



THE CONNECTION

The Bi-Annual Newsletter of the
Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“We are going through very challenging times...”

2020 has been quite a unique challenge for all of us, not only with our profession, but navigating home life and family as well. We started to shut down and “pause” in mid-March of this year, and now, over seven months later, the stress and anxiety continues. Over these months, the Board of FPPOA has hopefully tried to distract you with Wellness Wednesday, Feel Good Friday, and passing along links and other notices of interest, hoping we can assist during this time. We have also established a Benevolence Fund to assist the families of fallen officers.

We are currently in the process of seeking individuals to join our FPPOA board. This year, all national offices are up for election, as well as the Regional President in the Mid-Atlantic and Central Regions. Go to the website for more information. Letters of interest are due November 1.

One position that will see a change is the National President. After two terms serving in this position, as well as serving in the past as Northeast President and Vice President, and National Secretary, totaling over 20 years in these positions, it is time to hand over the keys to someone new. Being involved in FPPOA has been an extremely gratifying and motivating compliment to my career as a U.S. Probation Officer. After 26 years (with no more than three left to go), the people encountered through FPPOA have been incredible. Being involved in six National Training Institutes (NTI's), meeting and working with Chiefs and districts across the country, as well as our AO, CAG, and the Sentencing Commission, Probation Officer Advisory Group (POAG), have made for extremely memorable experiences. It has also been easier to serve in this position with the cooperation and support from my own administration in the Northern District of New York, who I wish to thank. And of course, working with various FPPOA boards over these years, making friends, exchanging ideas, debating numerous issues, sometimes not seeing eye-to-eye, but always walking away knowing the members of the board are supportive and willing to assist in any way. The collaboration of these board members has been second to no other organization and has made these years most gratifying. With that being said, as you may read this message, my request is for you to join FPPOA.

We are the only group solely dedicated to the work of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Officers. The board has numerous lines of communication with those noted above, working tirelessly to provide training and stay on top of issues affecting our system. You've heard it before, but there is strength in numbers. It's inexpensive (dues have not changed in decades), and it has always been puzzling to me why so many are not members. **Take the time now and join. You ask the benefits?** Representation to the AO, CAG, POAG, the NTI's (best training you'll ever get), and the Benevolence Fund are just a start. The history of FPPOA and its accomplishments just add to these arguments. This group spends a significantly large amount of their own time to support all of you. **Help them by becoming a member!**

Let me leave you all with this: “How could anyone ever be bored in this world, when there is so much to be interested in, to learn, to contemplate?” – Neil Peart

- Craig Penet, FPPOA National President

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