



# THE CONNECTION

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## President's Message

From the desk of... Barbara Oswald, FPPOA President

The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus opined that “there is nothing permanent except change.” If your district is anything like mine, you have likely noticed the vast waves of change occurring before our very eyes. The officers hired during the late 1990s are now retiring and many new officers are coming on board. This is a good thing, and it will be the norm for the next few years as many of us age out. Recently someone told me it was time for me to “*get out of the way and let someone else take over.*” I could not agree more! Change is good. In fact, if there is anything that I hope defines the **FPPOA's mission it should be that we are “agents of change.”** Change for what is good, change for what is fair, and change for what is right. At NTI-2015, I hope you were able to see the FPPOA's potential to bring about positive, impactful, and lasting change for our current and future probation officers. The FPPOA is *our* voice and that voice can become

even more powerful when we decide to make it such. We can be agents of change. You have heard that it “takes a village” and the same is true here. Change is not the result of 10 board members gathered around a table; rather, ***real change comes when we all make it our business to work together***, to participate, and to do our part.

During my time as President, I have made it my personal mission to vigorously advocate for the rights and the fair treatment of all United States Probation and Pretrial Officers. While we are still waiting for a response or feedback from PPSO regarding our call for FLSA review, there are some additional issues that have been brought to my attention. **Most troubling is the current compensation disparity experienced by new officers.** This is extremely frustrating, unfair, and dangerous for the long-term viability of our organization. See “President's Message” / Page 3

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