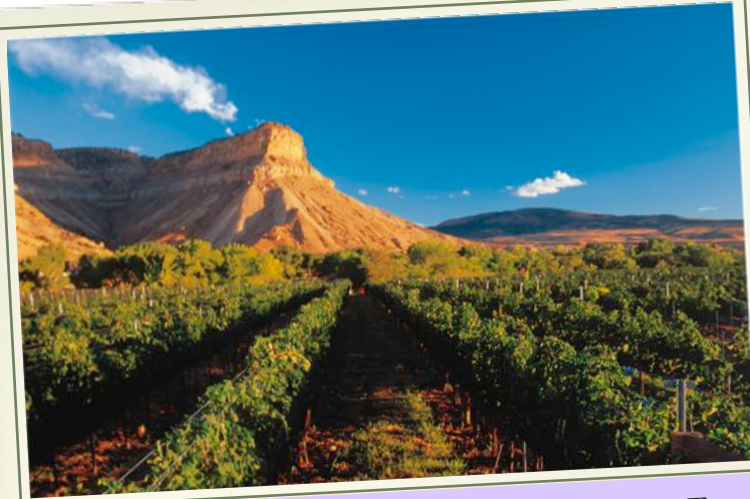


JUNE 2009

SISTERS IN LAW

A Publication of Rocky Mountain Women in Law Enforcement



2009 CONFERENCE EXCITEMENT
HORSE MOUNTAIN - GRAND JUNCTION

MEET FRIENDS 3 Fun Days



2008 Photo Shots

FINANCIAL CRIMES - NATIONAL IMPACT

Any people look at Financial Crimes and say, "thanks, but no thanks—that can't be any fun." While in some respects, that may be true (think paper, paper, paper...) there is a lot more to Financial Crimes than meets the eye!

I've been a detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department Financial Crimes Unit for a little over four years now. And while I have had my fair share of writing reports, working single cases for 10 months or more, and feeling as though I am contributing to the thinning forests, there are aspects of Financial Crimes that outweigh all the tedious work involved in putting a case together.

One thing I have learned during my time in FCU is that financial crimes do not exist in a vacuum, separate of other

crimes. I have worked on cases involving suspects that are also suspects in homicides, robberies, narcotics cases, and even sex crimes. The bad guys we deal with on a daily basis are often involved in a much more than "just passing a bad check."

I'm sure some of you have heard about the Best Buy shooting here in Colorado Springs in 2004, but to sum it up if you haven't—two of our officers were dispatched to a fraud in progress, and upon arriving the suspect fled the scene. When the officers gave chase, it set off a chain of events that led to the two officers being shot, a Sergeant almost being run over at the suspect's address, and ended with the suspect crashing after a vehicle intervention. This still didn't stop the suspect, who got out of the vehicle and ran at (p. 3)

JUNE 2009
VOLUME 5 ISSUE III

Conference 2009

Where?

Beautiful Grand Junction, Colorado

Join us on Colorado's Western Slope at the Grand Junction Two Rivers Convention Center. Our host hotels will be the Hawthorn Suites and the Hampton Inn directly next to the Convention Center.



When?

September 23-25, 2009

How Much?

RMWLE - Always Affordable!

As a non-profit organization, we are committed to keeping costs low while offering the highest quality instruction with a huge dose of fun! Costs are \$275 per attendee (\$250 for members) and we continue to offer our aggressive discounts for agencies who send four for the price of three.



What?

Our 2009 Agenda Is Set!

Take a look at our speaker line-up at www.rmwle.org/speakers.html. Do you know of a great speaker that would be a perfect fit for RMWLE for our 2010 conference? Visit our Conference page at www.rmwle.org. We encourage and appreciate suggestions... Please email us at info@rmwle.org!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Sisters in Law!

I can't believe it's almost summer. Summer time is in the air and I know I can't wait for the warm weather. I wanted to take this time to tell you what we have been up to since our last conference in Colorado Springs.

We were informed about two officers' families who have unfortunately been stricken with catastrophic diseases. Officer Ellison from the Englewood Police Department has a 4 year old child with terminal brain cancer. Board Member, Officer Leticia Castillo from Englewood Police Department asked for a donation to help the family out with medical expenses. The second family is that of RMWLE's Secretary, Nancy Gifford. Nancy's sister, Kathy Dykstra, has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer which has spread into most of her internal organs. Both Kathy and her husband Mark are self employed and if they aren't working, they don't have income coming in to support the family or pay the mounting medical costs. RMWLE donated \$500 to each family to support them in this time of financial need.

Additionally, RMWLE sponsored a fundraising event for Kathy Dykstra on April 4, 2009. We held a silent auction, a bake sale, had face painting for kids, the Seat Belt Convincer and members of the Falcon Fire Department at this event. We were able to raise over \$7500 for the Dykstra family! We are very thankful to all people who donated time, money or items to the silent auction.

We are now in full swing in planning the 2009 Conference. This year's conference will be held in beautiful Grand Junction Colorado. The fee for the conference has been reduced this year to \$250 for members, \$275 for non-members. We are still offering the discount rate of send 3 get the 4th one free. We will again put on two pre-conference events, the shooting workshop and the defensive tactics workshop. Please visit the website for more information.

Hope to see you all in Grand Junction!

Best Regards, Felicia Low - RMWLE President



ENHANCING LAW
ENFORCEMENT...

About RMWLE

ONE WOMAN AT A TIME.

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.*

Nonprofit Organization

Founded 2002

Law Enforcement Officers from the Front Range of Colorado came together to form the first committee and produce the first Annual Conference. The organization applied for and received non-profit 501(c)3 status in 2003. RMWLE has no paid employees; it is run solely on the elbow grease of volunteers! Donations to RMWLE are tax deductible.



Board of Directors

2009 Executive Board:

President - Sgt. Felicia Low
Colorado Springs Police Department

1st Vice Pres. - Lt. Donna Dougherty
Mesa County Sheriff's Office

2nd Vice Pres. - Kandy Fritch
(Assistant Dispatch Supervisor)
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Secretary - Det. Nancy Gifford
Colorado Springs Police Department

Treasurer - Lt. Tammy Twombly
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

2008 Executive Board - THANK YOU!

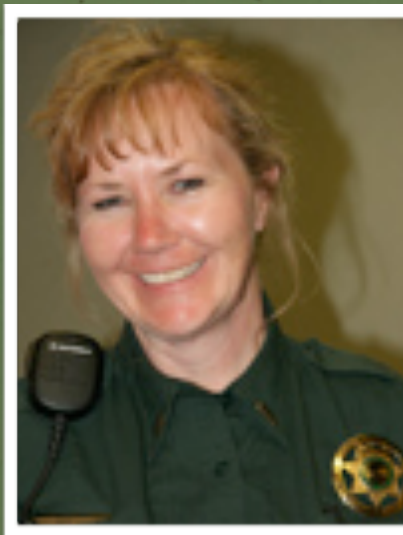


Meet Lt. Donna Dougherty Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Donna is the 2009 Conference Chairperson and a new member of the RMWLE Board of Directors for 2009. Donna represents the law enforcement agencies in the Grand Junction area that are excited to have us convene on the western slope! Lt.

Dougherty currently oversees the Inmate Classification and Programs Team in the Detentions Division. We are excited to have her heading up the 2009 Conference!

Welcome Aboard Donna!



THINK WORKING IN FINANCIAL CRIMES CAN'T BE INTERESTING? THINK AGAIN!

(cont'd from page 1) another officer, who ended up shooting and killing the suspect. What you might not know, or remember, is that it all started over "just a bad check." These are the types of criminals we in the white collar crime world are now dealing with.

It's not an unusual occurrence to execute a search warrant on a suspect vehicle or home and find weapons and drugs. It's not unusual to deal with large rings of people working together. I will say that one of the most gratifying experiences can be putting those groups of people in jail for a very long time, whether it be by charging them with organized crime (COCCA) or Identity Theft charges. You should see the expressions on the suspect's faces when we mention organized crime—that in itself is priceless!

Another thing that makes investigating financial crimes more fun than you would expect is all the field work we get to do. Throughout my four years, we as a unit (7 detectives) have executed 336 search warrants, been involved in the arrest of 900 plus suspects, and collected over 11,000 pieces of evidence.

We get to go out and follow suspects as they leave court just to watch them go pass another bad check almost



immediately. We've followed suspects out beyond Peyton, miles east of Colorado Springs, on surveillance, sat on more houses than we can count—watching who comes and goes, and had opportunities to seize items through civil forfeiture. That flat panel TV in our work area is a nice addition to our unit!

All in all, my time in financial crimes has taught me that work is what you make of it—even what most would consider a boring or tedious job can be

fun and fulfilling, if you take advantage of the opportunities you have. So the next time someone mentions financial crimes, maybe take a second to think about it before rolling your eyes and saying no thanks!

This article was provided by Detective Becky Smith from the Colorado Springs Police Department Financial Crimes Unit. If you have any questions her number is 719-444-7826.

2009 Conference Speaker Spotlight



Sue Pivetta

Class I - Breaking Out Of Negativity

Sue Pivetta's workshop on overcoming negativity is a revealing and hard-hitting workshop for leaders or and professionals. Her core concept is that the ability to have things work well, career success, emotional intelligence, and professional effectiveness all come from developing relaxed control over the choice point between positive and negative energies in one's self and in groups. Sue will demonstrate that an unrealistic view of the work and the job can lead to negativity. Her workshops are high-energy learning activities.

Class II - Neutralizing Stress

We wish we could call this workshop eliminating stress - but to tell you the truth - stress is valuable when understood. Neutralizing is all about coping, values, learning, understanding and accepting the reality of stress - but not just any stress - the stress of THIS workplace, for this type of wonderfully unique individual. This is about taking personal responsibility for stress - but in a way that is NOT blaming.

For more information go to:
<http://www.rmwlw.org/>

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Rocky Mountain Women in
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Editor

Cari Graves

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RMWLE Board of
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Newsletter submissions are
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All materials are subject to
editing.

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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

1. You will be entitled to a discounted rate for the annual RMWLE Conference. Rates will typically equal the annual membership rate, so by coming to the conference each year, you will get your membership free!
2. You will 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 more.
3. 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.
4. 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 Form (Mail to RMWLE Postal Address)

Name (Last, First, Middle) _____

Law Enforcement Officer (Sworn) Detentions (Sworn)

Dispatcher Other Civilian _____

Rank/Title/Position _____

Agency Name _____

Agency Address _____

Agency Phone () _____ - _____ Agency Fax () _____ - _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____ Preferred Mail Address Home Work

Email _____@_____

Membership: Active \$25 Annually - Associate \$25 Annually

Type: New Membership - Renewal Membership

Payment Information (In USD) Amount Paid \$ _____

Cash Check # _____ Visa MC Discover American Express

Credit Card # _____ Exp _____ CVS# _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Member # (If Known) _____ Renewal Date _____