

THE LAKELAND BEAT

May 2009

www.LCPAAHome.org

Issue 51

Member of the Month **VALERIE SEWELL**



This month's Member in the Spotlight is our delightful new member from England. She lives in Lakeland most of the time, but has to return to the UK for 6 months each year because of the US immigration laws. Her desire is to be a full time resident of Lakeland which may depend on meeting Mr. Right on this side of the Atlantic!

When she is in the States, she makes her home at a senior mobile home park where she has many friends and an active social calendar. Valerie has a family in the UK which includes 3 sons (all of which are over 6 ft. tall), and 7 grandsons, 4 of which are in the military. Her reason for taking the CPA class was to find out more about our police force and what really goes on in Lakeland. She enjoys a busy schedule and she keeps herself involved with many activities and belongs to the local Methodist Church. Valerie's hobbies include crocheting, knitting, sewing, dancing, shuffleboard and listening to country music. Her friends describe her as a "people person" which is understandable to those who have observed her bubbling personality. Valerie, we hope you enjoy your stay in the UK and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Thank You To All of the Volunteers Who Worked Sun'n Fun and the Teen Summit!



You've helped make a difference in our community!

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 2Happy Birthday!
Page 3.....Seniors vs Crime

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 12th:
LCPAAA General
Membership Mtg
LPD 2nd floor @ 7pm

May 26th:
LCPAAA Board of
Directors Mtg LPD
3rd floor @ 7pm

June 9th:
LCPAAA General
Membership Mtg
LPD 2nd floor @ 7pm

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Stan Martin
834-6906

Vice President
Robin Tillet
604-5450

Secretary
Kim Golotko

Treasurer
Richard Derk

Directors
Stacy Herbolsheimer
619-2718

Susan Herbolsheimer
665-5695

Steve Jones
688-8787

Jim Daniels
559-1660

Clarence Willard
868-7312

LPD Liaison
Captain Harry Katt
834-6908

Thank You to JIM DANIELS



Jim was our guest speaker at the May General Meeting. He gave a great presentation on Certified Peer Visitors for amputees.



05/01 David Shahin
05/04 Barbara Lowry
05/04 Judy Moffett
05/05 Nathan Williamson
05/06 Dell Quarry
05/08 Susan Brafford
05/10 Pat Blalock
05/18 Joann Glenn
05/19 Mary Landgraf
05/22 Sandra Kotansky
05/24 Daniel Bates
05/25 Sara Howard-Padgett
05/28 Paula Fellingner
05/29 Josephine Pizzimenti
05/31 Charles Burdette

2009 Polk County Law Enforcement Memorial

Law enforcement officers from around Polk County, including city, county, state, and federal officers, gathered at Veterans Memorial Park in Lakeland this morning to honor our fallen heroes as part of National Police Memorial Week.

This was the 22nd annual memorial service sponsored by the Polk County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #46 and the Polk County Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, Inc.

The memorial contains the names of 28 fallen heroes dating back to May 15, 1886, when W. S. Campbell, the Bartow Town Marshall, was killed in the line of duty and became the first name to be placed on the memorial.

Honoring our fallen brothers and sisters is a somber experience for any law enforcement officer. The sacrifice these officers made to make our community a safer place to live can never be forgotten.

And so we pause once a year to remember their lives, the service they gave to Polk County, and to let their surviving families know we still remember their heroes.

We encourage everyone to thank the next law enforcement officer you encounter and let them know, if just during Police Memorial Week, how much you appreciate what they do for us.

Trust me - you will make their day something special.

- Asst Chief Bill LePere



Seniors **vs** Crime

- Dick Fearnow

Seniors vs Crime is a program to help anyone who has been taken advantage of financially. Persons who have paid for home repair and the worker did not do the work or did not finish the work have been helped by this program. This program deals with civil matters which law enforcement cannot help. Persons who are being billed for something not purchased are finding that bill collectors may make repeated attempts to collect money from someone the bill collector believes owes the money but has the wrong name or phone number. Some cases may be best handled by small claims court and this office can guide the complainant through this process often times with a good conclusion.

Many of the persons this office sees are older persons who have been targeted by unscrupulous business people. Vacuum cleaner sales people and water treatment system sales people are particularly aggressive and target vulnerable persons, often women who recently lost their husbands. Adult children need to pay close attention to their aging parents whose cognitive skills are declining to keep open lines of communication so that the aging parent will be inclined to discuss with the adult child things going on in their lives. The free lunch for retired persons to discuss retirement plans are very suspect as some unscrupulous annuities salesmen may target the most vulnerable in the audience and groom them so as to build up their trust and sell an inappropriate product. The State of Florida has the Department of Financial Regulation toll free number, 1-800-848-3792 and is for anyone to call before making an investment in insurance or annuity products. The caller must do this before signing a contract and must be prepared to provide the name of the product and the name of the salesman offering this product. All of us at any age should adhere to a practice of not making a decision on the day it is offered of any major purchase, e. g., insurance product, annuity, car, and house.

The Lakeland Seniors vs Crime office is one of 36 such offices in Florida and is located on Wedgewood Estates Blvd in North Lakeland in the Polk County Sheriff's District Office. The phone number is 577-1672. Anyone is welcome to call to ask if we have had complaints against any business or person and other questions are welcome. Our web site is www.polkseniorsvscrime.com The office is open Tu & Th from 9:00 - 1:00 and is operated by volunteers so there is no charge for our services. Some cases seen are referred to one of the Florida agencies which deals with that type of complaint.

LPD Says THANK YOU to Volunteers

- Asst Chief Bill LePere

The Staff at LakelandPD paused for an evening of fun last Friday and invited our many volunteers to a bar-b-que dinner as a small token of our appreciation for their contributions to our organization. Over 50 of our volunteers were able to attend the dinner.

Our community is blessed to have people so willing to give of their time to help us deliver police services to Lakeland residents. Volunteers help in a variety of ways such as serving as a victim advocate with our Victim Assistance and Domestic Abuse Response Teams, helping with leadership roles in their neighborhood associations, Citizen Police Academy Alumni who are always around the station helping with our various special events, or an untold number of other ways to help.

We thank all of volunteers for the priceless contributions they give to our community - their time, their talents and their commitment.



Presidents' Roundtable Honors LPD Officers of the Year

- Asst Chief Bill LePere



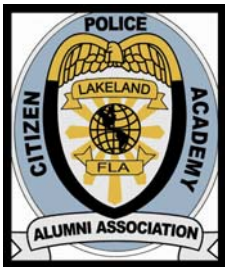
Two Lakeland Police officers were honored today during the 41st annual Presidents' Roundtable Public Safety Awards banquet.

Officer Jason Leggett was named Officer of the Year for his efforts to locate a homicide victim. Leggett received information from out of state that a suspect had made comments about killing a man in Lakeland. Based on the very limited information known at the time, Officer Leggett utilized a variety of investigative research methods to locate where the victim was found deceased. His initial efforts led to the subsequent arrest of the suspect.

Detective James O'Neill is our Detective of the Year and was awarded Honorable Mention for his investigative efforts into a reported fraud case



that ultimately led to the seizure of additional drugs and money. Det. O'Neill is well known for the thoroughness of his fraud investigations. He relentlessly follows all leads and often creates more work for himself because one case generally leads to another and to another and so on.



Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1904
Lakeland, FL 33802

“Effective Crime Control is a Team Effort.”