

# Chiefly Speaking...

Monthly newsletter of the  
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.



September 2021

## Inside this issue:

From the Executive Director	3
Injured EMTs Keep on Working	5
Real Risk Management	8
Cop Tales	12
Looking Back	13
Leadership Summit	14
Calendar of Events	15

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am excited to announce that our 2022 Conference will again be held at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY. We had such a great conference in 2021 that we decided to return. There have been high marks on our most recent conference from the feedback we received. We will look to build on and improve our conference for next year to bring you the most topical training and provide some opportunities to relax and network in the evening. We have some exciting plans for new training opportunities for next year's conference—please stay tuned for details. Save the dates of July 24 through 27, 2022 for our conference in Glens Falls, NY.



Chief Timothy Parisi  
President  
New York State  
Assn. of Chiefs of Police

*(Continued on page 2)*

## INCENTIVE FOR NEW MEMBERS: NO DUES FOR BALANCE OF 2021

Join your colleagues throughout New York State now! The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police is offering a one-time incentive for free membership to New Active Members for the balance of 2021.

A new member will then be billed for their annual membership at the beginning of 2022 in the amount of \$175.

[Join](#) [Questions](#)



(Continued from page 1)

To continue to bring our members relevant training we will be holding our New York State Leadership Summit in conjunction with the New York State Sheriff's Association. Our Leadership Summit will meet at Fort William Henry in Lake George, NY on November 4, 2021. NYSACOP and NYSSA will hold a networking event on November 3rd and lodging will be available at the Fort William Henry. Information will be available soon on our website [nychiefs.org](http://nychiefs.org).

The International Association of Chiefs of Police *IACP 2021* conference will take place September 11–15, 2021. Hopefully you will be able to travel to New Orleans and take part in the training. (*Check IACP website for updates*). NYSACOP has voted to endorse Chief Doug Shoemaker in his bid for 5th Vice President of IACP (see article on page 6). It is important that New York Chiefs stick together, we are a powerful voting bloc. As one of the largest voting blocs in the country, we hope to have representation on the IACP Executive Board soon. Let's make our voices heard this year. Vote for Chief Doug Shoemaker. There may be remote voting options available this year, we will keep you advised by email.

Finally, NYSACOP was approached by the leadership of Faith & Blue weekend and has decided to promote this endeavor. Faith & Blue was launched to facilitate safer, stronger, more just, and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses, and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations. The initiative aims to re-calibrate police-community relations through solutions-focused, in-person, socially distanced and/or virtual activities that are organized jointly by faith-based or other community groups and law enforcement agencies. For more information you can visit <https://faithandblue.org>.



The poster features a white dove logo at the top left, followed by the text "FAITH & BLUE" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it reads "New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and Our Partners Proudly Present" in a smaller font. The main title "NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND" is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters, with the dates "OCT. 8-11, 2021" underneath. A paragraph of text describes the event as a national weekend of resolution and reconciliation, a collaborative effort to build bridges and break down biases. It states "LOCATED NATIONWIDE (IN A COMMUNITY NEAR YOU)". At the bottom left is the NYSACOP logo, which includes the words "COURAGE, LEADERSHIP" and "PROFESSIONALISM" and the year "1918". To the right of the logo, it says "We are ready to help you bring National Faith & Blue Weekend to your community. For more information and to get involved, please visit [www.faithandblue.org](http://www.faithandblue.org)". At the bottom right are logos for "FIRSTNET Built with AT&T" and "MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION". The background of the poster is a light blue sky with stylized clouds and a silhouette of a community scene at the bottom, including a police car, trees, a bench, and a street lamp.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Saturday September 11th marks the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the world trade center. All of us are old enough to remember that day, some of us were there. As the world watched, New York's police officers and firefighters responded to the scene. Some of us lost friends or family in the attack. Some of us lost friends or family as they responded to help. Some of us lost friends and family years later as they succumbed to the carcinogens they were exposed to while working on the rescue effort. We were all touched in some way by the attacks. No one suffered more from the September 11th attacks than the people of New York.

The odd thing about getting older is that you watch the world change, sometimes dramatically. I think we can all agree that we lived in a different world before 9/11/2001. Terrorism was on our radar a little bit, but it was something that happened somewhere else. We didn't feel the daily threat around us. The threat of terrorism is now part of everything we do, we are constantly aware of the threat. We can remember a time when we walked into the airport, walked up to the gate, and got on a plane. No security. All you needed was a ticket, it didn't even have to be in your name. Now we accept that we must disrobe at security and put all our worldly belongings in a tray and pass it through the x-ray machine. And if the name on the ticket doesn't match the name on your ID exactly, you have a problem.

*Public opinion about law enforcement was certainly very positive on 9/12/2001. That's obviously changed in the last 20 years. Or has it?*

We know the world is different and we, law enforcement, remember why it's different. But does everyone else. We adopted the slogan, "Never Forget". Sometimes it feels like folks have forgotten. Public opinion about law enforcement was certainly very positive on 9/12/2001. That's obviously changed in the last 20 years. Or has it?

In 2020 I was in my last year as Chief of the Greece Police Department, where I had worked for 31 years. Greece is a town with a population of about 95,000 and is the largest suburb of Rochester, NY. For all intents and purposes, it's pretty much like anywhere else. That year we had some interesting experiences. While the anti-police demonstrations raged across the country GPD experienced an outpouring of support from our community. Unsolicited, we received

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Chief/Ret. Patrick Phelan**  
**Executive Director**  
**New York State**  
**Assn. of Chiefs of Police**

(Continued from page 3)

daily visits from groups, individual residents, and business owners. Hot food, cold food, desserts, and beverages. Fruits and vegetables. Cards, letters, signs. All these things started showing up at our PD daily. Parents brought their kids in to say thank you. Seniors stopped in to shake our hand. One guy even set up grills in the parking lot and cooked us lunch. Another day a business sent an ice cream truck. Our community put its arms around us and gave us a collective hug. In 31 years, I had never seen anything like it. My community doesn't hate the police. They love the police. They want us to keep doing what we are doing and do more of it. I wasn't alone. I have talked to chiefs from Long Island to Erie County that have told me the same thing, "my community loves their police department."

Although it's not a new term the idea of "Gaslighting" has become popular today. According to Wikipedia, gaslighting is "a colloquialism that is loosely defined as making someone question his or her reality. The term is used, informally, to describe someone (a gaslighter) who persistently puts forth a false narrative which leads another person (or a group of people) to doubt their own perceptions." This begs the question, are the entities that are perpetuating the idea that most Americans are furious with police and demand change engaged in the process of gaslighting? It's a valid question when you consider my experience in Greece and the experience of so many of my colleagues who enjoy a very positive relationship with the communities they serve. Is there a movement to make you disbelieve that which you know to be true? It's something to consider as we reimagine our police departments and look at policies and procedures to improve our services. Not that we shouldn't make change. We should accept the concerns of the segment of the community that questions our methods and practices and look for ways to improve. But we should not forget the feelings of the people that support us and realize that they are often in the majority, albeit often a quiet majority. We should consider both sides when



A special delivery of Girl Scout cookies to Greece Police with one of Greece's youngest citizens displaying a sign reading, "Greece Police Department—Thank you for keeping us safe"

(Continued on page 5)



*(Continued from page 4)*

making decisions and be cognizant the feelings of both those who don't support us and of those who do.

Most people have not forgotten. They know that there are good guys and bad guys. They know that we are the good guys, and we hold the line. They know that we are good, honest, hardworking people who are willing to give everything to keep people safe. It's more important now than ever that we make sure that our cops know that.

May God Bless our heroes of September 11, 2001. We will never forget.

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## Despite Crash into Ambulance Injured EMTs Keep Working

Enroute to the hospital with a cardiac patient, ambulance EMTs in New Hartford, New York soon became patients themselves. On August 26 at about 9:30 PM, the driver of a minivan made an illegal turn in front of a Vineall

Ambulance, with lights and sirens activated, which was unable to avoid a collision. The EMT caring for the cardiac patient, Amy Taylor, was injured herself, sustaining hip and facial injuries. The ambulance driver, EMT Charles Sreca, received head and knee injuries. The driver and a passenger of the minivan were also injured, the latter with a head injury.

Additional ambulances were summoned to the scene. EMT

Taylor continued working on her patient and EMT Sreca provided emergency treatment to the occupants of the minivan until backup ambulances arrived.

Taylor and Sreca were both transported to a hospital for treatment. The driver of the minivan was cited for an illegal left turn and failing to yield to an emergency vehicle. The crash was investigated by New Hartford Police. Said New Hartford Police Chief Michael Inserra, "The EMT's did a terrific job."



# SUPPORT CHIEF DOUG SHOEMAKER

## IACP CANDIDATE 5TH VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Zone 4! My name is Kevin Sylvester and I'm Chief of the Ossining Police Department and 1st Vice President of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police. This year I've had the privilege to serve as Chairman of Chief Doug Shoemaker's campaign for 5th Vice President of the IACP. Doug is Chief of the Grand Junction Colorado Police Department and has been actively involved in IACP for many years. He's served as Vice Chair of the PIO Section and currently chairs the Police Professional Services, Ethics, and Image Committee. I dedicated my time and energy to this campaign because Doug is the type of leader I would work for and I believe in his vision and ability to move forward our profession.



Chief Doug Shoemaker  
Candidate for IACP  
Fifth Vice President  
Grand Junction, CO PD

From the first days of the campaign support has been overwhelming with a number of impressive endorsements. Among the most valuable was NYSACOP when our Board of Governors voted unanimously to endorse Doug's campaign. Additionally, Doug is endorsed by many of the largest and most active associations including Colorado, Missouri, California, South Dakota, Alaska, Idaho, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Miami Dade County, Kentucky, Texas, Oregon, Kansas, Illinois, Westchester County Chiefs of Police and the National Association of Women in Law Enforcement. As we approach the conference, organizations continue to endorse and more are expected to be announced soon.

This election presents a unique opportunity for our association. Through this campaign we are establishing partnerships with state associations around the country. By electing an ally, we are learning the election system and expanding our network. It is likely that within the next few years one of our members will seek an executive board position with the IACP. Presenting a unified front and supporting a strong candidate today will help tremendously when we put up our own candidate.

This year will look a bit different and there is quite a bit of uncertainty. Our brothers and sisters in Louisiana are dealing with deadly weather and the status of the IACP conference remains unknown. Our first concern will always be the wellbeing of our fellow officers. In an attempt to remain optimistic, I hope to see many of you in New Orleans very soon. If that isn't possible, either due to natural disaster or COVID, the IACP intends to allow electronic voting. As soon as those instructions are released, we'll be sure to share with our membership.

Whether or not we are able to attend the IACP Annual Conference, I urge you to cast your vote and send a loud and clear message that the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police is a leader in the IACP and we support Chief Doug Shoemaker for 5th Vice President!

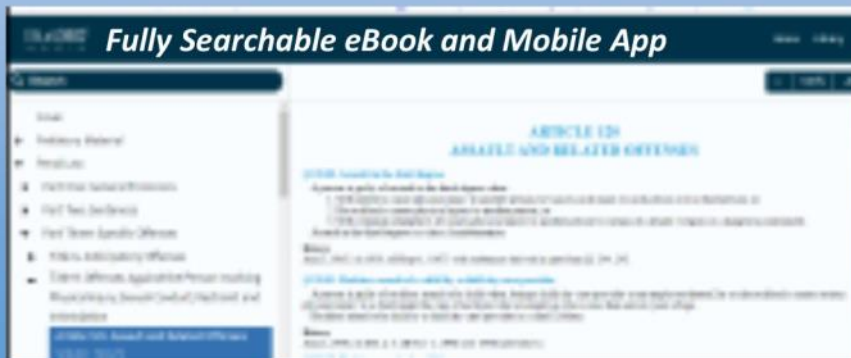
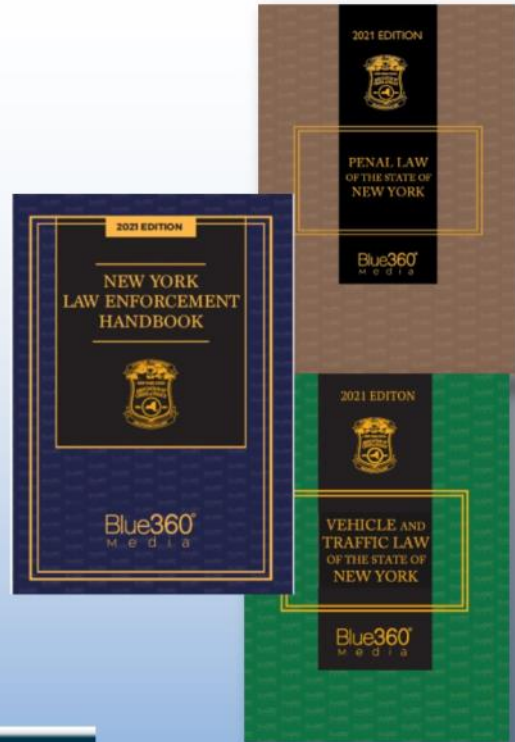


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Watch for our monthly trivia question upon the release of each edition of *Chiefly Speaking* for your chance to win a free copy of the New York State Law Enforcement Handbook. Congratulations to Chief Kevin Owens (Kent PD) for the correct answer to last month's trivia question! Your free copy of the New York State Law Enforcement handbook is on its way!

## *Real Risk Management*

# *When It Comes to Reputation, Perception Is Reality*

**By Gordon Graham**

*Editor's note: This is the latest installment in the Real Risk Management series, designed to introduce the breadth and depth of risk management by organizing risk into 10 Families. To request earlier articles from the series, please contact Shannon Pieper, Lexipol Sr. Director of Marketing Content, at 949/276-9938 or [spieper@lexipol.com](mailto:spieper@lexipol.com).*



Gordon Graham

Gordon Graham here and hello again. My, have things changed since our last visit. I am sitting on a plane right now headed to New Jersey and the flight attendant just asked if I would prefer “pasta or chicken” for dinner on this flight, and they delivered a beverage to me in a real glass with real ice. So I am hopeful we are at the tail end of the pandemic—and I hope I don’t have to do that one again in my lifetime. Like many of you, I lost a couple of friends to this disease, friends with whom I’d planned on growing old.

It will be interesting (if the truth ever comes out) to find out how this all started. I have my suspicions and—while not the focus of this article—I wonder what really happened in China and how that will impact China’s international reputation.

My dad delivered a great lesson to me on reputation when I was in Catholic grade school in San Francisco in the 50s. When he got home from World War II in 1945, he got a job at the sewer plant near San Francisco Bay as a stationary engineer. During the years he worked there, I had more baseballs than another other kid in the city—but I did not know why they were all discolored. Dad later transitioned to a job at San Francisco General Hospital (also as a stationary engineer) and most of the time he worked early mornings, getting home by 1530 or so. Oddly enough, I walked home from St. Michael’s when classes ended at 1500 and met Dad, and we would both walk back to St. Michael’s. Why?

My dad taught all the nuns at St. Michael’s Convent how to drive! Seriously. The nuns all came from Ireland and many had never seen a car, let alone drive one, in the Old Country. S&C Ford donated a Ford station wagon to St. Michael’s for the nuns’ usage, including occasionally driving kids around. It was relatively easy for a nun to get a driver license—what DMV examiner is going to turn down a nun

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

for a license out of fear of burning in hell for the next hundred thousand years? So they all had licenses to drive, yet their skill sets in this arena were very weak.

So Dad would take a nun out for an hour-long driving lesson every day—every day a different nun. He would teach them parallel parking, some thoughts on following and turning, and all the things necessary to be a safe driver. I dutifully sat in the back seat of this massive “Yank Tank” wagon and did my homework as Dad sat in the right front seat and gave directions and a lot of praise to the given nun for her efforts.

At the end of the hour, Dad would have the nun park the car in the Convent garage and he would set up an appointment with another nun for the next day and we would then walk home. We would talk sports and school and who was doing what in the neighborhood. When we got home, Mom and Grandma would have dinner ready—and my could they cook—and on the way up the stairs Dad would always say, “Thank you for your help today.”

This went on month after month and year after year. One day as we were walking up the stairs at home after the driving lesson and Dad said, “Thanks you for your help today,” I said, “Dad, I didn’t do anything to help.” He stopped me on the stairs and said, “Without your help, I could not teach the nuns how to drive.” When it became obvious I was still confused, he continued: “Never be in a car alone with a woman other than your wife.”

Remember, this was mid to late 50s and Dad (who gave me so many lessons in life both directly and indirectly through his behaviors) was well ahead of his time. This conversation led to a discussion on perception and rumors and while he did not use the term “optics,” that was the lesson I took from the conversation.

Fast-forward to training at the California Highway Patrol. If you were transporting a woman, there was a special radio code at the start of the transport—including time and mileage—and again when the transport was completed. When I was a sergeant, I talked to my motorcops about the importance of following a transportation unit to the jail as a witness for the “just in case file”—and that paid off a couple of times.

Let’s bring this issue a little closer to home. Let’s say you’re in court on some arrest you made with a partner. You have both been subpoenaed by the prosecution. Many times, the defense lawyer will ask the judge to “exclude” you from hearing your partner’s testimony. The defense lawyer’s hope, of course, is your partner will say something under oath different than what you will say—and thus give the defense lawyer something to make an argument to the jury: “Officer X said XYZ and Officer Y said XYQ, so this proves my client is innocent.”

*(Continued on page 10)*

Your partner is waiting in the hallway of the court building for their turn to testify and the clock closes in on noon. So the judge says, “Ladies and gentlemen, we will now be taking our lunch break. Be back at 1:30—and Officer Snodgrass, you are still under oath and I am directing you not to discuss your testimony with your partner!”

Of course you will abide by this directive from the judge. As you file out of the courtroom with the jury and spectators, you see your partner. “I cannot talk about the case with you,” you say, and she/he says, “No problem.” Then you walk together down the hallway talking about sports, office goings-on, relationships, new cars and other topics.

Here’s the thing. Members of the jury are likely watching you and your partner. While YOU know you’re not talking about the case, THEY “know” you have violated the judge’s directive. And their certainty can turn into baggage that may bias them against you.

I am closing in on my word count, so I will continue this discussion in the next article. But let’s see where we are. Not only do we have to behave correctly (and that is what you and your partner are doing), but we have to be aware of “optics” and what things “look like” to people who are watching. To many people, “perception is reality”—and that is where we will start our next discussion.

*Gordon Graham is a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and is the co-founder of Lexipol, where he serves on the current board of directors. A practicing attorney, Graham focuses on managing risk in public safety operations and has presented a commonsense approach to risk management to hundreds of thousands of public safety professionals around the world. He holds a master’s degree in Safety and Systems Management from University of Southern California and a Juris Doctorate from Western State University.*

*“Not only do we have to behave correctly... but we have to be aware of “optics” and what things “look like” to people who are watching.”*

*Gordon Graham*



**Share Your Stories:  
Programs, Photos, Retirements...**

[APB@NYchiefs.org](mailto:APB@NYchiefs.org)



*A delegation of Central New York police chiefs gathered for a photo during the 2021 Annual Training Conference of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, New York.*



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# *Cop Tales*

By Asst. Chief/Ret. Brian Smith, California Highway Patrol

The author served four years in the United States Marine Corps, and retired as an Assistant Chief with the California Highway Patrol. He resides in Bakersfield, CA. If you have a personal "Cop Tale" to share, please contact Brian at [bmsmith778@gmail.com](mailto:bmsmith778@gmail.com)

## **The Two Rapist, Car Thieves?**

As an officer, I was involved in two shootings. My nightmares were so horrific, and I had difficulties with my stomach and sleeping, so I took a few months off. I knew I didn't want to retire, but I couldn't go back right away. When I finally did return, I asked if I could go patrol the east side of town and just enforce commercial vehicles. While performing those tasks, dispatch advised to 'Be On the Lookout' (BOL) for a stolen, convertible Mustang containing two male rapists. Apparently, they raped a woman south of Stockton, then raped another woman near Tulare and stole her Mustang. I figured they were heading to Los Angeles, so I headed west and pulled in the center divider of SR-99. Just as I was backing into a spot in the center divider, I observed the Mustang pass my location.

I advised dispatch and went after them. Other vehicles joined the pursuit and I became the secondary unit so a clearly marked black and white state patrol car could take the primary. I also requested the local city PD K-9 officer to stay in the pursuit in case they took off on foot. The vehicle eventually crashed on the freeway in a cloud of dust. The officers were able to catch the passenger, but the driver ran into a tall cornfield. The K-9 officer and I ran after him. We caught him in the field. Two in custody. That was my first day back after my second shooting.



# Looking Back...

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# SAVE THE DATES: NOVEMBER 3-4, 2021 LEADERSHIP TRAINING SUMMIT



## New York State Association of Chiefs of Police & New York State Sheriff's Association

Our two Associations announce that a special joint leadership training summit will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 beginning at noon, and concluding mid-afternoon on Thursday, November 4.

A networking event will be hosted on Wednesday evening.

Breakout sessions are included which will be tailored to the specific needs of each of the Associations' members.

Location:

Fort William Henry, Lake George, NY

Presenters:

to be announced

*Reserve these dates now  
on your calendar!*

# Calendar of Events



NYS Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (webinar recording):  
Recognizing Lethality Risk in Domestic Violence Cases and the  
Role of Law Enforcement” [View here](#)

STOP-DWI NY Regional Training Opportunities- High in Plain Sight—  
August 13—Broome Co. [Link](#) [Questions](#)

IACP Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving (DAID) Conference—  
August 14–16, 2021 [Info](#) [Registration](#)

Electronic Measuring Device/Forensic Mapping Course—August 23-26  
[Link](#) [Questions](#)

ALERRT Active Attack Integrated Response Train the Trainer—August 23-27 Albany  
County [Link](#) [Questions](#)

STOP-DWI NY Regional Training Opportunities- High in Plain Sight—  
September 14 Washington County [Link](#) [Questions](#)

NCTC—Social Networking—Erie County – September 21-22, 2021

NCTC—Technology Threats & Trends Against LE—Erie County –  
September 23-24, 2021 [Link](#)

Police Officers Memorial Remembrance [Ceremony](#)—September 28

IACP Conference, New Orleans—September 11-14 [Link](#)

STOP-DWI NY Regional Training Opportunities - High in Plain Sight—  
Greene Co. Sept. 15 [Link](#) [Questions](#)

Moral Injury Webinar - September 16 [Information](#) [Questions](#)

Recognizing the Cannabis Impaired Motorist—various locations./dates  
[Link](#) [Questions](#)

Fundamental Crisis Intervention Skills for LE: Instructor Level Training - Erie, Monroe and  
Oneida Counties (various dates—see link) [Link](#) [Questions](#)

Suicide Prevention in County Jails and Police Lockups: Instructor Level Training - Erie,  
Monroe, Oneida and Suffolk Counties [Link](#) [Questions](#)

Law Enforcement Training Directors Assn. of New York State Conference—  
Sept. 29—Oct. 1 [Link](#)

MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Course - Nassau County – October 18-29, 2021  
[Link](#) [Questions](#)

NYSACOP-NYSSA Leadership Summit, Ft. Wm. Henry—Nov. 3-4

Crash Management Course Training Series - various levels at [Oneida](#) and [Dutchess](#)  
Counties (2021-2022) [Questions](#)

## New Members

**Capt. Andre Ortiz**  
NYC DEP PD

**Dep. Chief David Scarzella**  
SUNY Stony Brook PD

**Capt. Edward O’Hara**  
Johnson City PD

**Chief Josh Tagliavento**  
Dryden PD

**Richard Martin**  
DCJS

**Chief Joseph Centanni**  
Watervliet PD

**Lt. Francis Graziano**  
Middletown PD

**Capt. Joey Rosa**  
Dept. of Environmental  
Protection Police

**Chief Gregory Kellogg**  
Leroy PD

**Asst. Chief**  
**Dawn Smallwood**  
SUNY Stony Brook PD

**SAIC Jeffrey Burr**  
U.S. Secret Service

**RAIC James Bensley**  
U.S. Secret Service

**Chief Edward Finn**  
Stony Point PD

**Asst. Chief**  
**Shawn Lovelance**  
Glens Falls PD

**Asst. Federal**  
**Security Director**  
**Logan Janowski**  
Federal Air Marshal Svc.



## New Members

Donald Ryan  
Ulster Co. SO/Ret.

John Powers  
CDW-G  
Associate Member

Terry Sankar  
Sustaining Member



## Facebook Post of the Month

### MANLIUS POLICE

Car Wash fundraiser this morning. For just \$10 these kids had our patrol vehicle looking brand new!



## Contact Us

Share your stories, photographs,  
and questions:

Office: 518-355-3371

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Editor:

Chief/Ret. Mark A. Spawn

[APB@nychiefs.org](mailto:APB@nychiefs.org)

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Check out the  
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of our magazine,  
*The Chief's  
Chronicle.*

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