



## **BACKING the BADGE**

*“Serving those that serve us.”*

### **Newsletter Volume 2 Fall Edition** by Gary M. Bush

Welcome to Volume 2 of the BACKING the BADGE Newsletter, Fall edition 2014. For those of you who did not receive Volume 1, I am Gary Bush, the Senior Director of Law Enforcement Relations for BACKING the BADGE, a Division of ENCOMPASS, LLC. Volume 1 of the BACKING the BADGE newsletter is available on our website, [www.backingthebadge.com](http://www.backingthebadge.com), under the Media tab. The site also describes who we are and what we do. If you are on LinkedIn, please connect up with me. Also, check out the new BACKING the BADGE working group/blog on LinkedIn and join in the conversation. Let's get started.

#### **Why CISM and Peer Support?**

By: Michael Saxe, Director of CISM and Peer Support Services, BACKING the BADGE

CISM and Peer Support should be an integral part of any effective law enforcement agency. The men and women of this profession, both on the front lines and working behind the scenes as support staff, face tremendous pressures and stress. As such, it is the agencies responsibility to have an effective program that provides EAP and wellness services. In this inherently unique culture it is most often the peer who will truly understand and effectively assist a Brother or Sister officer in need. It is that peer who fully understands the trials, tribulations, pressure and overt stress that will effect a co-worker. Who better than one who has, in fact walked a mile in his or her shoes? Fortunately, many law enforcement agencies today are recognizing and responding to this need within their rank and file, from the largest agencies to the smallest. But there are still some agencies that do not recognize this need, or they just don't know how to begin to set up these services. We can help with this. For more information, please contact me at [msaxe@encompass.us.com](mailto:msaxe@encompass.us.com).

#### **BACKING the BADGE Participates in Recent POAG Conference**

By: Gary Bush, Senior Director of Law Enforcement Relations, BACKING the BADGE

ENCOMPASS CEO Alison Brown and I recently participated at a conference hosted by the Police Officer Association of Georgia in Savannah. (POAG) At the BACKING the BADGE booth, we had an opportunity to meet with and chat with many LEOs from the great State of Georgia. It was a great opportunity to discuss many of the problems facing law enforcement officers today. There were several officers that related some very personal and heartbreaking stories related to some of

their co-workers, and really illustrated some of the many problems facing officers today. We made some great contacts there and look forward cultivating those relationships.

### **BACKING the BADGE Participates in Recent PRCPA Conference**

By: Gary Bush, Senior Director of Law Enforcement Relations, BACKING the BADGE

ENCOMPASS CEO Alison Brown and I recently were invited to give a presentation about BACKING the BADGE at a recent conference hosted by the Piedmont Regional Crime Prevention Association (PRCPA) in Culpeper, Virginia. There were approximately 80 attendees representing dozens of law enforcement agencies around Virginia. Parts of our presentation were pretty intense, and we covered some traumatic incidents that can and do happen to LEOs every day and the potential effects of these events. Alison covered “life balance” for the officers and how they deal with these types of incidents. The audience was engaged and asked some great questions. This was our first actual presentation to a law enforcement group about BACKING the BADGE, and it went extremely well.

### **BACKING the BADGE Participates in Recent MSA Conference**

By: Gary Bush, Senior Director of Law Enforcement Relations, BACKING the BADGE

BACKING the BADGE and ENCOMPASS recently had the opportunity to participate in the Fall Conference for the Michigan Sheriff’s Association in Battle Creek, Michigan. Alison Brown, CEO of ENCOMPASS, and Mike Ohren, VP of Organizational Development and Training for ENCOMPASS, had the opportunity to do a presentation for Law Enforcement Administrative Assistants who were in attendance on Vicarious Post Traumatic Stress. The presentation was well-received, and the attendees were appreciative of the session. Several commented that they are largely overlooked when it comes to stress-related issues. Michael Saxe and I gave a presentation later that day to the sworn attendees of the conference. There were nearly 100 Sheriffs and top administrators in attendance for this session. The presentation that we gave was powerful and thought-provoking. We received dozens of positive comments about the session and look forward to presenting it again at upcoming conferences. In addition to presenting to both groups, BACKING the BADGE had a booth in the vendor’s area. We had the opportunity to meet with and chat with many of the attendees about what we do, and about some of the events that affect LEOs on a daily basis. The MSA is a great group of people and we look forward to working with them in the future.

### **BACKING the BADGE Newsletter**

By: Gary Bush, Senior Director of Law Enforcement Relations, BACKING the BADGE

Our newsletter is still a work in progress, and we will try to include a section by one of our staff in each edition. If any of you have any suggestions about topics for the newsletter, or, if you would like to submit a short paragraph that would be of interest to our law enforcement Brothers and Sisters, please contact me. We would certainly be open to putting a piece from a guest LE author in a future edition.

## **It's Nearly Holiday Time Again!**

**By: Gary Bush, Senior Director of Law Enforcement Relations, BACKING the BADGE**

Although it's unbelievable, the holiday season is almost upon us. And we ALL know what happens during the holidays. From all of the staff at BACKING the BADGE and ENCOMPASS, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Watch your 6, wear your vest, and go HOME safely at the end of your shift.

## **BADGE & BALANCE: Helpful Hints**

**By: Dr. Alison Brown, President & CEO of BACKING the BADGE and ENCOMPASS, LLC**

With the holidays fast approaching think about spending time – not money. People who care about each other prefer time spent rather than money, and after the holidays, you won't have a huge credit card hangover!

## **Contacts**

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