



THE CONNECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the desk of... Craig Penet, FPPOA President

Happy New Year to all of you! As we begin 2018, I hope it is a new year of health and balance. For me, this is my 23rd year working for U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, and my second year as National President of FPPOA.

Looking back at 2017, the board of FPPOA is proud to have brought to our system its 8th National Training Institute, held in Orlando, Florida. The NTI was a huge success and an outstanding training program. The board logged in countless numbers of hours putting the program together. And in the end, received a great deal of personal and professional satisfaction with its success. We look ahead to the 9th National Training Institute, to hopefully be held in 2019. We are looking for locations, so if you're a district who may be interested in hosting this event, let us know!

In 2017, we also saw some new members join our board, and the continuity and dedication of these new officers is showing immediately. We also saw FPPOA membership increase significantly last year; a huge thank you to all of you. We also began to focus on many new issues, several of which were brought to us by members and line officers. Now that this in a non-NTI year, our goal is to focus on some of these areas in the coming months. And if you haven't yet, check out the new website design!

So for 2018, we will distribute a survey to obtain information from officers about their duties and work time needs (see page six); lay out the differences in combined probation/pretrial offices, compared to stand alone pretrial offices; present a probation/pretrial verbal assault condition to PPSO; and continue to push for third party arrest authority, in cooperation with PPSO. Our board continues to be heard at the Chief's Advisory Group (CAG) meetings, maintain representation on the Probation Officer Advisory Group (POAG) and the Community Corrections Collaboration Network (CCCN).

Following the NTI at the end of August, the remainder of the year, up to now, flew by. I'm sure many, if not all of you, can relate. Our unique careers make it a daily skill of managing various demands and deadlines. Our efforts to FPPOA take time and energy, something we all could use more of, certainly. On behalf of the board, we strive to continue to be "your voice", researching and communicating issues to the system. Personally, I continue to look forward to serving in the position of national president, and making your voice heard in 2018.

Craig Penet, National President

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