



# THE CONNECTION

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Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association

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## President's Message

*From the desk of... Barbara Oswald, FPPOA President*

As you may be aware, I am finishing up my 3<sup>rd</sup> term as FPPOA President. I returned to finish the remainder of the term of the previous president, Karin Storm, in October of 2013. National elections are quickly approaching and we still have not received any interested candidates for the position of FPPOA President. For the life of me I cannot fathom why not. Who would not want the fame, the glory, the extra work? It has actually been a very rewarding and challenging experience for me.

The Association receives a large amount of email messages from the field requesting more help from our organization. The Association provides national leadership in the professional growth of probation and pretrial services, in addition to, advocating on behalf of officers. Although we are not a union we do have a voice.

In the next four and a half years I will approach mandatory retirement. As I contemplate this realization, I often drive home wondering what will happen to the Association which my predecessors worked so hard to cultivate into a thriving and productive organization. What can we do to preserve the Association and ensure continued support by officers. Continued support is

vital to our success. Our Association represents a very important and professional group of individuals; Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Officers. It plays a unique and vital part in the federal judicial system. If we do not continue to thrive I fear we will play a smaller role in other associations and our voice may not be heard.

There are 46,000 inmates currently in the Bureau of Prisons that are projected to be impacted by the amendment lowering the base offense level for drug crimes. Obviously this would impact some districts more than others. But as the majority of our officers know, we are stretched to the max at this point. As officers, we are pulled in many different directions and with media attention given to several federal high profile cases, officers are concerned with the high risk offenders on their caseload. It is impossible not to be on call 24/7 if you are a supervision officer.

Many officers regularly ask me why FPPOA is not fighting for LEAP Pay (law enforcement availability) for officers. The truth of the matter is that no matter

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