



FBINAA Chapter Chat

Chapter Chat is a monthly communication bringing you all updates submitted by members and chapters!

Please submit each month what's happening among your fellow Chapter and Session mates such as Chapter News, Retrainers, Promotions, Retirements, Awards, and Passings.

February 2025 By Our FBINAA Members

California Chapter News



Jim Wickham, NA Session 214

Congratulations to retired Mill Valley Police Department Captain, **Jim Wickham, NA Session 214**, whose service as Council Member ended in December 2024. Mill Valley thanks you for your service.

Promotions



Congratulations to Chief **Jason Ta, NA Session 267**, who was promoted to Chief of Police for the Vallejo Police Department.

Jason Ta, NA Session 267

Congratulations to **Stacy Barr, NA Session 281**, who was recently promoted to Assistant Chief with the California Highway Patrol (CHP).



Stacy Barr, NA Session 281



Congratulations to **John Pinoli, NA Session 285**, who was promoted to Assistant Divisional Commander with the California Highway Patrol.

John Pinoli, NA Session 285

Congratulations to **John McKean, NA Session 284**, with the San Diego Police Department, who was promoted to Assistant Chief.



John McKean, NA Session 284

Retirements



Mike Sullivan, NA Session 280

Congratulations go out to **Mike Sullivan, NA Session 280**, who recently retired from the Sacramento District Attorney's Office as the Chief Investigator. Mike began his law enforcement career as a reserve officer with Broadmoor Police Department in San Mateo County in 1992. He lateraled to the Amador County Sheriff's Department where he was a Deputy Sheriff and Sergeant before landing at the DA's office in 2001, from there he rose through the ranks. Mike's retirement will be short as he accepted a position with Sutter Health. We wish him all the best.



Theresa Adams-Hydar, NA Session 271

Congratulations to Assistant Sheriff **Theresa Adams-Hydar, NA Session 271**, who recently retired from the San Diego Sheriff's Department.

Passings



John F. Silva, NA Session 112

Condolences go out to the family, friends and loved ones of **John F. Silva, NA Session 112**, who passed at the beginning of Jan 2025. John retired from Benicia Police Department as their Deputy Chief in 1987. He went on to become a council member and was on the board of Supervisors, finishing there in 1996. Thank you John for your service.

Florida Chapter News

Promotions



Swearing in ceremony for Rosanna Cordero-Stutz, NA Session 265 as Sheriff of Miami-Dade County

Florida Chapter President **Rosanna "Rosie" Cordero-Stutz, NA Session 265**, was sworn in as Sheriff in Miami-Dade County. Rosie has had an exemplary 28-year career in law enforcement and is the first Hispanic female elected Sheriff in Florida. Notably, this is the first elected Sheriff in Miami-Dade County since the 1960s. The Miami-Dade Police Department has been renamed to the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office.



Patrick Calvo, NA Session 278

Patrick Calvo, NA Session 278, of Miami Dade Sheriff's Office was promoted to the rank of Major. His promotion took place the week of January 7th. Major Calvo is also serving as the Co-chair of the Florida FBINAA 2025 conference.

Passings



Michael Zoovas, NA Session 127

Michael Zoovas, NA Session 127, passed away January 4th, 2025. He served as the Florida Chapter in 1994 and his training conference was in Fort Meyers from July 31st through August 4th, 1994. Michael served over 31 years in law enforcement, including more than a decade as Chief of Police for the Miami Shores Police Department. He was a dedicated member of the FBINAA Florida Chapter and his presence will be missed at our Florida events.

Illinois Chapter News



Incoming President John Madden, NA Session 265, and outgoing President Cheryllynn Williams, NA Session 241

The three boards of the 2025 Illinois State FBINAA—State, Northern, and Railsplitters—were officially sworn in. These incredible individuals volunteer their time and effort to ensure that all IL FBINAA members continue to benefit from the networking and fellowship they first experienced during their 10 weeks at Quantico. Their commitment to fostering connections and strengthening our community is truly inspiring. Thank you for your service and leadership! Thank you to outgoing President **Cheryllynn Williams, NA Session 241**, and congratulations to incoming President **John Madden, NA Session 265**.



IL State FBINAA Board



IL Northern FBINAA Board



IL Railsplitter FBINAA Board

Nebraska Chapter News

Passings



Thomas E. "Tommy" Shaffer, NA Session 136

The Nebraska Chapter extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of **Thomas E. "Tommy" Shaffer, NA Session 136**, who passed away on December 28th, 2024, at the age of 71. Tommy dedicated 28 years of service to the Omaha Police Department, retiring as a Sergeant. Throughout his distinguished career, he made significant contributions to the department, excelling in specialized roles such as Vice Crime, Homicide, Internal Affairs, and Road Patrol. His dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public safety left a lasting impact on his colleagues, family, and community he served. Beyond his professional achievements, Tommy was deeply devoted to his faith and family. He is remembered as a loving husband to his childhood sweetheart, Kriss, and a proud father to his two sons: Tom (Heath) Shaffer, Deputy Chief Omaha Police Department, NA Session 278, and Chad Shaffer, Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force. Tommy's Legacy of service, devotion, and integrity will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

New Jersey Chapter News



Ocean Casino Resort, host of the 2025 NJ Chapter Training Conference

Once again the New Jersey Chapter will be hosting our annual chapter training conference at the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City October 5-7. Look for the registration which will be out soon. Attendees will enjoy a star-studded speaking lineup, modern accommodations, networking events, as well as breakfasts and lunches both days. You're not going to want to miss it! Go to our website for more information www.fbinaanj.com or follow us #fbinaanj.

Promotions



Swearing in of Chief Ian Bucs, NA Session 284

Ian Bucs, was sworn in as Chief of the Willingboro Police Department on January 7, 2025. Chief Bucs was a graduate of **NA Session 284**. It's their first Chief after 30 years of having a Director of Public Safety.

Retirements



John B. Hayes, NA Session 275

Captain **John B. Hayes, NA Session 275**, retired on June 1st, 2024 from the New Jersey State Police, after a 29-year career in law enforcement. John retired as the Executive Officer of the Regional Operations & Intelligence Center Section and Commander of the Crisis Negotiation Team.

New York/Eastern Canada Chapter News

Retirements



Terri Tobin, NA Session 189



Michael Romagnoli, NA Session 249



James Spellman, NA Session 240

Congratulations to Chief **Terri Tobin, NA Session 189**, on her retirement after forty-one years of dedicated service to the New York Police Department and the people of NYC. Chief Tobin, who impacted every command she had worked, retired as the Chief of Interagency Operations, fitting for someone who gives so much of herself to help others.

Chief of Operations **Michael Romagnoli, NA Session 249**, of the Suffolk County Police Department retired on January 7, 2025, following a 37-year law enforcement career that began with the New York Police Department.

James Spellman, NA Session 240, retired on January 13, 2025, after 38 years of service. He began his career in 1985 with the New York State Organized Crime Task Force. In 1987, he was appointed to the City of Mount Vernon Police Department. Chief Spellman worked in various units including the Patrol Division, Emergency Service Unit, Narcotics Unit, and General Investigations Squad. In 1996, he transferred to the Investigations Division of the NYS Attorney General's Office and ascended through the ranks to Deputy Chief, Commanding Officer-Office of the Chief, in Manhattan. He is a proud member of both NA Session 240 and the NY/Eastern Canada Chapter of the NAA.

Lieutenant **John Arnold, NA Session 264**, of the Rye Brook Police Department retired from service following more than 32 years of law enforcement service. John served with the New York State Park Police, starting in 1992, before joining Rye Brook PD.

We wish all of the retirees a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Passings

Roger R. Rokicki, NA Session 144, age 76, of White Plains, NY, and Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Roger's life was filled with numerous accomplishments and milestones. He began his journey at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, where he played football and

forged lifelong friendships. After high school, he enlisted in the Merchant Marines, traveling the world before joining the Marine Corps at Paris Island. In 1984, Roger earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Pace University, always emphasizing the importance of education to his children. He dedicated 47 years to the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, starting as a Deputy Sheriff in 1969 and retiring as Chief Inspector in 2017. Throughout his distinguished career, Roger received specialized training with the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI Academy. His commanding presence, ability to spark conversations, and knack for storytelling made him a memorable and beloved figure. If you were fortunate enough to know him, you knew he was always willing to lend a helping hand. Roger is survived by his son, Daniel Rokicki (Jennifer) of Stamford, CT, his daughter, Jennifer Bailey (Jason) of Redding, CT, and his son, Matthew Rokicki (Allison) of Somers, NY. He is lovingly remembered by his cherished grandchildren: Abigail, Claire, Anna, Emma, Tessa, Jack, and Emilia—whom he adored. He also leaves behind his brothers Martin and Gerard, his sister Julia, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Oregon Chapter News



Monty Fox, Bill Garland, and Mike Copenhaver, NA Session 293

Oregon Chapter Members enjoying their time at NA Session 293, Tigard Lt. Monty Fox, West Linn Sergeant Bill Garland, Clackamas County Captain Mike Copenhaver.



Stan and Kyle Suenaga

Where Are They Now...

This month's feature is Retired FBI Special Agent **Stan Suenaga** and a graduate of **NA Session 223** in December 2005. Special Agent Suenaga started with the FBI in 1981 as a clerk. He was hired as a Special Agent in 1985 and retired from the Bureau in 2010. Special Agent Suenaga was first assigned in Lake Charles, Virginia after graduating from the FBI Basic Academy. In 1991, he was assigned to the Los Angeles Field Office. In 1997, Special Agent Suenaga was assigned to the Portland FBI Office until he retired in 2010. In his last three years assigned to the Portland Office, he was detached to Bend, Oregon. FBI Special Agent Suenaga worked mostly on the criminal side of the FBI. After he transferred to Portland he was assigned as a lead firearms instructor and the Portland Field Office's Training Coordinator connecting him to Oregon Graduates of the FBI National Academy. He was able to attend NA Session 223 serving as a counselor to National Academy Attendees.

After retiring from the FBI, Special Agent Suenaga was hired by the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department serving as Public Safety General Manager and later changed to Interim Police Chief. Special Agent Suenaga left law enforcement in 2018 and took a position in the private sector as a loan officer. Special Agent Suenaga wanted everyone to know that he was diagnosed with ALS in August 2019 and given 2 to 4 years to live. He stated he is doing well and can still operate a motor vehicle and has the use of his extremities, though he has lost strength. He said that he is in great spirits and enjoying being retired.

Special Agent Suenaga is living in Redmond, Oregon with his wife Kyle Suenaga. They both have grown children from previous marriages. Special Agent Suenaga's adult children live in the Portland Area and Kyle Suenaga's adult children live in the Bend/Redmond Area. The Suenaga's just recently returned from a relaxing trip to the Oregon Coast!

Promotions



Lyle Gilbert, NA Session 272



Cord Wood, NA Session 252



Craig Dobson, NA Session 275

We are happy to announce that **Lyle Gilbert, NA Session 272**, was promoted to Lieutenant with the Independence Police Department on January 1st, 2025! Congratulations, Lt. Gilbert!

Please join us in congratulating Oregon Chapter Member and **NA Session 252** graduate **Cord Wood** as he was sworn in on January 6th, 2025, as the Chief of Police for the McMinnville Police Department. Chief Wood leaves his position as Captain with the Oregon State Police.

Congratulations to **Craig Dobson, NA Session 275**, who was promoted to Assistant Chief at the Portland Police Bureau in January 2025. Prior to this promotion, Assistant Chief Dobson was a Commander within the Portland Police Bureau.

Rocky Mountain Chapter News



L-R: SSA Jon Wayne Cronan (Denver FBI Division NA Counselor), Lt. Donald Willam Robbins (Larimer County SO), CI James Michael Lusk (Colorado DOC), Undersheriff Steve Spodyak (Park County SO).

We would like to welcome the Rocky Mountain Chapter attendees to Session 293!

South Carolina Chapter News



Billy Gibson, NA Session 93

Billy Gibson, NA Session 93, has been awarded the “Order of the Palmetto” by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster. It is the highest award in S.C. and is presented to citizens who have demonstrated lifetime achievement service, and contributions of statewide and/or national significance. Billy’s long career included Deputy Sheriff, Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety and Director of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

In 1973 Billy was selected to attend and graduate with the FBI National Academy Session 93 and over the years was active in the S.C. Chapter serving as President in 1990. In 1994 he was selected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of Section III which includes the 13 Southern States, Puerto Rico, and all Latin American countries. Three other graduates were selected to serve in that position for their respective sections. In 1998 they were given the challenge of working themselves out of a job and successfully did so in moving all functions of our association into our national office at Quantico under the direction of Director Lester Davis. Their terms expired at the Charlotte NC annual conference in 2001 and they were rewarded with proclamations and lifetime membership for their service to our association.

At that conference, Billy was requested to develop and implement the office of Chaplain for our association and gladly accepted and served in the position for 13 years. During those years Billy was presented with the prestigious Lester A. Davis award by President Ken Ramsy for his commitment to the FBINAA goals and ideals. Billy stepped down in 2013 after serving 19 years on our National Board. Many of you will remember Billy for his “A Message from our Chaplain” articles published in our magazine and for his Memorial Services at our annual conferences.

Billy and his wife, Phyllis continue to reside in Columbia, South Carolina where he continues to be an active member of our FBINAA South Carolina Chapter and serves as an active Ordained deacon and Bible teacher for his local church. Billy can be reached at wcgibson@sc.rr.com.

Tennessee Chapter News

Promotions

Tommy Greer, NA Session 243, was appointed to Chief Deputy with the Sumner County Sheriffs Office. Congratulations to Tommy Greer who was appointed Chief Deputy by Sheriff Eric Craddock. Chief Greer has spent his entire career with Sumner County starting as a corrections officer and has worked his way through each rank to Chief Deputy. Chief Greer attended the 243 Session of the NA in 2010.



Martin Kula, NA Session 271

Deputy Chief **Martin Kula, NA Session 271**, was promoted to Deputy Chief with the Memphis Police Department. Martin Kula joined the Memphis Police Department (MPD) in 1989 and has cultivated an outstanding 35-year career marked by leadership and dedication. Chief Kula's deep commitment to professional development and operational excellence has been a cornerstone of his career. His extensive experience spans critical areas of law enforcement, from training and mentoring officers to managing complex investigations and overseeing executive functions.

*Vikki Shabazz, NA Session 286*

Congratulations to **Vikki Shabazz, NA Session 286**, on her promotion to the rank of Colonel! Vikki is currently serving as the Second Vice President of the FBINAA Tennessee Chapter and is also an Instructor in the FBINAA Youth Leadership Program. Vikki has been with the Memphis Police Department since July 28, 2003.

*Karen Rudolph, NA Session 280*

Karen Rudolph, NA Session 280, was promoted to Colonel with the Memphis Police Department. Karen Rudolph joined the Memphis Police Department (MPD) on December 4, 1995 as a Police Service Technician before

transitioning to a sworn officer on December 10, 1998. Karen's professional accomplishments include spearheading MPD's first CALEA accreditation in 2006.

Passings

Michael Wayne, Avent FBI Special Agent and NA Coordinator for the Memphis, Tennessee Western District Office Retired Agent Avent had a 28-year career as a special agent in the FBI passed away on October 24, 2024 . During his law enforcement career, he also served as a criminal investigator, Firearms and Defensive Tactics instructor and a member of SWAT, as well as a SWAT Team Commander. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Cheryl Avent.

Assistant Chief **Jeff Abeln**, Collierville Police Department, **NA Session 197**, has passed away in October. Chief Abeln served over 37 years of honorable service to the Town of Collierville. Chief Abeln joined the Collierville Police Department in 1987 after three years of service as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army. His career was marked by a steady ascent through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as Assistant Chief of Administration in 2008. He was a graduate of the 197th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA and in 2013 he was invited back to the FBI Academy to attend the 73rd session of their Law Enforcement Executive Development School. He was an active member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police where he served on the Board of Directors, Professional Standards Committee, Ethics and Standards Committee, Legislative Committee and the Accreditation Review Committee. He was also an active member in the Memphis Metropolitan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Master Patrol Officer/Investigator **Charlie Harris**, **NA Session 212**, has passed away after his courageous battle with cancer. Officer Harris dedicated 27 years to the Gallatin Police Department, serving in many roles, including Bike Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, and most notably, spending much of his career with the FBI Violent Crime Task Force. His commitment to protecting and serving extended far beyond our city. Before his time with the GPD, Charlie proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps as part of the Marine Helicopter Presidential Squadron. As a crew chief aboard Marine One, he had the honor of flying presidents and dignitaries across the world.

Virginia Chapter News



FBI NAA VA Chapter Board members (Greg Geist, Tommy West, Rob Ruxer and Billy Anspach) with SAC Stanley Meador (Richmond) and Assistant Director B. Chad Yarroworth (Criminal Investigative Division)



The swearing in of Greg Geist, Tommy West and Rob Ruxer.



The FBINAA VA Chapter Board members - Lisa Clark, Greg Geist, Rob Ruxer, Tommy West and Billy Anspach.



The December FBI NAA VA Chapter board meeting with Sal Mule, Tommy West, Rob Ruxer and Billy Anspach.

The FBI National Academy Associates Virginia Chapter recently held its final meeting for 2024, marking a significant transition in its leadership team. During the meeting, newly elected board members were officially sworn in to serve for the upcoming year.

The Virginia Chapter is proud to announce its 2025 board:

- Greg Geist, South Hill Police Department, as President
- Thomas "Tommy" West, York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, as First Vice-President
- Rob Ruxer, Colonial Heights Police Department, as Treasurer
- Lisa Clark, Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, as Secretary
- William "Billy" Anspach, Colonial Heights Police Department, continuing as Sergeant-at-Arms

The Chapter also extends its deepest gratitude to Salvatore "Sal" Mule', Henrico Police Department, who now assumes the role of Past President. His outstanding leadership and dedication throughout 2024 have been instrumental in the Chapter's success. The FBINAA Virginia Chapter looks forward to the contributions of its new board as they continue fostering collaboration and professional development among law enforcement leaders across the Commonwealth.

Want to share updates from your Chapter?
Submit chapter news on the [Chapter Chat Submission Form](#) by the 25th of every month to be in the next edition.
Please attach to the email high-resolution digital .png, .jpg or .tif photos to:
ChapterChat@fbinaa.org.

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