

## **NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 2 # 2 May 2001

### **FIRST BOARD MEETING**

The first meeting of the PACE Executive Board was held on Saturday, April 7 at the Fairfield Inn, Baltimore-Washington International Airport. All members were present with the following exceptions - Chief Greenberg and Lt. Hawkins of the Charleston, SC Police Department. They were furnished videotapes of the meeting so they could be fully informed and provide feedback. All members were furnished draft minutes of the meeting for any corrections and the final minutes are attached to this Newsletter. Good progress was made on discussing several important issues.

Board meetings will be held every six months. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2001. After reviewing the minutes, comments by PACE members are encouraged.

### **WEB PAGE**

A statistical report on the use of the web page has been received showing a high level of interest. For the four month period starting January 1 to April 30, the PACE web page had 4,807 "successful requests", or an average of 370 requests per week. This is much higher than expected and demonstrates great interest in PACE and its mission.

### **STATE LIAISONS**

California

At Newsletter press time, information was received that the Bill in the California Legislature to provide college tuition funds for officers has been withdrawn. It had strong support in both the Assembly and Senate and with the Governor. However, the energy crisis in California has absorbed all the available funds so the Bill had to be withdrawn. Plans are in place to re-submit the Bill next year.

Florida

Because of opposition from the Sheriffs, Florida legislation to require a two-year degree for new officers has been withdrawn. However, the issue is still supported by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE – the POST Commission) which will consider how to proceed successfully in their next Board meeting. A technical assistance package of documents, similar to those sent to California, was mailed to FDLE with the offer of further assistance.

Massachusetts

Because of concern for misuse of the Quinn Bill (State supplement for officers with college degrees) a conference is scheduled for May 30 at the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management to discuss these problems. PACE will be represented by Professor Thomas Svogun of the Executive Board. Extensive PACE literature has been prepared for handouts.

## **AWARDS/PRESS CONFERENCES TO DEPARTMENTS REQUIRING FOUR-YEAR DEGREES**

Letters have been mailed to all State and local law enforcement agencies which currently require a four-year degree for entering officers, by policy or practice. These letters invite the chiefs to receive a PACE certificate of recognition for their professional leadership at a press conference at their department. Acceptances are being received. After receiving replies, efforts will be made to schedule presentations to most by the end of 2001. Efforts will be made to cluster geographically the awards to conserve travel funds. Sample letter is attached.

## **LIAISON WITH ORGANIZATIONS**

### **IADLEST**

Close cooperation continues with IADLEST. Plans are being made for discussions at the next IADLEST Board meeting, in June, for strategies to gain support in Congress for the "Open Letter" requesting Federal funds for college tuition payments to officers. Also plans for the national survey, through the states, of a census of college educated officers will be discussed. The originally designed survey has been tabled since it has been learned that some State Commissions have some relevant survey data. It appears the best way to proceed is first to survey the State Commissions to learn what data is already available.

Texas and Florida have both temporarily withdrawn proposals for college degree (A.A.) requirements for new officers because of opposition. Since Minnesota and Wisconsin have both successfully implemented the standard, it has been suggested to the IADLEST liaison that the State Directors for Minnesota and Wisconsin prepare presentations for an IADLEST meeting to discuss how they were successful. This could be followed by Newsletter submissions to guide all the states in overcoming barriers to college degree requirements.

Don Hopkins, the IADLEST Liaison, has discovered that the preceding organization, NASDLET (which was succeeded by IADLEST in 1986) had adopted education standards, as part of "Model Minimum State Standards" which have been adopted by IADLEST. The full text is on the IADLEST.org web site. Standard "2.0.9 Education", states in part:

....should ultimately seek to phase in an entry-level requirement of a baccalaureate degree from a college or university.... Such college education should include a substantial core of courses in the humanities.... As communities move towards community policing, a college education becomes increasingly desirable as an entrance standard.

### **ASLET**

As invited by executive director, Dr. Frank Hackett, an article on PACE has been submitted for the ASLET Newsletter. Discussions are underway for a possible survey of training academies for educational profiles of new officers. ASLET will consider supporting the "Open Letter to the Congress" at their next Board meeting the end of May.

### **NSA**

A meeting was held with the executive director, National Sheriff's Association, Thomas Faust. NSA declined to join in the "Open Letter to the Congress" because it recommended degrees for officers, although the principle of tuition payment for officers was supported. It was stated that small county, rural sheriffs would not support college education requirements.

#### NLECB

The National Law Enforcement Credentialing Board was formed by the Fraternal Order of Police to provide recognition/certification for officers meeting high professional standards. These standards will include a four-year college degree by 2004. In a telephone meeting with executive director, Richard Weisman, it was agreed that PACE and NLECB would work together on this common issue.

#### CALEA

A meeting has been scheduled for early June with the executive director of the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation Standards, Sylvester Daugherty, to discuss college education requirements.

### **DEPARTMENTS REVERSING COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS**

We regret to report that two departments previously on our list of those requiring college degrees for entering officers have abandoned this requirement. These are Portland, Oregon and Eagle City, Minnesota. Portland has stated that they cannot find enough applicants with the college degree. Other departments have stated that they are not experiencing this problem, including Arlington, Texas and Charleston, SC, in spite of low unemployment.

### **COMMENTARY**

On May 22, discussions in the House of Representatives concerning the Education Bill, it was noted that the Motorola Corporation will not hire anyone without a high school diploma but 50% of those are rejected because they do not have reading and math skills at the 12th grade level. Certainly, the educational requirements for the awesome powers of a police officer should be substantially higher than those hired for basic entry-level positions at Motorola.

That the quality of policing cannot exceed the educational quality of the police was stated by the Wickersham Commission in 1931 and again by (then) Attorney General Meece in the Police Chief magazine of the IACP in 1987. The concept was the theme of Saunders in his book Upgrading American Police in 1969 – that to improve policing we must first improve the police and the President's Crime Commission in 1967 in their recommendation that officers have four-year college degrees: "The quality of police service will not significantly improve until higher educational requirements are established for its personnel."

Yet the, Federal Government police improvement program continues to focus on improving procedures while ignoring the more important issue of improving the intellectual quality of officers for improving police services. These universal principles and goals are the foundations of PACE.