



Sisters in Law

Rocky Mountain Women in Law Enforcement Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 11

April 2007

Points of Interest:

- An article by Renae Griggs - Conference 2006 - Page 1
- Workshop 2007 is right around the corner...check out what's in store!
- Spotlight on RMWLE Board Member Maggie Santos

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An Officer's Lifeline Copline, Inc.

Every day across the United States, there are nearly 800,000 men and women giving all they have to the service and protection of their communities. And every day, these men and women wage a war against the psychological impact of their dedication to stand like a wall of civil soldiers preventing the worst ills of society from running amuck destroying the basic freedoms and quality of life of every American. Tragically, every day in this country some of them are losing the battle in their own minds, bodies, and souls.

It only takes a quick, cursory search in a few of our nation's newspapers to illustrate that devastating fact. The evidence is overwhelming and comes in a variety of graphic forms. From deep-seated corruption, to domestic violence, substance abuse, murder, and suicide our brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and their families who serve along side them, are becoming casualties of this battlefield of the mind.

Recently, some of my

comrades in South Florida succumbed to the clash against corruption, believing they were owed something more for all of the years of thankless service given. Only a few years from retirement, now facing the consequence of their remaining years in prison instead. This is only one example of an insidious cancer of the soul that can gradually take hold of unsuspecting officers who after many years of exposure to society's psychological and emotional sewage, stop taking inventory and can no longer define the line between "us and them."

Here in Colorado, the past few weeks have wrought havoc on the police community. One good man has turned in his badge after be-

...But while we work to resolve the systemic attitudes and behaviors, we have got to find a way to reach those who are writhing in psychological pain.

ing arrested for DUI, following weeks of crying out for help and not getting it. Also

related to alcohol, a former officer took the innocent lives of a young couple, extinguishing the bright lights of their future because of his downward spiral which began when the injustices of our system and his part in it, took an immeasurable toll. His progression of decomposition was so obvious and now so public in retrospect, but it would appear his desperate need was quietly overlooked for the past 13 years. Now two 19-year-olds are dead and he is charged with murder. Finally, Aurora PD is mourning the loss of another officer, still stinging from their grief only months ago. The devastating impact of these officers' deaths is felt by every man and woman who dons the badge each day staring their own mortality in the eyes from the start of their shift until they return home. Losing two officers so abruptly, so unexpectedly in such a short period of time has a crushing effect on the officers who are left behind. Especially those who called them friends. Those who so closely identify with them,

(Continued on page 2)

RMWLE Mission Statement:

To promote the recruitment, retention, mentoring, and promotion of women in law enforcement, sworn and civilian, by providing an annual conference to educate law enforcement agencies and their employees on ways to increase the number of women in this profession.

An Officer's Lifeline - Continued

(Continued from page 1)

and who feel their absence in every waking moment.

And so it goes...day in and day out. It is absolutely indisputable that we must create an effective, empowering, and enduring support system for police officers across the country. The long-standing cultural deception that cops are people who *solve* problems, not people *with* problems and that the badge is a collective replacement for individual humanity and sensitivity is beginning to crumble and perspectives are in the infancy stages of change. But while we work to resolve the systemic attitudes and behaviors, we have got to find a way to reach those who are writhing in psychological pain. This is the vision of Copline, Inc. It is the hope of its founder Stephanie Samuels, and its Board made up of former officers and others who deeply care about these issues, that Copline can answer the call for officers in need of assistance. The statement framed above is an excerpt from Copline's Mission Statement, which can be found in its entirety on the website at: <http://www.copline.org>.

We are working tirelessly to raise funds in order to get Copline active, with the idea of launching in one state, then going regional, and eventually nationwide. We believe that

COPLINE is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving law enforcement officers and their families by providing 24/7 trained peer support for crisis intervention along with referrals to specifically skilled mental health professionals for follow up and continued assistance.

COPLINE offers a CONFIDENTIAL 24-hour hotline answered by retired law enforcement officers who have access to continuous critical clinical support in order to help callers through the initial crisis as well as provide ongoing assistance with the successful management of various psychosocial stressors that impact a significant number of law enforcement officers and families throughout the U.S.

with the prospective funders we are presently working on that this will be the year we see Copline go from vision to reality. We are looking for major donors, particularly Corporate Sponsors and Industries, as well as individual philanthropists to provide the necessary dollars for our start-up, and then for continuous operation. We are also searching for other grantors, but have committed to staying away from Federal monies because of potential governmental interference and restrictions. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, and ask for your continued support behind the development of this long overdue crisis line for police officers. Please contact Stephanie Samuels at (732) 577-8300 or copline@optonline.net with your input. I also

would be grateful to hear your ideas and can be contacted at (307) 349-7864 or wynosuncatcher@earthlink.net. I will continue to keep you updated with our progress.

Rena Griggs
Board Secretary
Copline, Inc.



Workshop 2007 Nuts & Bolts

Date: Friday, June 8, 2007

Time: 8am - 5pm

Location: Denver Marriott
Southeast - Park Meadows
Littleton, CO



Cost: \$49.00

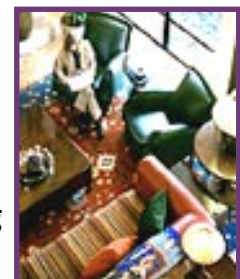
Registration:
<http://www.rmwle.org/registration.htm>

Food: Continental Breakfast served
from 7:30am to workshop start

Accommodations: \$99/night June 4-6

Title: Career and Tactical Survival For
Women - Guest Speakers Dave and Betsy
Smith

Who: Women working
in the law enforcement
field who want to en-
hance their careers and
lives and who want to
spend a fun, enlightening
day with others.



Board Member Spotlight - Sgt. Maggie Santos

Sgt. Maggie Santos has been with the Colorado Springs Police Department for 15 years. Before joining the CSPD, Maggie was a teacher for a few years and decided that policing was where she really wanted to be. She joined the department in 1992 and spent time working midnights on patrol, joined the Neighborhood Policing Unit, and spent time as a School Resource Officer. Maggie has also served the department with her bilingual skills as she is fluent in

Spanish. Maggie was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2000 and after a couple of years as a patrol supervisor, moved to the Major Crimes Section, in charge of the Sex Crimes, Crimes Against Children Unit. As part of her current position there, she supervises an Internet Crimes Against Children team which has been responsible for several high profile internet based sex offender arrests.

Maggie is currently working toward promoting to Lieutenant. Maggie was also one of the

original members of the RMWLE Conference team, serving since our project began back in 2002. Maggie serves as a Board Member and during our conferences is known as the "AV Guru" knowing how to save the rest of us from our electronic stupidity. We are thankful!

When she is not toting her gun or fixing a digital projector, Maggie has two kids to keep her busy and spends time quilting, reading and mastering video games. Thanks Maggie!



Quotables

The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it.

Elaine Agather

Only one man in a thousand is a leader of men -- the other 999 follow women.

Groucho Marx

A leader is a dealer in hope.

Napoleon Bonaparte

In times of change, learners inherit the Earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.

Eric Hoffer

The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority.

Kenneth Blanchard

Good leaders must first become good servants.

Robert Greenleaf

Some leaders are born women.

Unknown

2007 RMWLE Workshop - A Look Ahead!

Join us for a fun day in June when RMWLE Guest speaker Dave Smith (aka Buck Savage) and his wife Sgt. Betsy Smith come back to Colorado! Dave came to our 2006 Conference last September and treated us to such a great, uplifting class, we had to have him back.

The workshop, entitled "Career and Tactical Survival for Women" is one of the most unique courses offered by the "Dave Smith and Associates" team. Veteran police officers and trainers (most recently of the Calibre Press "Street Survival" seminars) Sgt. Betsy Smith and former Lt. Dave Smith will guide us through eight hours of intensive, interactive training that will provide attendees with updates and information they can employ to improve and enhance both their professional and personal lives.

They start with the history of women as warriors and then add gender-specific science and leadership principles that women can use to further their careers or improve their lives off the job. The multi-media format keeps students on the edge of their seats while special guests provide tactical updates and skills demonstrations that officers can easily adapt for their own use long after the seminar has concluded. They'll discuss off-duty survival, family relationships, pregnancy on the job, how to make yourself truly "promote-able," and many other groundbreaking topics. This course will inspire, motivate, and encourage women to excel and to win, regardless of assignment!

Dave's law enforcement career began with the Tucson Police Department and continued with

the Arizona State Police. In 1990, Dave joined the Law Enforcement Television Network and then in 1999 worked with LETN owned Calibre Press. Now president of Dave Smith & Associates, an Illinois-based training and consulting company, Dave's major clients include [Calibre Press/Street Survival](#) and [Wicklender-Zulowski & Associates](#) Dave has developed hundreds of programs across the spectrum of police & security training needs and has authored articles for law enforcement publications including The Police Marksman, Law & Order, Police, and Police Chief. and Dave serves on the Board of Directors for the [American Society for Law Enforcement Trainers](#).

Sergeant Betsy Smith is a 27-year veteran of the Naperville (IL) Police Department and has held positions in patrol, investigations, narcotics, juvenile, crime prevention and field training. As a sergeant, she supervised the K-9 Unit, served as a field training sergeant, recruitment team sergeant, bike patrol coordinator, and supervisor of the Community Education/Crime Prevention Unit, the Elderly Services Team, the Crowd Control Bike Team, the Crisis Intervention Team, and Honor Guard Unit.

Betsy is the lead instructor for "Street Survival for Women," and manages Dave Smith & Associates, a law enforcement training and consulting company based in Illinois.

Dave and Betsy now reside in Illinois. Together they have four children.

Come and join them June 8, 2007 in Littleton, CO. For more info go to www.rmwle.org.



**Sisters In Law
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Newsletter submissions are welcomed for consideration. All materials are subject to editing and the publisher is not responsible for lost submissions or photographs. If submissions are to be returned, enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

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Changing Seasons ...Changing Law Enforcement One Woman at a Time.

Membership Information

Membership Requirements

Active Membership: Open to commissioned and non-commissioned persons employed by or honorably retired from a law enforcement agency.

Associate Membership: Open to any person or business that supports the mission of the organization.

Membership Benefits

- You will be entitled to a discounted rate when you register at the Annual Rocky Mountain Women in Law Enforcement Conference. (2006 Discount: 10% off!)
- You will automatically receive *Sisters in Law*, a newsletter that focuses on current issues facing women in law enforcement and contains information regarding networking, training opportunities, upcoming events and much more.
- You will be part of an organization that encourages women to explore law enforcement careers and provides support to women currently employed in the field.
- You will have the opportunity to network with law enforcement professionals from numerous agencies and to recognize the outstanding achievements made by women in law enforcement.

Rocky Mountain Women in Law Enforcement New Member & Renewal Application Form

Name (Last, First, Middle) _____

Sworn Law Enforcement Officer Dispatch Detention
Other _____ Status? Active Retired

Rank/Title/Position _____

Agency Name _____

Agency Address _____

Agency Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Agency Fax: (____) _____ - _____

Home Address _____ Phone _____

Preferred Mailing Address: Home Work

E-Mail Address _____ @ _____

Active Membership \$20.00 Annually Associate Membership \$20.00 Annually
New Membership Membership Renewal

Payment Information (All amounts must be tendered in US funds)

Amount \$ _____

Cash Check# _____ Visa Mastercard Discover American Express
Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVS# _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Member # _____ Renewal Date _____

Mail To: RMWLE Treasurer at P.O. Box 25762 • Colorado Springs, CO 80936
or...Register On-Line at www.rmwle.org