



BACKING the BADGE *“Serving those that serve us.”*

Newsletter Volume 4 Spring Edition 2015 by Gary M. Bush

Welcome to Volume 4 of the Backing the Badge Newsletter, Spring Edition. All previous volumes are available on the Backing the Badge website at www.backingthebadge.com under the media tab. We have a lot of information to pass along, so let's get started.

Backing the Badge Participates in Recent IACP SACOP Conference

ENCOMPASS/Backing the Badge President Alison Brown and Gary Bush participated in the IACP Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police (SACOP) Conference in San Antonio, Texas this past February. We had the opportunity to not only exhibit at a booth, but to meet with and interact with the Executive Directors of the Chiefs of Police Associations of many states. In addition to explaining who we are and what we do, it was interesting discussing the many unique situations that various state law enforcement agencies contend with, as well as similarities between the states. Photos of this conference are available on the Backing the Badge website under the photos tab, as well as on the Backing the Badge Facebook page.

Backing the Badge Participates in Recent American Jail Association Annual Conference

ENCOMPASS/Backing the Badge President Alison Brown and Gary Bush recently participated in the American Jail Association (AJA) Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was quite a large conference, and there were jail administrators in attendance from around the country. We had the opportunity to not only exhibit at a booth, but to also give a presentation to the attendees during the exhibition times. We learned that while Corrections is a huge component in the law enforcement function, in many cases, Corrections is largely forgotten. On the streets, it's easy to arrest and take someone to jail. But once the arrestee is delivered to the correctional facility, Corrections is charged with the custody and control of this person. We acknowledge the great work being done by our Corrections Brothers and

Sisters. As above, photos of this conference are available on the Backing the badge website as well as on the Backing the Badge Facebook page.

Backing the Badge Holds CISM Training in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Last month, Backing the Badge held a two day Individual CISM and Peer Support class and a two day Group CISM and Peer Support class. These classes were hosted by the Kent County Sheriff's Office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and taught by ICISF approved instructor Michael Saxe. At the conclusion of these classes, Michael Saxe and the rest of the Backing the Badge team participated in supervisory training at the Kent County Sheriff's Office.

Backing the Badge LEO Spotlight

In each newsletter edition, Backing the Badge will spotlight an LEO and ask three questions.

Our first spotlight is with Deputy Chief Jeff Murphy of the East Lansing Michigan Police Department. Chief Murphy has been a law enforcement officer for 28 years. Here are the three questions and Chief Murphy's answers;

1. What influenced you to go into law enforcement?

I don't remember a time when I was not interested in law enforcement. It's always seemed like a good fit for me. What I like most at this stage of my career is the variety, every day there's something different.

2. What are some key ways to stay healthy throughout your career? (both mentally and physically)

Many of us, me included, should do a better job at staying healthy physically but mental health is just as important. My recommendation for mental health is to surround yourself with trusted people to support you. This could be a spouse, family members or close friends. All law enforcement officers get involved in traumatic events and need people to talk to.

3. What advice would you give to young officers just starting out?

Law enforcement is a great career but don't let it be your whole life and your identity. It's healthy and can make you more effective as a law enforcement officer if you have friends and hobbies outside of law enforcement.

Thanks to Chief Murphy for his participation and assistance.

Remember; Backing the Badge on LinkedIn and Facebook

Don't forget, Backing the Badge is still on LinkedIn and Facebook. For those of you on LinkedIn, feel free to send me an invite to connect. There is also a Backing the Badge work

group on LinkedIn, with currently 637 members. This can be found at <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8189092>.

Additionally, the Backing the Badge Facebook page is located at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Backing-the-Badge/1537650013166448?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. There is a lot of great information on the Facebook page, as well a lot of pics. By far, the most popular section of our Facebook page is the “Police Cruisers” album, in which many LEO’s have sent photos of their cruisers. We have over 2200 “likes” on our page so far. Feel free to stop by and “like” us and send a pic of your cruiser if you’d like it posted.

Be a Part of the BACKING the BADGE Book!

How many times have you, as cop, said something like “with all the stuff on the street I’ve seen, I ought to write a book.” Well, BACKING the BADGE and its’ parent company, ENCOMPASS, LLC have decided to do just that. Actually, compile a book would be better. We are in the process of compiling stories from cops about a particular incident they were involved in or that a co-worker might have been involved in. Something that really affected them. How did you get through it? Did you have help or some type of support system? What advice would you give to young officers just starting out in the profession. I am soliciting submissions from any LEO. Each LEO’s “story” will be its own chapter, and the submitter will get full credit for their story. I already have several great submissions. If you’re interested, and have a story to tell, please email me for more information. gmbush@encompass.us.com let’s do this. I look forward to hearing from you.

We’re Not Alone by Sara Eklove, LMSW

When an individual enters into law enforcement work, they rarely do this as a silo. Whether parents are watching their children, wives or husbands watching their loved ones, or children watching their parents – when a loved one walks out the door for work, the families of a law enforcement officer are impacted. It is essential that not only do families know how to support their officers, but also that officers understand how their families are impacted.

Many departments are recognizing that a missing component to their orientation and training programs are orientations to prepare family and friends for new officer’s transitions into the police culture. By offering and providing knowledge, insight and preparedness trainings departments can help family units to provide support more effectively, understand the realistic expectations of the job, acquire insight into potential behavior changes and be familiar with resources available, such as their Employee Assistance Program.

To learn more about training options for family members of both new and veteran officers contact Backing the Badge.

Training Opportunity for Michigan LEO's and First Responders

2 the Rescue, in collaboration with Backing the Badge, will be holding a 3 hour Career Survival training seminar in Livonia, Michigan on Thursday June 25th from 9 am – 12 pm. It will be held at the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) training facility located at 14001 Merriman in Livonia. The course is free to MMRMA members, and \$25 for non-members. The presenters are 2 the Rescue's Mike Wierenga and Terry Bykerk. This course is a must for all Emergency Responders, Firefighters, Police Officers, Public Safety Officers, and Paramedics. For more information or to register contact Sarah Pogorzelski at 734-513-0300 or by email at spogorzelski@mrrma.org.

BADGE and BALANCE: Helpful Hints by Dr. Alison Brown

I met with an officer last week who told me that he loves to fish. When I asked what he like to catch he replied, "Silence." I laughed – he said, "No – seriously, it's one of the few places where I can totally chill out and enjoy the quiet." Be quiet.

The Backing the Badge Team

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