

Roll Call is the official publication of the Florida PBA
300 East Brevard St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
1-800-733-3722

**FLORIDA PBA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT
John Rivera

**SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT**
Dick Brickman

**VICE PRESIDENT for
SERVICES**
Mike McHale

**VICE PRESIDENT for
CHAPTERS**
Jim Baiardi

TREASURER
Ernie George

SECRETARY
Mike Clifton

SERGEANT AT ARMS
Vince Champion

**FLORIDA PBA
ADMINISTRATORS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
David Murrell

**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Matt Puckett

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Glenda Kelly

GENERAL COUNSEL
Hal Johnson

**DIRECTOR of
BUSINESS AND
SERVICES**
Al Shopp

**DIRECTOR of
ORGANIZATIONAL
SERVICES**
Jim Wiggins

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Florida PBA, its Executive Committee, or Board of Directors.

Editor In Charge
David Murrell

Publications Specialist
Bob Peterson

Proofreader
Marcia Eggers

Advertisement in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Florida PBA unless otherwise specified.



John Rivera

A Message From Your President

Let me start out by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I hope that each of you was able to enjoy some quality time with your loved ones. And from the bottom of my heart, I wish each of you happiness, health, and prosperity in the coming years.

I know a lot of us are concerned those wishes may not come true anytime soon. By now there is not a person in Florida, at least someone who actually puts in an honest day's work, who is not feeling the financial pain of this recession. For our profession, the last year and half has been filled with financial threats from every level of government.

It has been one of the more difficult periods in our history. Still, I am an optimist. I have to be, or this insanity would consume me.

At some point in the future, revenue declines will level out and our economy will start to rebound. As leaders within the PBA, our communities, and our departments, we have an obligation to make certain that our profession is not decimated while we wait for the turnaround. Despite all the cynicism, it will happen.

I'm optimistic, because I watch how members within the PBA come together in a crisis. I'm not surprised by this at all since I know that's your nature. We're officers! Assisting a brother or a sister in need is our duty. We should take pride that our association, along with its charters and chapters, help each other in the same way we would on the street. We all know people in high places who don't help unless it benefits them to do so. We're different from them and it shows.

Our unity is what keeps our profession intact. If we lose this—we're finished.

Organizations that lack unity become vulnerable to their adversaries and their members always lose.

Look, I am not saying this to brag, but we are a giant organization with over 36,000 members, and I know that any one of you will help when one of us, or group of us need it. That's what being in the PBA is all about. Okay, I'm bragging a little bit.

Now, I'm not naïve enough to think that everyone wants it to be that way. Maybe some think, "I will get mine and to hell with the rest." That's an easy way to see things. Sadly, that's often what we see in this world. But what if you are

the one in need? None of us know when it will be our time to ask for help. This is why being in the PBA is so important, because with us, you have our support. It also helps to have a friend like **Governor Charlie Crist** fighting for us (see page 8).

I can tell you from firsthand experience that things at most of the local agencies would have been a lot worse if our brothers and sisters from other PBA charters and chapters hadn't offered assistance in preparing for impasse proceedings, or publicly demonstrating for public support of our membership. We met often to swap information, tactics, intelligence, and, when necessary, to stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of our careers. That, my friends, is what we are all about. And I can tell you this, when we stand together, no one can stop us.

Now listen, this legislative session is literally here again and we will need everyone fighting together in order to prevent all of the potential losses. Decisions during this year's session will have an effect on every officer in Florida.

A major concern for us and a test of our unity will be in the area of pension reform at both the local and state level. It's comical, some crazy ideas we are already hearing. I do mean crazy things, like taking money from financially sound city pensions and giving it to city pensions underwater. Amazing. Still not every idea sounds crazy at first. Some ideas may even sound like good ideas until you dig deeper. Like the enticements to create two tiered systems in our pension plans—one for the vested with all the benefits of today, and one for the new hires with less. Do not be fooled into thinking this is a good idea. If we break our unity on this issue, it will begin to erode our ranks for generations to come. Worse of all for us, it will create jealousy all the way down to the street level. It will fester and divide us like nothing we have seen in a long time. Look around, things like this happen all over the labor market. We can never let it happen here.

This type of stuff, plus more cuts to public safety, is what we are up against during this session. We can fold and sell out our fellow officers, which may be the easy thing to do in some people's eyes, or we can stand united and fight like hell. I hope by now you know I'm a fighter. So if any of you are in a fight, I'll be there. That's my pledge to you. That's how we stay strong. It is also how we survive. ●

IRS TAX TIP: TT-2010-07

Three Reasons to Prepare and File Your Taxes Electronically

Last year, 2 out of 3 tax returns were filed electronically. Was yours? If not, here are three important reasons to e-file your return.

- **It's fast.** Your tax return will get processed more quickly if you use e-file. If there is an error on your return, it will typically be identified and can be corrected right away. If you file electronically and choose to have your tax refund deposited directly into your bank account, you will have your money in as few as 10 days.
- **It's safe.** The IRS is fully committed to protecting your tax information and e-filed returns are protected by the latest technology. In 20 years, nearly 800 million e-filed returns have been processed safely and securely by the IRS.
- **It's time.** Don't miss out on the benefits of e-file, 2 out of 3 taxpayers, 95 million, already get the benefits of e-file.

E-file software reduces the chance of making errors when you prepare your return. However, some people still print the computer generated return and mail it to the IRS instead of hitting the "Send" button. By mailing the return, taxpayers miss out on some important benefits of IRS e-file.

- With e-file, you get the peace of mind that comes with the electronic receipt you'll receive notifying you that the IRS received your tax return.
- Virtually everyone can prepare a return and file it for free. For the second year, the IRS and its partners are offering the option of Free File Fillable Forms. Another option is Traditional Free File. About 98 million taxpayers – 70% of all taxpayers – are eligible for the IRS Traditional Free File. Traditional Free File is a service offered by software companies and the IRS in partnership to provide free tax preparation software and free filing.
- E-file is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from the convenience of your own home.
- If you owe money to the IRS, e-file also allows you to file your tax return early and delay payment up until the due date.
- In 37 states and the District of Columbia, you can simultaneously e-file your federal and state tax returns.

Find out more about E-file at www.IRS.gov.