

WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER of CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Volume 8, Number 5

March 2020

OFFICERS:

President: **Cindy Carter**

Vice President:
Danny Hickson

Secretary: **Hector Dittamo**

Treasurer: **Steve Thompson**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chaplain:
Msgr. Salvatore Criscuolo

Parliamentarian:
Doris Walker

Police Liaison:
Brett Parson

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Police Week • May 2020

Many events have been cancelled or postponed. See Page 2 for details.

C.O.P.S. 2020 Hands-On Programs

See page 2 for programs and dates.

Board/Chapter Training • July 23 – 26, 2020, St. Louis, MO

Information is available on the National C.O.P.S. website:

<https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/boardchaptertraining>.

This annual two-day training is designed for active Chapter representatives.
(Subject to change)

C.O.P.S. Mission

*Rebuilding shattered lives of survivors and co-workers
affected by line of duty deaths.*

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

On March 7th, the Chapter held its annual business meeting and elections. The new Board will take over effective April 1, 2020 for a two-year term. Congratulations – and Thank You! – to our newly-elected officers:

President – **Brett Parson**
Vice President – **Danny Hickson**
Secretary – **Mary Feltis**
Treasurer – **Hector Dittamo**

THANK YOU!!

As this is my last newsletter as Chapter president, I want to thank the Board with whom I served the past 4 years and the many Chapter members who also volunteer their time and energy, as well as law enforcement partners and citizens who support our Chapter, our mission and our survivors.

To our survivors, I continue to be humbled by your courage, resilience and generosity of spirit. Thank you for trusting us at the most difficult time in your lives. And thank you for providing the example we need right now – that we can overcome adversity and challenges with hope, compassion and humanity. I never imagined I would be writing about the cancellation of Police Week events. As I put these words to the page, I still find it hard to believe. Honoring and remembering our fallen, connecting with and supporting survivors – that's Police Week! It's a shared experience, something we do together to heal. Know that we will honor our fallen, and we will get through this current crisis together.



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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2020

On March 18, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) and partner organizations made the difficult decision to cancel National Police Week 2020 events due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Although this national crisis has restricted public gatherings, the leaders of the various organizations that plan Police Week and affiliated events are committed to honoring the 2019 fallen officers. Virtual events are being planned for May and options are being discussed for live events when it is safe and reasonable for the public to gather. This is a fluid situation. Visit our website and/or Facebook page as well as the websites of National C.O.P.S. and other organizations for updates.

STATUS OF DC-C.O.P.S. AND LOCAL EVENTS

- May 2, 10:00 a.m. : Chapter's Annual Survivors Breakfast** · Washington, D.C. – postponed, date TBD
- May 4, 11:30 a.m. : Washington Area Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service** · Washington, D.C – postponed, date TBD
- May 4, 7:00 p.m. : Prince William County Tribute** · Prince William County (VA) – postponed, date TBD
- May 5, 12 noon : 25th Annual Blue Mass** · Washington, D.C. – postponed to September 29
- May 9, time TBD : Operation Deep Blue Arrival at the Wharf** · Washington, D.C. – as of 3/19, will take place
- May 11, 12, 13: Arrival Days/ Check-ins** – cancelled
- May 12 : Law Enforcement United and Police Unity Tour Arrivals** – cancelled
- May 13, 8:00 p.m. : 32nd Annual Candlelight Vigil** – On May 13, there will be a virtual Candlelight Vigil and reading of names; live reading and engraving of names will take place at a date TBD
- May 14 and May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. : C.O.P.S. seminars** – cancelled
- May 14, 9:00 a.m.: Annual Shomrim Society Kaddish (Memorial) Service** – cancelled
- May 14: 3rd Annual Blue Honor Gala** – cancelled, see National C.O.P.S. website for details about obtaining a refund or holding your ticket until 2021
- May 15, 11:00 a.m. : 39th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service** · Washington, D.C – cancelled; media tribute to fallen officers being planned for May 15

C.O.P.S. Hands-On Programs 2020

Adult Children Retreat	June 12 – 15	Potosi, MO
Outward Bound Adventure	June 19 - 26	Yampa River – Dinosaur, CO
C.O.P.S. Kids Camp	June 20 - 26	Camp Lake, WI
Young Adults Camp	July 27 – 31	St. Simons Island, GA
Finances/Significant Others	August 14 – 17	Potosi, MO
Siblings Retreat	September 11 - 14	Potosi, MO
Spouses Retreat	September 25 – 28	Potosi, MO
Co-Workers Retreat	October 2 – 5	Potosi, MO
Extended Family Retreat	October 16 – 19	Potosi, MO
Parents Retreat	October 23 – 26	Little Rock, AR

As of March 20, these programs are still on. However, this could change. Visit the National C.O.P.S. website (concernsofpolicesurvivors.org) for details and updates regarding possible cancellations. DC Chapter survivors are invited to participate. Programs are free. The Chapter offers financial assistance for travel expenses. For information, contact Hector Dittamo at hdittamo.cops@yahoo.com.

We Will Always Remember Their Service and Sacrifice
(April - June)

Officer	Wayne C. Pitt	4/11/2007	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Terrell M. Dodson	4/17/1960	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	William S. Buchanan	4/18/1929	Metropolitan Police Department
Special Agent	James McAllister	4/18/1986	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Officer	Ernest T. Wessells	4/23/1938	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Bruce W. Wilson	4/26/1977	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Robert L. Johnson, Jr.	4/27/1997	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Jessie L. Taylor	5/1/1931	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Russell W. Ponton	5/2/1967	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Harold K. Shelton	5/3/1959	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Charles R. Johnston	5/9/1943	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Hubert W. Estes	5/16/1947	Metropolitan Police Department
Sergeant	Frederick M. Passau	5/17/1899	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Ernest C. Ricks, III	5/17/1989	Metropolitan Police Department
Reserve Sgt.	Joseph Pozell	5/17/2005	Metropolitan Police Department
Special Agent	Christopher W. Lorek	5/17/2013	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Special Agent	Stephen P. Shaw	5/17/2013	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Officer	Robert Remington	5/19/1987	Metropolitan Police Department
Lieutenant	David T. Dunigan	5/21/1918	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	John A. Conrad	5/21/1918	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Jerrard F. Young	5/21/1971	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	William L. Sigmon	5/25/1971	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Anthony W. Simms	5/25/1996	Metropolitan Police Department
Special Agent	David James LeValley	5/26/2018	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Special Agent	William H. Christian	5/29/1995	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Sergeant	John S. Ashley	5/30/2004	Metropolitan Police Department
Sergeant	Clifton Rife II	6/2/2004	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Richard T. Conklin	6/5/1938	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Frederick W. Bauer	6/6/1930	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Alfred V. Jackson	6/6/1979	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Richard F. Giguere	6/6/1979	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Earl A. Skinner	6/9/1926	Metropolitan Police Department
Special Agent	Brian L. Crews	6/10/2018	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Sergeant	Charles F. Cummins	6/12/1940	Metropolitan Police Department
Officer	Marlon Francisco Morales	6/13/2001	Metro Transit Police Department
Officer	Ivan William Thompson	6/14/1940	U. S. Park Police
Detective Sgt.	James Roche	6/30/1962	Metropolitan Police Department



Chapter Fundraising Opportunity – it’s so easy to do!

The Chapter is registered with *AmazonSmile*, a simple and automatic way to support the Chapter when you shop at Amazon, at no cost to you. On your first visit to *AmazonSmile*, select the DC Chapter to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. For details, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>. Or use this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2203759> to connect directly to *AmazonSmile* in support of the Chapter.

Fundraising Issues: As a non-profit, the Chapter must ensure that it spends its money consistent with a 501(c)(3) organization, our mission statement, the donor’s intent, and what we advertise as the reason for our fundraising. We do not raise funds for other organizations or non-C.O.P.S. events.

Request for Reimbursement: In keeping with the Chapter’s responsibility for fiscal accountability, a survivor who wishes to be reimbursed for any travel or for special activities or events must obtain pre-approval to be considered for financial reimbursement. The necessary approval form is available on-line on the Chapter’s website. For more information or a copy of the form, contact Hector Dittamo at hdittamo.cops@yahoo.com.



Above: Danny Hickson (MPD, Ret.) and Brett Parson (R) celebrating Brett’s retirement from MPD. Danny and Brett were elected Chapter Vice President and President respectively.



Above: Steve Thompson (Prince William County (VA) PD (Ret.), surviving child and co-worker, recently retired to Florida after almost 30 years of law enforcement. Steve served as our Chapter Treasurer. Thank you, Steve, and best of luck!



Left: Chapter members Mary Cocke (L) and Katina Wafford-Graves, National Law Enforcement Museum volunteers, spending time with the Nationals mascots at the 2020 Health & Fitness Expo.

A Message of Recognition and Appreciation to

our law enforcement, fire fighters, first responders and health care professionals for their selfless dedication, and many others –grocery and restaurant workers, truck drivers and delivery workers, farmers, custodians, trash collectors, military, teachers, civil servants, journalists, and more – who are keeping our communities functioning.
