



## ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

Newsletter # 3      March 1, 2009

Page 1 of 9

Jim Katletka, President	<a href="mailto:jkaletka@apcaaaa.org">jkaletka@apcaaaa.org</a>
Brian Dean, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	<a href="mailto:bdean@apcaaaa.org">bdean@apcaaaa.org</a>
Terry Adlawan 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	<a href="mailto:tadlawan@apcaaaa.org">tadlawan@apcaaaa.org</a>
Carol McNeil, Secretary	<a href="mailto:cmcneil@apcaaaa.org">cmcneil@apcaaaa.org</a>
Jan Ruzicka, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jruzicka@apcaaaa.org">jruzicka@apcaaaa.org</a>
Sussie Adlawan, Asst Treasurer	<a href="mailto:sadlawan@apcaaaa.org">sadlawan@apcaaaa.org</a>
Scott Sell, Past President	<a href="mailto:ssell@apcaaaa.org">ssell@apcaaaa.org</a>
Lt. Dave Koch, APD Liaison	<a href="mailto:dkoch@ci.anchorage.ak.us">dkoch@ci.anchorage.ak.us</a>

### NOTE FROM PRESIDENT JIM KALETKA

It's hard to believe that it is almost March. That means the National Conference is only a couple of months away. We still have a ways to go on fund raising for the conference. At the last meeting I asked for some volunteers to do follow up phone calls on the sponsorship letters that were sent out. A few of those present volunteered, which is great, but we still could use some more volunteers. Over 130 packets were sent out, and if we can get some more people for follow up, it would make it easier on the rest who volunteered. If you are interested, please contact me.

I hope most of you had a chance to read Representative Bob Buch's "Compass" piece in this past Saturday's Daily News. It is included in the newsletter. His article truly exemplifies the citizen academy concept and it's applications to daily life, both in business, personal, and legislative aspects. To quote Lt. Richard Powers, President of the National Citizen Police Academy Association, **"Sometimes, an article though another's eyes, says more in a few words than we can in an hour. This man's insight, through your class presentation, is an inspiration as to why we keep doing what we do. This puts a face to the word we use in our presentations."** I hope those of you who have gone through our Citizen Academy feel the same way.

**REMINDER:**  
**Early Registration DEADLINE is TODAY**  
**for the**  
**2009 NCPAAA CONFERENCE**

### NOTE FROM CHIEF ROB HEUN

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute a few words in this issue of the newsletter. I'm not one to ramble in writing or in person, so I'll get right to the point. I am grateful to the folks who have participated in the Anchorage Police Department Citizens Academy, and I am particularly grateful to the Alumni Association for keeping the sense of commitment to the community and the Department in the forefront of everything that they do. Whether it is volunteering at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, helping out at Recruit Academy graduations, following up with victims of property crimes, providing monetary assistance to the Department for equipment, or being informative spokespersons for APD regarding why we do what we do, Citizen Academy alumni have been a true working reflection of the spirit of community to which so many others provide only lip service.

The credibility of the Alumni Association has risen to such a level that your president, Jim Katletka, attends all of APD's Strategic Plan Steering Committee meetings as an active participant whose opinions and insights in regard to the direction the Department is headed are as valued as those of any full time APD commander. The APD is looking forward to partnering with the Alumni Association in regard to the upcoming national conference that will be held at the Anchorage Hilton, and we're excited about the potential for you to provide eyes and ears to enhance trail safety.

Ultimately, the prospect of the Alumni Association's continued growth and presence in the realm of community service is exciting, and the commitment of the core of alumni to making Anchorage a better place is, to me, humbling. As you know, I am honored to lead the most professional police department in the country, and my personal and professional relationship with our Alumni makes that all the sweeter. I can't thank you all enough for what you have done for our Department. I can, however, attest to the fact that you all have become an integral and valued part of the APD family. Thank you all.



# ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.

## CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### URGENT

**Fundraising Sponsorship Letter Callback** volunteers are URGENTLY needed. Please help. Contact Jim. [jkaletka@apcaaaa.org](mailto:jkaletka@apcaaaa.org)

### Conference Activity Volunteers

Until there is a better idea of registration numbers, it is difficult to tell how many volunteers can be used for the various tasks. A lot what needs to be done at the conference will be handled by the staff of Alaska Destinations. Char McClelland will address how the alumni can assist and be an asset to the conference at the March meeting.

**Conference Outreach:** The conference is not limited to agencies already aligned with the NCPAA. Therefore we want to make sure all law enforcement agencies know about the conference and are invited. A committee chaired by Carol McNeil has been working on this project through emails, telephone calls and direct contact. IF you know a member of a law enforcement agency outside of Anchorage, please consider personally calling and inviting them to the conference. Contact [cmcneil@apcaaaa.org](mailto:cmcneil@apcaaaa.org) for help or questions.

**NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK & NEWS:** Please offer suggestions as to what you want to see in YOUR newsletter. It would be wonderful if you shared your volunteer stories. It could be a great forum for questions or ideas. Does someone out there like to write?

### TERRY ADLAWAN'S SELF DEFENSE SEMINAR FOR WOMEN:

Friday April 10 and Saturday April 11  
7pm to 10 pm 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Anchorage YMCA Lake Otis Parkway  
Reduced rate for APCAAA Women  
New: \$. 150.00 Repeaters: \$95.00

To sign up call: Terry or Sussie at 344-3504

### March General Meeting

Thursday , March 19, 2009 6PM  
Alaska Housing Finance Corp  
4300 Boniface Parkway

CE Topic: Our City & Human Trafficking  
Guest Speakers from APD & FBI

### Highlights of February General Meeting ( Complete and organized minutes will be on the website)

**CE:** Our meeting started out with a very interesting talk by Harvey Goehring, Assistant Special Agent In Charge of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). He shared many stories, tracked the drugs from start to delivery here in Anchorage while giving an eye opening slide presentation.

**Financial:** The alumni has approximately \$18,000. in non-dedicated funds. To hold this conference the need is for \$ 40,000. The difference is about \$22,000. and there is a need to get in the next 75 days.

**Upcoming Events:** Class 9-1 is in progress Wednesday nights. You are welcome to come and greet, sit in on class, bring snack food or water. The graduation date has not been decided yet.

March 7 Iditarod Volunteers

March 17 DUI Scenarios. (See Volunteer Opportunities)

NCPAA Conference: May 6-9

### 2009 CONFERENCE NOTES by Sussie Adlawan

Well folks, it is getting down to the wire, and we are still short in the financial department. Whether we try and have a fundraiser or just storm the town for sponsorships I am not sure which would be better. We still are in need of vendors as well, in the form of artisans. If you have any ideas for fundraising, please contact Paul. For sponsors or vendors, please contact Char or myself.

Sussie Adlawan [sadlawan@apcaaaa.org](mailto:sadlawan@apcaaaa.org)



# ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**March 7, 2009 Iditarod Volunteers** needed for Intersection work. Contact Jim or Brian.

**March 17, 2009 (Tuesday) DUI TRAFFIC SCENARIOS:** APD training staff will need 12 volunteers. Six will consume alcohol. Time from 9AM to 4 or 5 PM.

This is how the training works. Volunteers arrive by 9am and the drinkers start drinking right away so that they may achieve a blood alcohol content of at least .08. Other volunteers are assigned to specific scenarios involving stationary vehicles arranged behind the training center. This includes traffic stops, multiple car accidents, drivers pulled over and asleep at the wheel, etc. After the scenarios have been going on for awhile the drinkers (after training staff confirms a blood alcohol content of at least .08) are introduced into the scenarios with the non-drinkers. The recruits have to interview the subjects involved in the scenario and figure out what happened, who was driving, if any laws were violated and/or if anyone has been impaired by alcohol.

All the scenarios are monitored by APD training officers. They provide feedback to the recruits after each scenario which is very informative to everyone involved. Good acting is encouraged so the scenario is more realistic. Drinkers should be reasonably healthy with blood pressure in the normal range. The training staff will check this before beginning. Of course since drinkers can't leave, lunch (*and drinks*) are provided. All drinkers need to arrange rides home. Often the non-drinkers who volunteer can also provide rides home. This is a very valuable training session for the recruits and quite fun for the alumni. If you are interested in helping out please contact Brian Dean at [DeanBG@muni.org](mailto:DeanBG@muni.org) and also let him know if you are in need of a ride home.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION :** Please share Ideas of what you would like to hear about. Or, are you someone, or do you know someone that could provide meaningful CE. Email Jim or Brian. Subject line: Continuing Education.

**DUI WITNESS RIDE ALONGS:** DUI Details are still being done on a limited basis. To participate, you need to contact Jim no later than Tuesday of the weekend you want to ride along as a witness. [jkaletka@apcaaa.org](mailto:jkaletka@apcaaa.org)

**Call Backs:** 6pm Tuesdays and Thursdays Meet in APD Headquarters Lobby.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS (Log Them Please)** At the NCPAA Conference in Baton Rouge we found out a volunteer hour, on average, nation wide was valued at \$18. plus change. It is important on many levels to keep track of the time you donate. PLEASE email Brian Dean with your hours and the "project".

**Coordinator and Volunteers for "Monthly Snack Tray Project":** APCAAA in the PAST has shown our appreciation to APD Officers and staff for their dedicated work by providing monthly snack food deliveries. Deliveries are made on the 15th of each month for all three shifts; before 6:30am, noon-2:30pm, 9-10:30pm.

To do this requires: Making / buying snacks for three departments: Dispatch, Records, Officers and delivering them. This would be 3 volunteers once a month (or 36 volunteers for the whole year) and 1 coordinator.

If you can **chair** this committee, help with the deliveries, provide food or monetary donations to purchase food, please contact Jim Kaletka or Brian Dean.

If the alumni do not want to do this any longer we need to make that decision.

If the alumni do want this to carry forward with this project; we need to rethink how to do it without making it so cumbersome and sometimes expensive.

If you are unable to attend the March meeting please email Jim or Brian with your opinion. Subject line: Snack Trays Project.

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION.:** This is an email publication. IF you do not have email and would like to be mailed a copy please let me know. A \$12.00 donation to APCAAA to cover printing and postage would be appreciated, but is not required.



## ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

### STORIES, EXPERIENCES ETC

Page 4 of 9

#### **VIEWS FROM PREVIOUS CONFERENCES (Or, why it is fun and exciting to attend.)**

##### **Baton Rouge Conference**

##### **By Sussie Adlawan 09 Conf Chair (Class 05-2)**

There were a couple of things that really stood out to me, first of all how eager the National Board is to help us succeed with the conference, and how much of a connection we made with them when they visited us for the site inspection. As a group, we made a lasting impression with both Lt. Powers and Diana Lawler. While those of you who had the chance to meet them during the reception we hosted, I am sure you know what I mean when I say we made friends for life.

That brings me to the second thing that impressed me was the caliber of people that attended the conference. We came from all walks of life, and I was impressed at how quickly lifetime friendships were formed. I was also glad for the chance to get to know the folks from our group on a more intimate level. We have some awesome people in our midst.

I met people who had survived hurricane Katrina against all odds, and yet were so thankful things weren't worse than they could have been. Not once did I meet anyone who felt sorry for themselves, and by all means it would have been justified. I heard stories of the different agencies talk about their rescue missions during that difficult time, and no matter how much their own life was in danger, there was no other option for them. There were truly heroes among us.

From a conference standpoint, I was very impressed with all of the classes I took. It was great to hear what other Alumni and Citizen's academies were doing. There was a great exchange of ideas for fundraising, and ideas of how to better serve our communities. I only wished that I could have attended more classes than I did. I was impressed with the caliber of instructors, and I am happy to say, that I think the speakers at our

Conference will be every bit as good. I came away even more determined to give the National group something to talk about for years to come! I think we all did.

I am certain that having the opening ceremonies with as many of our local officials attending will be most impressive. We did not have that in Baton Rouge, so I am excited to have the Opening Ceremonies we have planned. Again, I will be thrilled to introduce my good friend Martin Buser to the conference attendees. He is a wonderful man, and a great story teller! But it won't stop there...a dinner cruise? How cool is that?

I am certain that everyone will feel a deep sense of pride for the officers that put their lives on the line daily for us when we attend the Police Memorial Services on that Friday. All of the sworn officers will be in their dress uniforms, and the different Alumni will be in their uniforms. I am sure that will be very memorable for everyone. And last but not least by any means is our award banquet ending with the Black and White Ball. So until then, keep looking for those sponsors!

##### **By Kathy Faraci (Class 07-1)**

Going to the National Conference was quite an experience for me. I loved the closeness of all the attendees. It really did feel like one big family, even for me a new comer. As for the classes I thought it was great that there was a variety of classes. Some for other Academy's, some for the officers and some that were interesting to everyone. I really enjoyed one class taught by a deaf lady, who talked about how to deal with the deaf.

I can see how each new conference builds relationships and camaraderie. I think it's a wonderful organization and am proud to be a part of it.



## ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

### **By Jan Ruzicka, Treasurer (Class 06-2)**

When I went to Baton Rouge last year to attend the NCPAA conference, I expected to learn what other communities were doing to run, enhance and expand their Alumni Associations. I certainly looked forward to meeting and networking with other Alumni members. What I didn't expect was how moved and captivated I would be by some of those people and their stories.

I had the privilege of talking at length with a woman from Colorado who spent years working to remove a very bad element from her neighborhood. The danger of speaking out was real...her car and house were shot at! It's a long story with a happy ending, but that's not all. Through her many contacts with the police and the relationship she developed with them, she became an advocate for children. And then the worst happened. A missionary preparatory school was invaded by a gunman who killed four people. The police thought it best to keep this tragedy from the news and everyone else until they could sort out what happened. One can only imagine the chaos at the time. In the meantime, fifteen adolescents needed help in dealing with the horror. Yes, our friend jumped in with both feet; first offering blankets, food, drink and a shoulder...then as their advocate demanding the parents be notified and allowed to see their children. What a woman!

I talked to police officers from Arkansas who were on the front lines of dealing with refugees from the Katrina/Rita hurricanes. They were told to get ready for 2,000 people, but 20,000 showed up! There was another officer I talked to who moved from the violence of Miami/Dade to Tallahassee to give her children a better place to grow up. I talked to a man who joined the Alumni in Arizona to give back...his life had been saved by a police officer there. It seemed everyone I met had a story that caught my interest.

I'm looking forward to the conference in May in hopes of seeing some of those friends and meeting new ones. Hope to see you there, too. I bet you have a great story!

Page 5 of 9

### **By Linda Lillmars (Class 06-2)**

Baton Rouge. What a friendly city. Attending the conference was a bit of lark for me. My expectations were limited as to what I would get out of it. However, I ended up fascinated by the classes; learning about how and what other CPA's do for their police departments and their communities. It intrigues me how different and ingenious the different groups are in how they work.

There was heart wrenching stories, funny stories, important stories being told. One woman worked with the police and rallied her neighbors to get a meth house out of her nice middle class neighborhood. Her story was told complete with a photo album. At dinner you heard from your table mates stories of Katrina.

Most times an organization only has a handful of people able to attend a conference outside. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in our group to attend. You will be enriched by the experience... and it will be really, really fun.

### **EMAIL from Angel Miller ( Class 06-2) in**

regardst to her volunteer "Response Scenario" experience: "Great fun and lot's of information on the first aid Response Scenarios . "Note to self" Make sure the fake blood comes off before smearing it all over you! The recruits did real well taking into account the pressure they were under, and the grief we were causing them. Great Job Recruits."

### **Brief History of the Citizens Police Academies**

**(CPA):** The concept of the CPA started in Exeter, England in 1977 as a Police Night School. There was an immediate and overwhelming response from the community wanting to know about "their" police department. It was so successful it was adopted as part of an ongoing public relations



## ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

program. In 1985, the Orlando, Florida Police Department adopted the concept and established the first CPA. Their goal was to reduce crime through a stronger citizen commitment to their police department and community. Success was instantaneous and word spread and now there are many CPA's throughout the United States and several countries.

The primary objective of a CPA is to **produce informed citizens**, by providing an inside, firsthand look at what rules, regulations and policies our law enforcement personnel must follow. Frequently this alleviates misunderstandings and always produces a clearer, deeper look at our community. This informed view is frequently shared with the graduate's circle of influence.

Alumni associations are made up of people who want to continue the CPA experience through continuing education and volunteering with their police department.

### **APCAAA History**

Chief Walt Monegan and Public Affairs Officer Rick Helms somewhere had heard about CPA's in the lower 48 and liked the idea of getting in touch with the community and thought it would work in Anchorage. They advertised the class through the community councils and an ad in the newspaper.

The first class was about 26 people. Class content was less than it is now. However, they did visit the State Crime Lab, McLaughlin Youth Center, spent 4 hours in dispatch and had only 1 ride along. Shortly after the class was completed, Rick Helms went outside to school and the concept sat on the back burner.

In spring 2004, Lt Paul Honeman and Wade Lacey traveled to Texas for the NCPAA Convention and came back excited and pumped to reestablish the classes and get an alumni association started.

They contacted the members of the 2001 class, to help put on more CPA's. Wade and Paul handled class organization and scheduling. Dedicated volunteers did the rest. Established a non-profit,

Page 6 of 9

wrote by-laws etc and etc. There were between 15 and 18 Charter members with 5 real core volunteers. Four of who are still active: Scott Sell, Marti Greeson, Carol McNeil, Terry Adlawan. The second class took place February 2005.

Since then there have been 8 classes plus the 1 in session now, with the average enrollment of 35 people. There has also been a youth academy and a senior academy. Each class has been a little different. The evaluation sheets were invaluable as guides for what worked and what did not.

A lot of work has been done over the past 4 years to alleviate the concerns of skeptical police officers. There is a "blue wall" and it has taken time and diplomacy to make officers aware our goal is to assist, not replace. Now we enjoy a pretty good rep with officers coming to us for help and the wall is coming down.

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

In the last newsletter the idea was put out to perhaps have a place for questions and answers. One question was received from Larena Tapia (Class 08-1).

**Are there other organizations that a Citizen Academy Alumni should consider joining related to law enforcement and community policing?**

Answer: Paul Honeman, Lt Retired has suggested. APOA NCPAA & FOAST as an excellent networking tool for our group.

He emailed this response to the question: **Why - you might ask -should I invest my dollars for an annual membership in these organizations?**

**Each of these organizations offers a source of support towards the APCAAA fraternally and sometimes financially.**

**With APOA - I have stated that the Anchorage Chapter invested \$500.00 for each of the first 3 classes towards the purchase of a class t-shirt. If enough of our members become 'Associates' of APOA - we should be in a better position for future support to further our mission. In essence we can gain more than we invest.**



## ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCA AAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

With the FOAST - a membership qualifies you to receive discount pricing towards museum merchandise for yourself or visiting folks from out-of-state. Plus - we could host a gathering in the 'Board room' after hours - with prior coordination. Additionally - the FOAST charitable account may assist our Alumni towards future programs or events.

The best part of joining is belonging. You belong to the APCA AAA family - this will grow the 'family' :-)

Linda has included the websites for each organization – and if you at all inclined, I highly recommend joining any or all of these fine organizations.

Paul

So, here is a “little” information about these groups

### **Anchorage Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (APCA AAA) Est. January 2005**

Cost \$ 15.00 per year.

**Mission Statement: The APCA AAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.**

Benefits: Awesome volunteer opportunities, interesting continuing education speakers and a great conversation starter.

Website: <http://apcaaaa.org>

### **National Citizens Police Academy Association (NCPAA)**

*The purpose of the NCPAA is to help and support agencies with CPA's. Their mission statement is: **To promote the professional development of information, instruction, guidance and assistance to Public Safety Agencies and Citizens involved or interested in the Citizens Police Academy concept.** NCPAA produces a newsletter that chronicles what other CPA's are doing. And, they facilitate training for law enforcement personnel and citizens related to establishing and maintaining a CPA at an annual*

Page 7 of 9

conference, which of course this year is being held in Anchorage.

Not all CPA's are associated with the NCPAA. Thus, for our conference, we are trying very hard to reach out to all the other non-affiliated CPA's to make sure they have the opportunity to be included.

To participate in the conference and any training provided by the NCPAA, you must be a member. When you pay your registration fee for the conference, it includes the cost of a one year membership. Cost: \$25.00

Benefits: Quarterly Newsletter which chronicles what other CPA's and alumnus are doing in their communities. Members are kept current on trends and new developments. A biannual Membership Directory and, access to the Annual Conference.

Website: <http://www.nationalcpaa.org/>

### **Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA)**

History: The Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) was established in 1947 to promote fellowship and better communication between agencies. In 1952 they incorporated as a non-profit and wrote their constitution to allow for chapters to be formed throughout the state. Membership today stands at of 1200+. In 1960 they held their first Crime Conference and annual membership meeting, beginning a tradition that has continued each year. This year's conference will be held in Kenai in June.

The goals of this organization are to: Promote objectives of peace officers across the state. Build and enhance relationships between members and their agencies. Improve Alaska's justice through involvement with lawmakers. Provide job-related training. Increase professionalism among their members. The Anchorage Chapter also provides several scholarships each year.

Associate Membership: \$ 20.00 per year and you MUST be sponsored by an Active Member.

Benefits: A subscription to The Northern Peace Officer newsletter, published quarterly. The annual edition of the Alaska Peace Officers and Associates Journal , which lists all law enforcement and corrections agencies



# ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

and their personnel in the state. Training opportunities, including registration discounts for members. Reduced registration rates for the annual Crime Conference. Plus you could enjoy professional and social networking opportunities with peace officers statewide. Additional benefits available through some local chapters include cellular phone and pager discounts, reduced health club membership fees, or other similar group saving plans.

Associate Membership: Must be sponsored by an Active Member. Cost: \$30.00

Benefits: The Banner, a quarterly newsletter and a discount at the gift shop.

Website: <http://www.alaskatroopermuseum.com>

Active Members who are engaged in the profession of law enforcement receive additional benefits.

Editor Note: Paul Honeman, Lt Ret, has graciously offer to be the sponsor should you want to join.

APOA Meetings: The Anchorage Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Golden Corral (4520 Union Square Drive near Tudor and C Street) a \$10 buffet lunch is served at 11:30 am. The luncheons include speakers on topics of interest to our members. Any questions can be directed to Dan Frerich 277-0515.

Website: [apoaonline.org](http://apoaonline.org)

**Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers (FOAST)**  
Initially formed in 1960 to lobby the State Legislature for an improved retirement system, FOAST has now evolved into a valuable charitable and fraternal organization with no political involvement. Membership is over 850 individuals. The organization consists of two corporations. The Charity Corporation raises funds for a variety of children's sports and safety awareness activities and has for decades been responsible for providing the popular Safety Bear reflectors for the Safety Bear program, KEEPING ALASKA'S CHILDREN SAFE.

The Fraternal Corporation operates the Alaska Trooper Museum with the goal of sharing the history of the Alaska State Troopers. The museum is located beneath the 5<sup>th</sup> avenue parking garage. They also sponsor many social and historical activities including a summer picnic, winter party, pistol competition (The Shoot). The museum tells the colorful story of a dedicated team of police officers who continue to bring law and order to one of the most unusual, rugged and far-flung jurisdictions in America.

At least two individuals from FOAST have graduated from the APCA. They are Je're Toms (08-2) and Laura Caperton, Museum Director (08-2).

FOAST also run a "CSI Forensic Science Camp" for youth. Applications must be in by March 1.

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE**

**FOR YOUR NEWS**

and

**FEEDBACK**

Thank you

**Rep . Bob Buch ADN article is on separate page (9) .. so you can copy it.**

✓

✓



## ANCHORAGE POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*The APCAAA is a non-profit voluntary organization of interested Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, provide continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Anchorage Police Department.*

### IT'S EASY TO MISS WHAT'S IN PLAIN SIGHT

By Representative Bob Buch  
Published In the Anchorage Daily News  
Compass: Other points of view.  
February 21, 2009



[Click to enlarge](#)

Rep. Bob Buch represents Sand Lake  
in the Alaska House of Representatives.

Last fall I signed up to take part in the Citizen's Academy at the Anchorage Police Department. On the first day of class, we were shown a video of a bunch of guys playing basketball. Jim Kaletka, our teacher turned off the VCR.

"How many of you saw the gorilla?" he asked. Nervous laughter rippled through the room. "Gorilla?" Someone asked. "That's right," he replied. "There was a gorilla in that clip. Didn't you see it?" None of us had. He turned the VCR back on and replayed the basketball game. And there it was. A guy wearing a gorilla suit walked right into the middle of the game and stood there. And then he turned and walked away.

I was flabbergasted. How could I miss something so obvious? How had we all missed it? It wasn't like we had been fooled by a magician's slight of hand; this was a 6-foot -tall, 300-pound gorilla standing before our eyes. We missed it, Kaletka said, because we hadn't yet learned how to see.

Being a policeman is all about learning how to see. It's about being on your toes and having the discipline to observe the whole picture—not just a part of it. It's about learning how to see below the surface. But most of all, it's about making sure that your opinions, judgments and ideas don't blur your vision so that your eyes see only what you want them to see.

When the video started, we had been told that we were going to see a group of guys playing basketball. So

that's all we saw. We had created a mind-set based on something we were told, which determined how we watched. That's how we missed the gorilla.

The Citizen's Academy is run by Anchorage Police Department to educate local citizens about public safety from a police perspective. It's a nine-week class in all aspects of law enforcement that gives participants a bird's eye view of what goes into policing and provides training in how to "see" like a cop. Two times a year about 40 members of the Anchorage community participate, representing all walks of life: businessmen and women, educators, students, doctors, interested citizens and retirees.

Over the course of the nine weeks, we covered everything from the mundane to the murderous. We were taught to look beyond the evidence of the car wreck in order to determine what had really happened—which was often different than what we first thought. We were taught to see other factors not apparent to the untrained eye such as speed, turning ratios and skid marks and to figure out when people were telling the truth or covering their tracks.

We learned how to see the early signs of child abuse and sexual assault. We learned the signs of domestic violence and drug use and fraud. We were introduced to cyber crimes, too, and learned how to decipher the "codes" used in internet chat rooms. (In fact, during our class we watched one of our undercover cops chat with a sexual predator, using the skills that had nabbed a predator at the Anchorage Airport several weeks before).

We also learned about the police department's efforts in the schools to reduce gang participation among our young people. It's working. Gang activity has decreased because officers know how to see the signs of gang culture and have been able to put a dent in gang recruitment activities as a result.

In short, we discovered that there are a lot of gorillas out there. Learning how to see them is the key to good policing. It's the key to being a legislator, too, I've discovered.

I find myself applying the lesson of the academy every day here in Juneau: I try to park my preconceptions at the door, reserve judgment, watch carefully and think long and hard before reaching any conclusions. I'm glad I got to participate in the Citizen's Academy. It has helped to make me a better legislator.