



THE CONNECTION

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Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the desk of... Craig Penet, FPPOA President

As we publish this newsletter, there is just over one month until the 9th FPPOA National Training Institute (NTI) in Tucson. As plans for the training come together each day, I would ask that as you read our newsletter, please be aware of the time and effort the FPPOA board has put into the planning of this program. Starting in the summer of 2018, the board began to scout a location, brainstorm, and make inquiries. Over a year later, we are putting the final touches on a conference which will include outstanding speakers, great presentations, over 600 attendees, over 80 districts in attendance, and with all of this, budget crunching. Do you know the biggest expense? Food and beverages!!! Let me tell you first hand, it is an experience and education to be involved in the preparation and organization.

It is all accomplished by a team of twelve board members, along with some outstanding volunteers in our host district, Arizona. It is an honor to be a part of this group, and to work with probation and pretrial officers in a district that strives for excellence. It is rare when you can be a part of a group of over a dozen people who work so closely and accomplish this major task. Not only does this group perform their daily duties as officers, but they put in extra time after hours and on weekends preparing for the conference.

So, when you see or hear from a board member of FPPOA, and maybe think of that question we hear so often, "what has FPPOA done for me", the NTI is just one of the many things. So, help us out, let's band together, get involved, become a member. If you are attending the conference in Tucson, please say hello....and let me know you read this message. I may just have something for you...

- Craig Penet, National President

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FIELD OF VISION: WESTERN REGION

BY: REGAN ANDREWS (DISTRICT OF ARIZONA)

On March 19, 2019, three officers in the District of Arizona, had a normal field night which turned into an opportunity to provide self-less service to the community where they supervised.

The Havasupai Village community is located in the Grand Canyon...yes, literally in the Grand Canyon. SrUSPO Cory Clever is the officer assigned to the Village and issued to making the over five mile hike down the canyon to supervise clients is a normal endeavor. He stays overnight at the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) law enforcement facility before beginning his five plus mile hike back up the canyon. On this particular day, SrUSPO Clever was accompanied by SrUSPO Jordan Gaiser and USPO Winter Martinez. While both Gaiser and Martinez are experienced officers, but this day of field visits in the Grand Canyon was definitely a new experience.

Late in the night of March 19, the officers awoke to the smell of smoke in the hallway of the BIA law enforcement facility. After opening the window to investigate, it was discovered a house approximately 70 yards away was fully engulfed in flames. The officers quickly realized there was no fire department and that they were going to be responsible for fighting the fire. While they had no proper safety gear, they were concerned about the fire spreading and that there was no safe retreat out of the canyon.



With courage and resiliency, the officers sprang into action and began fighting the fire with the items they had. Initially one man from the village volunteered to operate the fire hose; however, after his arm grew tired SrUSPO Clever had to take control of the hose. The officers switched duties every 15-20 minutes for about an hour. They focused on soaking the surrounding area comprised of trees and bushes, as well as the structure.



At approximately 1:15am, the one volunteer left the scene. The three officers continued to support the weight of the hose, move it as needed, and identified areas where the fire was re-igniting. SrUSPO Gaiser used a shovel to help combat the fire, knocked down parts of the structure that were falling outward back into the fire, and dug around the foundation to add dirt to the flames and put out stray embers.

To say the United States District Court Probation Officers are passionate servants is an understatement. I am consistently amazed at the countless stories heard throughout our Agency that highlight the grit, selflessness, empathetic and committed work of our colleagues. The quick thinking and persevering attitudes of these officers is admirable, and their experience serves as a reminder that no field contact is ever normal, and great challenges can be conquered with passionate and dedicated teamwork. (Pictured left to right:

(Winter Martinez, , Cory Clever, and Jordan Gaiser)