Phoenix Safety First

By Jake Jacobsen
PLEA President

After almost five years of planning, bickering, debating, and surveying, it’s here. We — and I mean “we”, as in PLEA, are up to our ears in a campaign to gather 19,000 signatures of registered (Phoenix) voters to put an initiative on the September ballot.

In January PLEA helped fund a citywide random phone survey of registered voters. The survey was focused on the city’s efficiency, how the Mayor and Council were doing and the feeling on how good our police department was. There were also questions that gauged the support for a sales tax increase. The results were astounding! The public supported the tax increase to hire 22 more police officers with a 76% approval rating.

The initiative, named Phoenix Safety First, will be for a sales tax increase of .02%. That’s 2/10ths of 1% percent. Two pennies on a ten dollar purchase. The money generated will go towards hiring 220 more Phoenix Police Officers and 100 more Firefighters, and all the equipment and support staff required. This .02 of 1% sales tax increase will generate slightly more than $66 million a year. P.D. gets 80% – Fire gets 20% of the money.

In 1993 Phoenix voters passed Proposition 501. It too was an increase to our city sales tax. The money was used to hire 200 new police officers and 88 firefighters. That was 14 years ago. The need is here again. Currently we all pay 8.15% sales tax when we purchase goods in Phoenix. But you might be surprised to know that of that 8.15 pennies on a dollar purchase — only 1.8 of those pennies are city sales tax. The rest goes to the state and county.

By gathering approximately 19,000 signatures we can put this proposal to a public vote in September. The bad news is — we only have until May 4th to collect all those signatures.

As you read this, petitions have been out for a couple weeks. We need your help. I’m asking for you to call the office and volunteer just a couple hours to help gather signatures. We’ll give you a PLEA shirt if you don’t have one and you can join other officers and Firefighters working large events, D-Backs and Rattlers games and lots of neighborhood events.

We have petitions in the PLEA office. If you can take a petition around to your neighbors, your church, your kid’s little league or soccer game. For every 45 signatures you gather — we sponsor one police officer.

It’s crunch time. It’s up to each of us to pitch in. I’ve worked every weekend on this and several evenings (the D-Backs’ home opener was great), and so have others. If 200 officers can gather just 45 signatures — we can get this done. Between the Firefighters’ commitment and the neighborhood groups I’ve enlisted — and the signatures already collected, we can make this happen.

Please call the office and find out where you can help. This is an opportunity to hire someone to fill that empty seat next to you. It’s up to each of us.
Congratulations
30 Years
With PLEA
Happy Anniversary Arlene

Arlene Venturini, the original PLEA employee, will celebrate her 30th anniversary with us this month. Arlene began her career with PLEA in April of 1977. She has worked for five presidents and too many trustees to count. She has seen us grow from a handful of members to more than 2200 of us today. She remembers when we would lay our bills on the table each month and decide which ones we could pay and which would need to wait.

Today she sees a union with investments, property, money in the bank, six full-time release officers and a paid staff of five.

Arlene is a wealth of knowledge on our past and it is a treat to hear her talk of PLEA and our beginnings. Please come by the office and join us in congratulating Arlene on her wonderful time with PLEA, and let hope she can stay awhile longer.

Watch For The Election Issue
PLEA elections are coming up so look for your ballots in May. Please be sure to vote!
EVERY VOTE COUNTS!
The results will be counted at the 5:30 p.m. membership meeting the last Tuesday in June and the new Board will be installed in September.

HARLEY ROAD KING CLASSIC FOR SALE

This sale will help officer Fisher’s family.

2005 Harley Davidson Road King Classic. Twin Cam 88 Cubic inches, with sidecar. ONLY 2,000 Miles, Gold and Black Paint, 7 year unlimited mile transferable Warranty.
Many extras, including leather bags.
$26,000 O.B.O.

For more information contact Susan Fisher at 602-264-6792.
“Countdown to Retirement” Expo

The City and Nationwide Retirement Solutions want to help you get ready for retirement with the Countdown to Retirement Expo 2007.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 30, in the City Hall atrium and conference rooms. Plan on attending to learn more about your 457 Deferred Compensation and 401K Plans. The Expo includes workshops that will explain how to make the most of those plans and find the right mix of investments to help you meet your long-term financial goals.

In addition:

- Meet your local plan representative, review your account and get your questions answered.
- Meet with fund managers from the different fund houses.
- Stop by informational booths to learn more about designating a beneficiary, increasing your contributions and making exchanges, and preparing for retirement.

No pre-registration is required.

To learn more, visit phoenixdp.com or call Nationwide at 602-266-2733 or toll free at (800)-891-4749.

PSPRS and the MJM Group of Merrill Lynch Present the 2007 "Question and Answer Round Table Sessions"

All Question and Answer Sessions are free, educational and directed at answering questions of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) members relating to PSPRS, those retiring and considering retirement and those interested in Financial Planning and the process used in Financial Planning.

Please note that we have not put a time of closure on the listed sessions. We will stay until all of your questions are answered in detail. In the rare event a question cannot be answered at the session, we will be happy to consult with you at a later date (again at no cost) until your question or situation has been resolved for you specifically.

Friday, April 27, 2007
PLEA office 2 PM

Monday, May 7, 2007
PLEA office 10 AM

Tuesday, May 22, 2007
PLEA office 2 PM

TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT:

Call: The PLEA office
1102 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Office: 602-246-7869

Arlene or any of the PLEA staff can assist you in registering

Please do not contact PSPRS to register!!

Presented by:
Mr. James Hacking (Administrator-PSPRS-20 or more)/Designee
Merrill Lynch-MJM Group-Tom Jenovich, Jeff Muster, Kathy Mark

Law Offices Of Michael Napier, P.C.

Michael Napier has been representing Phoenix officers for over 30 years. Mr. Napier is one of the most experienced labor and personal injury attorneys in Arizona. Mr. Napier has represented hundreds of officers before administrative boards throughout Arizona, and has assisted critically injured officers and the survivors of officers in obtaining compensation for their injuries and losses.

Janet Feliz has been an attorney for over 21 years. Most recently, Ms. Feliz has been administratively hearing officer in discipline hearings and other employment matters before boards and commissions.

Anthony Cury has focused his practice primarily on personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits in which he has served as plaintiff’s counsel. He has experience in cases dealing with product liability, negligence, governmental claims and dram shop liability, to name a few.

In addition to the full services provided to PLEA members to protect their careers, the law offices of Michael Napier, P.C., provide the following:

Personal injury recovery (on or off duty) experienced representation at a reduced fee:
- Reduced fees for matters not covered by the PLEA legal plan.
- Free probate of officer’s estate for line-of-duty death;
- Free consultations to members on any matter, and referrals to attorneys or specialists for matters not handled by our firm.

2525 E. Arizona Biltmore Circle • Suite 130
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 248-9107 • www.napierslawfirm.com

Briggs / Scott 17th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

Sunday, May 27, 2007
Scramble Format
Raven Golf Club
For Information Contact:
Scott Sayban
(602) 495-8866
Scottsayban@phoenix.gov

Chicken Shot
If it wasn’t so funny I would cry.

New off-duty work issues raised by someone and the need to review all programs relating to off-duty work now in progress.

So, I was driving to work, Grand Avenue is always so sweet first thing in the morning. Not sure what the program on 15th Avenue is all about, but it is closed and has a uniformed officer watching from the north side of the street. Well, it wasn’t an officer. The uniform person was a Sergeant, sitting on a Mercedes just north of the road closed sign.

I don’t mind that he doesn’t buy American, but really, leaning on the hood of the Benz says so much about struggling to make ends meet.

Note to the Governor:
I really don’t think the idea of putting Hybrids in the HOV lane is in our best interest. The purpose of a hybrid vehicle is or should be that they reduce the dependence on foreign oil. Hybrid cars at freeway speeds or speeds over 40 mph, use coal based fuel. It is when they are putting along on city streets that they use electric power. If you want to conserve fuel, ban them from the freeway altogether. The slower speed will mean they use less oil/gas.

As for the idea of a toll lane on the freeway, bad idea; there is no control of entrance/exit to the lane. Fixing that little flaw will cost us tons and the Highway Patrol really has enough to do.
On February 6, 2007, I had the opportunity to meet with Joe Ward from the MDT shop to look at one of the new model Tahoes and a replacement radio console/lookout mount which will be installed in these vehicles. The unit is manufactured by a company called Radio-Shield and is shorter than our current consoles, which will allow more room between the back of the console and front of the driver compartment shield. The top section has a steeper angle, which gives better placement for the radio, the lights/ sirens controller, and PA. This console has the same twelve-volt cigarette lighter adaptor receptacles for items like phone and battery chargers. The new unit has a different look and feel, which means that if glare is a problem, you will have to adjust the contrast level to block out the screen. The Tahoe will come with the newer style Code 3 Products light bar, which uses two halogen rotors and LEDs which strobe, providing better visibility and lower amperage draw on the charging systems as well as additional LED lighting on the grille, taillight, and rear bumper. Additionally, the new model light/siren controller is the same one as in the Impala, which utilizes one unit to control the overhead, beacon, and siren lights, strobe, and PA.

We will keep you advised of any changes and when we can expect to see them rolling into precinct parking lots for us to start using.

Mark your day planner and attend the next meeting on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30, 12:30, and 5:30. The next meeting is on May 15, 2007.

PLEA Board of Trustees nominations are due May 1st, 2007. PLEA bylaws mandate members desiring to run for a position on the Board of Trustees must attend 5 membership meetings prior to May 1st of the election year and must be a member in good standing for at least six months immediately prior to May 1st of the election year.

Benefit of the Month

Vacation Discounts: In 2006, PLEA members saved over $45,000 when purchasing tickets at the PLEA office. One of the most popular features of PLEA membership is our discount program for vacation destinations including: Disneyland/California Adventure, Knott’s Berry Farm, Universal Studios Hollywood, Six Flags Magic Mountain/Hurricane Harbor, LEGOLAND California, SeaWorld San Diego, and the San Diego Zoo & Wild Animal Park.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Ladd Bangerter
Charlene McDermott
Joel Bell
Eric Molenkamp
Ramel Coldough
Thomas Rutledge
Matthew Cornier
Benjamin Scarborough
Edgar Davila
Kathleen Siercks
Afonso Flores
Jason Torres
Brent Freyberger
Michelle Tuley
Bret Glidewell
Sarah Roberts
Brian Herrick
Richard J. Rogers
Christopher Jones
Reuben Villa-Rodriguez
Kimberlee Kiewel
Joseph Vizzini
Lynn Thomas
Candice Wilson
John Maxwell
Michael Yohe

2006 PLEA Payroll Deductible Figures

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