

*Vol 3 - #2
May 2002*

DELAY

Unfortunately, pressure of non-PACE business has delayed this May Newsletter to June. The next quarterly Newsletter will be published on schedule in August.

BOARD MEETING

The highlight of this quarter was the Executive Board meeting on March 23 at the Fairfield Inn, Baltimore-Washington Airport. Lou Mayo reviewed press conferences with award certificates to departments requiring BA degrees for new officers in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas. In discussions with the chiefs, all stated they are satisfactorily filling recruiting needs within the BA degree requirement. The chiefs are asked to discuss the award certificate at the next area chiefs meeting and announce free technical assistance from PACE to assist in implementing BA degree entrance standards. They are also asked to support the "Open Letter to the Congress" (re: federal funds for tuition reimbursement) and to request same for area chiefs. All chiefs were requested and have agreed to serve as telephone referral resources for chiefs interested in establishing BA degree entrance requirements. Chiefs are requested to encourage eligible officers to join PACE, however no new memberships have been received from these departments. During the working lunch a video of the press conference at Burnsville, MN was played and press releases from award departments were reviewed. (See web for text of award presentation.) Future presentations for remaining departments are being

scheduled as soon as time is available. Gaston County, NC Police Department is scheduled for July 2. The Delaware River and Bay Authority Police Department ceremony was held on June 19. The Chief stated that in recent years, approximately 50% of new officers have been minorities and women, within the BA degree requirement. PACE has been invited to speak at the next Delaware chiefs' meeting in September.

Unfortunately, no national media has yet picked up on the press conferences, but this is still a goal.

ORGANIZATIONAL LIAISON

It was suggested that support for PACE objectives be sought from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Major City Chiefs. (International City Management Association should also be included.) Chief Palmer of Tulsa is vice-president of the Major City Chiefs and suggested at the press conference there that Major City Chiefs might become involved with PACE. However, after the June meeting he reported that terrorism filled the agenda. Efforts will be made again to get on the agenda for the Major City Chiefs at the IACP Conference in October in Minneapolis. (Lou Mayo will be there and available if requested.) The board discussed the problems that membership is not growing and press coverage remains local, as well as limited funds. These problems are yet to be resolved.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Since over 50% of PACE members are in the Charleston Police Department, it was suggested that the first national PACE conference be in Charleston. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be scheduled for September, 2002.

NEW QUALIFIED DEPARTMENTS

Information has been received that the following departments have established BA degree requirements for entering officers; Flint Township, MI, Eagan City, MN, St. Cloud, MN, Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, NJ and Elgin, IL. PACE provided TA information to Elgin, IL Police Department which recently established the requirement. Information has been received recently, through an inquiry to PACE from the Chicago Tribune, that the Chicago Police Department has instituted a support program for members to earn their doctoral degrees coupled with a mentoring program. Further inquiries will be made. Through an error, the Boontown Township Police Department, NJ and Union County Sheriff's Department, NC were listed as having the BA degree requirement which they do not.

ORGANIZATIONAL LIAISON

Chief William Miller of Elgin, IL, who has recently instituted the BA degree requirement, is also president of the board for Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. An attempt will be made to meet with him at IACP Conference to discuss CALEA standards for college education - which do not now exist. Efforts are continuing to establish liaison with NAACP and Urban League which have not been successful to date. Close communication with IADLEST continues through the excellent cooperation from their designated liaison officer, Don Hopkins. The Burnsville, MN press conference was attended by Neil Melton,

executive director of Minnesota POST. He expressed interest in working with PACE on improving educational standards for Minnesota officers. A meeting will be planned with him at the IACP Conference in Minneapolis.

A booth has been rented for the IACP Conference in Minneapolis in October where it is estimated that 1,500 chiefs will be handed PACE information. Strong support continues from Law Enforcement News which continues to run PACE ads at no cost.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As previously reported in the last Newsletter, the presentation to the Rhode Island Governor's Commission was very successful and a sub-committee was established to work with PACE on college standards. However, nothing has been heard since. A letter will be directed to the chairman asking for the status and again volunteering PACE assistance.

Although the PACE presentation to the Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board was well received on February 22-23, their report is yet to be issued, but is expected shortly. All presenters recommended a BA degree standard (including the Urban League), except the NAACP. The chief is on record favoring the BA degree requirement. The Commission was charged by the City Council to make recommendations on college education standards for Pittsburgh officers. Recent contact with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office resulted in information that budget crises preclude any consideration of college standards at this time.

Technical Assistance Packages were mailed to:

-Dothan, Alabama (Also referred to Chief Greenberg)

-Columbus, GA.

The major impediment to implementing BA degree standards, as voiced by chiefs is fear it would severely limit new applicants. Several departments have abolished the standard for the same reason. This is not with-standing the almost universal statement of chiefs with the requirement that they have no major recruiting problems even with the low unemployment rates of recent years. Therefore, it appears that a major Technical Assistance contribution by PACE will be to assemble the successful recruiting strategies of the BA degree departments and supply this information to interested departments. The BA degree standard chiefs have already volunteered to act as telephone consultants to interested chiefs. A letter is being sent to all BA degree standard chiefs requesting they submit an article describing their successful recruiting which PACE will compile as an anthology with commentary. If funds can be acquired, copies will be mailed to a large number of departments. It will also be published on the web (see attachment). Law Enforcement Television Network is no longer interested in doing a program on college standards, with PACE.

RESEARCH

Tom Svogun, board member, from Salve Regina University is trying to get funding to support research committee activities. He supplied over 30 abstracts (mostly dissertations) on police performance and college education with most concluding a positive relationship. He continues to acquire such references. In the latest ACJS Justice Quarterly, there is a significant article, "Situational and Officer-Based Determinants of Police Coercion" by Terrill and Mastrofski. The unique aspect of this research is that it covers all uses of force, both physical and verbal. Most prior research

has looked only at alleged excessive force and/or complaints of police misconduct (which were negatively correlated with college degreed officers). This research concludes that two main factors are determinants of low use of force - seniority and college education with the lowest use of force by officers with BA degrees.

WEB USAGE

The PACE web pages continue to receive a light level of attention. For the past three months (March, April, May) there were 12,542 successful request for information or an average of 121 per day. There were 90 new users during the 3-month period. This appears to be the most visible aspect of PACT.

POSSIBLE NEW DIRECTIONS

It has been suggested that PACE find a national civic organization (Lions, Rotary, etc) who would take on promotion of PACE goals in local police departments. Any member of such an organization is requested to submit comments on the feasibility. Another suggestion is to affiliate with several universities which are strong in policing issues. Any comments? It has just been learned that there are foundations which make grants to new/fledgling organizations. This will be explored.

MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

Members are encouraged to make suggestions to improve PACE, either on the issues of this Newsletter, or any other subject.

DUES

Many members have not submitted their 2002 dues of \$25.00. Payment is requested as soon as possible.