The entire shift/squad got together and trained; hard to do in a county of 519 sq. miles.

Training presented at daily roll call need not be time-consuming. A five-minute research presentation of a revised general order or recent case law update provides invaluable information to a squad. Those with tactical experience can demonstrate Tac-Med or room-clearing/searching procedures (granted this may take a bit longer). Debriefing a situation with Body-Worn-Camera (BWC) footage encourages discussion and inevitable learning, good or bad. We all make mistakes and we all do things well. Critique each other after training, accept positive and negative criticism; this is how we learn and get better in our profession.

The profession of Law Enforcement requires constant training. Conventional education and thinking outside the box will help to make you and your squad better professionals. Roll call is a great time to train, coach, instruct, and fellowship with your squad! If it is too busy and you must skip roll call, find the time later in the shift. Make training fun, make it relevant, make it accessible. Step up and take a leadership role and teach something. Make the time for training, it may save lives.

Be safe. Watch your six. Take care of each other.



## Highlights from the December 2023 Commission Meeting

On December 6-7, 2023, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission held its regular quarterly meeting in Harrisburg at the MPOETC office. On Wednesday afternoon, December 6, 2023, the Commissioners held committee meetings to discuss the business of the Commission. On Thursday morning, December 7, 2023, 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 approved the transfer of a satellite academy location of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Police Academy from the Robert Morris University in Moon Township to the Pittsburgh Technical College located in Oakdale, PA.
- In anticipation of HB 863 passing, the Commission approved having staff develop an adjustment to the current PT section of the basic curriculum to allow for a change in the PT entrance standards.
- The Commission approved to have the regulations for Acts 57 & 59 to proceed through the regulatory review process.
- The Commission approved certifications for municipal police officers and police academy instructors and revoked the certifications of six officers:
  - One officer for physical or psychological impairment and five officers for convictions of the following disqualifying offenses: Accidents Involving Death or Personal Injury, Sexual Extortion & Official Oppression, Strangulation, Intimidation of a Witness, Simple Assault, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, False Reports, and Corruption of Minors.
- In addition, the Commission revoked the certification of an officer for failure to complete annual MIST and submission of false information to the Commission. The Commission also revoked the certification of an academy instructor for conduct which reflects unfavorably on a certified school.
- The Commission suspended an officer's certification for one year for testing positive for Marijuana.



## Information Regarding the March 2024 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on March 13 and 14, 2024 at the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), 8002 Bretz Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17112. Phone: 717-346-4086. 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 13th at 12:30 P.M.
- Executive Committee meeting begins on Thursday, the 14th at 9:00 A.M.
- Full Commission meeting begins on Thursday, the 14th 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. This is your opportunity to have your concern or suggestion heard by the Commission.

**Q**uestions, 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, Leah M. Napoli, by calling toll-free at 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses on page 6. 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](http://www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC), under About Us > Quarterly Newsletters.

# New Agency Executives

<b>Chief Troy J. Abelovsky</b>	Lehighton Borough PD Carbon County
<b>Chief Carla C. Dieg</b>	Athens Borough PD Brandford County
<b>Chief Gregory F. Drollinger</b>	Renovo Borough PD Clinton County
<b>Chief Duane M. Fisher</b>	Manheim Township PD Lancaster County
<b>Chief Joanna L. Jinks</b>	White Haven Borough PD Luzerne County
<b>Chief Jason L. Montgomery</b>	Washington Township PD Westmoreland County
<b>Chief Lance J. Morris</b>	North Woodbury Township PD Blair 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](mailto: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: [mpotraining@pa.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mpostandards@pa.gov)  
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086  
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782