

Executive Director

My Opinion

As detailed elsewhere in this publication, the 2007 Legislature's treatment of state law enforcement and correctional officers' pay raises was a disgrace. True, in recent years PBA units have fared very well on the pay issue, but the fact remains that state officers are increasingly at a competitive disadvantage with their federal, city, and county counterparts. Every missed opportunity to level the playing field only makes matters worse. Hopefully, Florida's economy will rebound nicely next year and our legislative leadership will make up for lost time.

For what it's worth, **Governor Crist** put a nice pay raise for PBA units in his budget and signed contracts with PBA. Maybe our House and Senate leadership will look to the Governor for inspiration on how to find a way to treat Florida's state officers with the respect and dignity that they and their families deserve. To be sure, we will be taking a most proactive approach to this educational process and will be developing specific plans, through your elected leadership, over the ensuing months.

Having said all of this, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the efforts of the PBA leadership, state officers, and their elected leadership for their hard work in trying to

secure that elusive, decent pay raise. The effort was certainly there, even though the outcome was not that desired.

At the same time, I want to acknowledge certain state law enforcement agencies and their leadership for giving it their best in personally working with PBA to secure a good pay raise for their employees. These individuals went with us, in lockstep, in an effort to convince the Legislative leadership to do the right thing. They also allowed their uniformed officers to wear their uniforms at the Capitol (as did some other agencies as well). Our deepest gratitude is extended to these individuals for their efforts and concern for their employees:

FHP—DHS&MV Executive Director **Electra Bustle** and **Colonel Chris Knight**

FWC—**Colonel Julie Jones** and **Lt. Colonel Jim Brown**

FDLE—**Commissioner Gerald Bailey**

DOACS (Agriculture Law Enforcement)—**Colonel Darrell Liford** and **Lieutenant Colonel Lou Leinhauser**

We commend these individuals and their very supportive command staffs and look forward to working with them yet again. We will just have to dust ourselves off and go at it again next year. As they say, "you can't hit a home run, if you don't swing the bat." ■



David Murrell

“It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable.”

~ Moliere



FHP Chapter Officers and members with Senator Mike Fasano (center), DHS&MV Executive Director Electra Bustle at his right and Colonel Chris Knight at his left. Florida PBA Political Consultant Jim Spearing (far right) helped get everyone together to discuss FHP issues.



Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement Director Colonel Darrell Liford (2nd from left) and Assistant Director Lieutenant Colonel Lou Leinhauser (center) share some thoughts with David Murrell and SLEO Chapter members at the Capitol.



“I'll have to open you up again. That was a Father's Day gift from my son.”



FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey (2nd from right) with FDLE Agents Association Officers.



FWC's Colonel Julie Jones sharing her thoughts with David Murrell.

When an applicant asked if the company had a fitness program, the human resources manager replied, "Oh, our employees don't need one. They are routinely jumping to conclusions, flying off the handle, beating around the bush, running down the boss, going around in circles, dragging their feet, dodging responsibility, passing the buck, climbing the ladder, wading through paperwork, pulling strings, throwing their weight around, stretching the truth, bending the rules, stabbing others in their backs and pushing their luck!"

PBA DEATH & DISABILITY PLAN

By Glenda Kelly



For participating PBA Charters and Chapters, members are eligible for coverage through the Florida PBA Heart Fund, a charitable organization (see page 25 for more details). The benefits include: Disability Benefits to officers permanently and totally disabled due to a catastrophic injury while in actual performance of their duties (\$15,000); Death benefits for officers killed in the actual performance of their duties (\$30,000); and all benefits are payable to either the officer, spouse, or dependent children. Please contact Glenda Kelly, (glenda@flpba.org), 1-800-733-3722, extension 426 for more information.