



THE CONNECTION

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association

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President's Message

From The Desk Of

Barbara Oswald / FPPOA President

The week of July 15-21, 2012, is Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week. As probation and pretrial officers, we are part of a criminal justice system that works hard to integrate offenders back into society. So many of our officers and staff go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure not only community safety, but to help offenders transition back into the community, all without recognition. Every day we make a difference in the lives of offenders and their families. The challenges we face are tremendous, yet we continue to make a difference in the safety of our communities. I hope your district will take the time to celebrate this week for the valuable contributions made to public safety by our officers and staff.

Every change starts with a question. Sr. USPO Brian Kelly (EDNY), not only asked "Why?," but "Why not?" as well. He has been the driving force behind the FPPOA Crime Victim Fund (CVF) initiative. Brian has done extensive research on the CVF, and as a result, and through the support of the FPPOA, it is now on the CAG agenda for further review. Many of

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us become frustrated because of our lack of ability to influence the status quo. Often we question our leaders as to why, but seldom do we follow through and bring them a solution to the issue at question. I challenge you to question the status quo and look for solutions to make our agency more efficient.

Don't just accept the common refrain, "That's the way it has always been done."

If you were able to attend NTI-Atlanta in April 2011, you saw an excellent promotion by the District of Puerto Rico, seeking to host the next NTI. Unfortunately, because of the continued scrutiny of GSA's over-the-top Vegas junket, and government travel in general, we cannot afford to take the risk that

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