



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.

July 2026 By Our FBINAA Members

Arizona Chapter News



ALEAD Academy, led by Chief Amy Bonney, NA Session 257; Michael Beaton, NA Session 266; Gareth Braxton-Johnson, NA Session 254; Joel Freed, NA Session 281; Brad Mihalik, NA Session 265; and Christine De Santi, NA Session 240, along with FBI Analysts Megan Mikes and Ari Cohen.

Every summer marks one of the greatest programs that the Arizona Chapter hosts. Every year, the Arizona Chapter hosts over 35 students from Arizona for our annual Arizona Leadership Education and Development Academy

(ALEAD) Program. This program challenges our young leaders to self-reflect, hone in on leadership skills, participate in civic engagement, physical fitness, and, in true national academy fashion... network with others. The best part for the students is that this program is completely funded by the Arizona chapter through fundraising at our annual golf tournament led by immediate past president **Jeff Grow, NA Session 244**.

This year, the program was led by **Amy Bonney, NA Session 257**, **Michael Beaton, NA Session 266**, **Gareth Braxton-Johnson, NA Session 254**, **Joel Freed, NA Session 281**, **Brad Mihalik, NA Session 265**, and **Christine De Santi, NA Session 240**, as well as FBI Analyst Megan Mikes and Ari Cohen.

Promotions



Jim Gallagher, NA Session 245

This month, the Arizona chapter feels extra special as one of our own members, **Jim Gallagher, NA Session 245**, will be ascending as the National Association President at the National Conference in Niagara Falls. Jim is a dedicated leader and has served proudly. We cannot wait to see Jim lead the organization's legacy and continue his dedicated service, which truly reflects the very best of the Arizona Chapter.

Earlier this summer, Jim and his wife, Kim, attended the Asia Pacific Chapter Retainer as part of his commitment to the inclusion of all chapters within our organization.



Jim Gallagher, NA Session 245, and his wife Kim at the 26th Asia Pacific Chapter Retraining

Member **Amy Bonney, NA Session 257**, has officially submitted her plans to run for Section I, and we will continue to surround her with support and engagement as she spearheads her campaign at the National Conference in Niagara Falls.

California Chapter News



L-R: Robert Smith, NA Session 234; Wayne Ikeuchi, NA Session 182; Guy Johnson, NA Session 208; and Rick Martin, NA Session 229.

California Past President meets up with fellow California members at the Asia Pacific Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand.



L-R: Ken Tanaka, NA Session 228, Mike Sellers, NA Session 237, Mike Kihmm, NA Session 262, Denise Sellers, NA Session 199, Scott Savage, NA Session 237, and Ruben Chavez, NA Session 232.

At the beginning of June, the Bay Area Chapter of the International Police Association got together for a BBQ. The entire Board consists of California Chapter members.

Promotions



Dave Gutierrez, NA Session 296

Congratulations to **Dave Gutierrez, NA Session 296**, who was recently appointed as the Chief of Police for the City of Menifee.

Chief Gutierrez has served with the Menifee Police Department since 2019 and was one of the department's first hires to help start its establishment. Before he was appointed Chief, he held the rank of Captain, where he served both the Investigations Division and the Operations Division. With over 24 years of law enforcement experience, Chief Gutierrez has demonstrated a distinguished record of service.

Since its launch in 2020, the Menifee Police Department has grown to over 120 officers and support personnel. Congratulations, Chief Gutierrez!

Retirements



Congratulations to Chief **Trevor W. Womack, NA Session 219**, who recently retired from the Salem Police Department in Oregon. Chief Womack previously retired from the Stockton, CA police department as a Deputy Chief. It was while at Stockton PD that he attended the FBI National Academy in 2004. He is the son of Stockton PD Captain (Ret.) **Ralph Womack, NA Session 143**.

Passings



Patrick Carroll Sr., NA Session 162

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of **Patrick James Carroll Sr., NA Session 162**, who passed away on May 25, 2026, at the age of 79.

Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, he moved to California as a teen. He was in the Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War as a gunner and an MP. After release from the military, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service before his career as a Peace Officer. Patrick dedicated 35 years to law enforcement at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley PD), retiring in 2003 as the Assistant Chief of Police. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College, as well as a graduate of the FBI Academy, NA 162. Patrick was a longtime volunteer of the City of Pleasanton; he was a devout Catholic, often serving in the Church, and was an active videographer in youth sports.

Connecticut Chapter News



Chief Heavey being sworn in as CPCA President by US Attorney for the District of CT, David X. Sullivan. Photo courtesy of Greenwich PD.

Congratulations to Greenwich Police Chief **James Heavey, NA Session 264**, on being named President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA). The Connecticut Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates (CT FBINAA) is also proud to recognize the following members who serve on the CPCA Board:

- 1st Vice President: **William Baldwin, NA Session 257**
- Vice Presidents: **Patrick Daley, NA Session 251**, and **C. Colin McAllister, NA Session 288**
- Immediate Past President: **Louis J. Fusaro, Jr., NA Session 236**
- Board Members: **Donald Anderson, NA Session 245**; **Christopher Ferace, NA Session 269**; **Brian Gould, NA Session 274**; **Robert Kalamaras, NA Session 276**; **Jeff Kreitz, NA Session 287**; **David Kullgren, NA Session 285**; **Daniel Loughman, NA Session 287**; **Christopher Massey, NA Session 290**; **Scott Sansom, NA Session 267**; **James Walsh, NA Session 281**; **Brian Wright, NA Session 262**; and **Thomas Wydra, NA Session 233**.

Congratulations to all!

Passings

The Connecticut Chapter is sad to report the passing of the following members:

Louis Marino, NA Session 107, who previously served with the New Britain Police Department.

Chief **George Marinelli, NA Session 172**, who previously served the Rocky Hill Police Department.

Major **William Smith, NA Session 196**, who previously served the Brookfield Police Department.

The Connecticut Chapter sends its condolences to the families and friends of those affected.

Eastern Missouri Chapter News

Promotions



Juan Cox, NA Session 283

The Board of Police Commissioners for the St. Louis County Police Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Colonel **Juan Cox, NA Session 283**, as the eleventh Chief of the Saint Louis County Police Department. Congratulations, Chief Juan Cox!

Eastern Pennsylvania News



Matt Kuhnert, NA Session 293, at Police Unity Tour

Matt Kuhnert, NA Session 293, represented Lower Providence Township Police in the 2026 Police Unity Tour. The Police Unity Tour's mission is to raise awareness of officers killed in the line of duty and support the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum. He joined several session mates in the several-hundred-mile ride that ended at Police Week events in Washington DC. To everyone's surprise, he did make it. Good job, Matt!

Promotions



Patrick Molloy, NA Session 250

Please join us in congratulating our own Chief **Patrick Molloy, NA Session 250**, on his installation as the 113th President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This esteemed appointment reflects Chief Molloy's unwavering dedication, integrity, and exceptional leadership within the law enforcement profession. A well-deserved honor for an outstanding leader. Congrats!

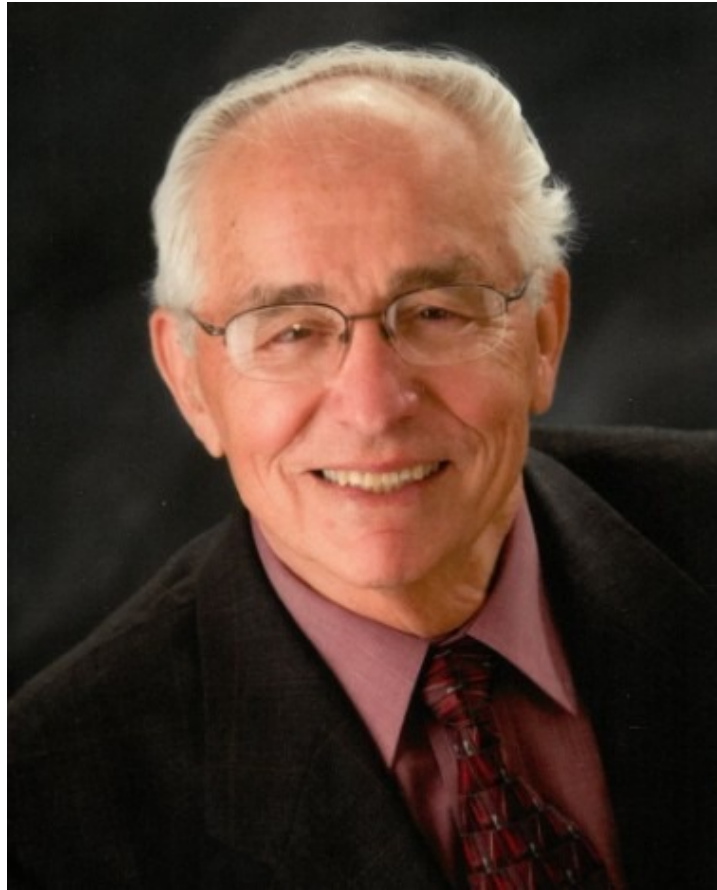
Retirements



Tom Medwid, NA Session 220

Congratulations to **Tom Medwid, NA Session 220**, from Lower Salford Township Police Department, who retired after 27 years as Chief of Police. Tom's career began in Springfield Township, where he served as a Patrol Officer from 1981 to 1985. From 1985 to 1999, he served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, and Patrol Sergeant for Whitpain Township until he was hired as the Chief of Lower Salford Township in 1999. Congratulations and best of luck in retirement.

Passings



Donald Boyer, Sr., NA Session 105

Donald Boyer, Sr., NA Session 105, passed away on May 2, 2026. He was the retired Chief of Foster Township PD. Don was 95 years old and moved to South Carolina a few years ago with his wife, Sally. Don raised 2 sons; both became doctors, one a pediatric surgeon at CHOP, and the other a Sports Medicine Doctor in SC. Don was a proud graduate of Session 105 and a devoted law enforcement professional.

Florida Chapter News

Axon sponsored an executive session that brought together senior law enforcement leaders at the Miami Police Department Headquarters on May 11, 2026. The gathering featured a candid discussion led by Axon founder and CEO Rick Smith regarding the current and future state of artificial intelligence and technology in public safety.



Navy Seal Museum Event

The FBINAA Florida Chapter hosted a special presentation and private tour at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, on June 1, 2026. The event featured U.S. Department of State officials James Feltman and Ronald Stuart, bringing together FBINAA, military, and SFSAFBI members for the presentation, lunch, and a museum tour.

Promotions



Loren Lowers, NA Session 280

Loren Lowers, NA Session 280, was appointed as Director of Security for the Florida Department of the Lottery in June 2026.

Loren has served with the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant, and the Florida Lottery, where he most recently held the position of Deputy Director of Security.



Ronald Roberts, NA Session 279

Ronald Roberts, NA Session 279, was appointed as Undersheriff for the Osceola County Sheriff's Office on May 3, 2026.



Michael DeMorat, NA Session 277

Michael DeMorat, NA Session 277, was appointed as a Board of Trustees Member for Eastern Florida State College by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 4, 2026. He continues to serve as the Chief Deputy for the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.



Richard Whipple, NA Session 232

Richard Whipple, NA Session 232, was appointed as Reserve Deputy Sheriff for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office on June 10, 2026.

Following a distinguished 30-year military career that culminated as Supervisory Law Enforcement Director at Naval Station Everett, Rich transitioned into senior federal civilian roles overseeing vital antiterrorism and security programs. He currently leverages this extensive national security experience as the Command Security Manager for the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division while fulfilling his dream of serving his local community.

Retirements



Todd Hutchinson, NA Session 240

Deputy Chief **Todd Hutchinson, NA Session 240**, has retired after 32 years with the City of Titusville Police Department. Todd joined Titusville in 1994 and served as the department's first full-time PIO before rising through the ranks to become the Deputy Chief in 2017.



Steven Harriett, NA Session 158

Steven Harriett, NA Session 158, retired from the Florida Lottery Division of Security.

A graduate of Session 158, Steven spent seven years leading the Division's security and law enforcement Special Agents. He began his distinguished law enforcement career with the Sanford Police Department, rising to Chief of Police, and later served 24 years as Undersheriff for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

We thank Steven for his decades of dedicated public service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

Hawaii Chapter News

Promotions



Thomas Shopay III, NA Session 272

Thomas Shopay III, NA Session 272, a 26-year veteran of the Hawai'i Police Department, was promoted from major to assistant chief and now commands the department's Administrative Services Bureau, which oversees the Special Response Team, Administrative Services Division, and Technical Services Division. Shopay most recently served as major of Area II (Kona) Operations and previously led the Technical Services Division.

His previous assignments include serving as captain of the Area II Criminal Investigation Division, lieutenant of the Area II Criminal Investigation Section (CIS), lieutenant of Kona Patrol, lieutenant and sergeant of the Special Response Team, Area II Vice Section, and Kona Patrol.

In September 2014, Shopay graduated from the FBI National Academy Session 272, a prestigious 10-week program of professional study and physical training for US and international law enforcement leaders. In August 2012, he received the department's Silver Medal of Valor for risking his safety while securing explosive ordnance discovered near an electrical plant.

Shopay has also served as the FBI National Academy Associates Hawaii Chapter's President, 2025-2026, and hosted the April 2026 Retrainer at the beautiful Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa on the Big Island.



Jeremy Scott Lewis, NA Session 289

Jeremy Scott Lewis, NA Session 289, a 24-year-veteran of the Hawai'i Police Department, was promoted from lieutenant to captain and now oversees the Area I Criminal Investigation Division, which includes the Area I Criminal Investigation Section and Juvenile Aid Section, plus the Crime Laboratory.

Lewis most recently served as lieutenant of Kona Patrol with prior assignments as sergeant/detective in the Area II Vice, Criminal Investigation Section, and Kona Patrol, and police officer III in Area II Vice. He was also attached to the Special Response Team (SRT) from 2011 until 2023.

In March 2024, Captain Lewis graduated from the FBI National Academy Session 289. He was twice recognized as Officer of the Month by the Kona Crime Prevention Committee in January 2010 and April 2011, as well as Officer of the Year in 2011.

"These promotions reflect not only professional excellence, but a genuine commitment to our community and the values of kuleana and mālama that guide how we serve," said Police Chief Mahuna. "I am proud of each of these leaders for the integrity, humility, and aloha they bring to their work every day."



Bobbi-Jo Sagon, NA Session 286

Bobbi-Jo Sagon, NA Session 286, was promoted to the rank of Captain effective June 1, 2026. Captain Sagon has served the Hawai'i Police Department for more than 20 years. Her extensive career brings a full circle to her new role, having originally started her service as a frontline patrol officer in South Kohala.

Over the past two decades, her leadership path has spanned multiple critical divisions. She worked inside the specialized Criminal Intelligence Unit before being promoted to Detective in 2016, where she managed felony files for both the Area I Criminal Investigation Section (CIS) and the Juvenile Aid Section.

In 2021, Sagon was promoted to Lieutenant, commanding teams within Kona Patrol and later the Area II Juvenile Aid Section. Most recently, she managed internal operations as the Lieutenant of the Records and Identification Section.

In 2023, Captain Sagon graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy Session 286 in Quantico, Virginia—a rigorous, internationally renowned 10-week professional study and physical training program designed for top-tier law enforcement executives. Her promotion marks another historic milestone for women in leadership within the department, closely following the groundbreaking appointment of Deputy Chief Sherry Bird as the department's first female deputy chief.

Nebraska Chapter News

Retirements



Lt. Jerry Prazan, NA Session 276, and Chief Chris Witted, NA Session 260

The Nebraska Chapter would like to send best wishes to Lt. **Jerry Prazan, NA Session 276**, on his retirement from the Papillion Police Department. Jerry retired after 37 years of public service. Jerry is a graduate of the 276th Session of the FBINA in 2019 and was twice recognized during his career as the Crimestoppers Officer of the Year. Lt. Prazan was instrumental in the beginning of the Drone Unit with the Police Department and, during his career, played many different roles, including: FTO, Patrol Officer, Sgt, SWAT, Firearms Instructor, Armorer, Rapid Deployment Force, and K9 Supervisor. Jerry will be missed but promises to maintain his NAA membership and stay involved with the Nebraska Chapter. Good luck, Jerry, and thank you.

Oregon Chapter News



2026 Annual Pig Out Picnic, August 6, 2026, at Memorial Park.

2026 Fall Conference will be held again at the Running Y Ranch in Klamath Falls, Oregon, September 8-11, 2026. One feature presentation is the 2022 Case Study of the University of Idaho Murders presented by the Idaho State Police!

Please visit the [Oregon Chapter website](#) for up-to-date information on our chapter!



FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY ASSOCIATES

OREGON CHAPTER FALL CONFERENCE

**OPEN TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT,
FIRE AND MILITARY**

Sept 8 - 11, 2026

 Running Y Ranch
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Registration:
<https://bit.ly/2026FallTraining>



LT. DARREN GILBERTSON
IDAHO STATE POLICE
*KOHBERGER Quadruple
Homicide Case Presentation -
Moscow, Idaho*



Jim DeSully, Oregon DPSST
Ethical Leadership



Gail Pennybacker, FBI Academy
Critical Communication



Ken White, FBI Academy
Critical Communication



Sponsored by:





Mark Miranda, NA Session 198

Where are they now... This month's feature is on retired Newport Police Chief **Mark Miranda, NA Session 198**. Chief Miranda was born and raised in the San Francisco Area. He will deny that to native Oregonians. He graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1968. After high school, Chief went to work at a department store. He also started taking law enforcement classes at junior colleges in California. He became a Cadet and then a Reserve Officer starting in 1970 with the Palo Alto Police Department. Chief Miranda eventually earned a bachelor's degree at Eastern Oregon University (Go Mountaineers!) after he started his full-time law enforcement career.

Chief Miranda was hired as a full-time police officer in 1975 at the Tucson, Arizona Police Department. His assignments included patrol officer, field training officer, and traffic officer on the DUII team. He was on the detective's promotion list when he left the Department. He relocated to Florence, Oregon in 1981 and became a resident deputy in Lane County, Oregon. Due to budget cuts, He was laid off after 4 months and was hired by the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, where he was a residential deputy for 3 years. Besides being a patrol deputy, he was also a K9 handler and coordinated crime prevention activities. In 1984, the City of Keizer, Oregon, elected to start its own police department; Chief Miranda was one of the first officers hired for the newly created Keizer Police Department. He rose from the rank of Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, to Captain. One of Chief Miranda's favorite assignments was being a school resource officer for 4 years. For about 10 years, he was a counselor for the Kiwanis Law Enforcement Career Camp. He also served as the emergency manager for the City of Keizer, where he developed the emergency procedures manual. In 2003, Chief Miranda was hired by the Newport, Oregon Police Department as their chief of police. He retired as the Newport Police Chief on October 20, 2016. He said that the Newport Police Department was going in several different directions with the supervisors, and he was able to bring them together in order to carry out the mission of the department. He was able to revamp the policy manual that was outdated, and he achieved Accreditation from the Oregon Accreditation Alliance (Now called the Northwest Accreditation Alliance) in 2013.

Chief Miranda attended the 198th session of the National Academy graduation in 1999 as a lieutenant with the Keizer Police Department. He has been an active member of the Oregon Chapter since graduating. He still attends almost every fall conference training seminar and our annual August Picnic (Pig Out Social).

In addition to being an active retired member of the Oregon Chapter, he is still an active member of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) and currently serves on three committees: the Awards Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and the Retired Members Committee. He also attends most of the OACP's annual conference. Chief Miranda is one of the voting retired members on the Northwest Accreditation Alliance Board.

Chief Miranda has been married to his wife, Sheri, for 49 years, and they still live in Newport, Oregon. They have one son who followed in his father's footsteps as a King County Deputy for 15 years. His son then took a position in the private sector with a corporate executive security company. They have two grandchildren who are in their late teens. Chief Miranda and Sheri love to travel and have been all over the world. They don't have a favorite location as they enjoy exploring and visiting different cultures. Chief Miranda did state that they went to South Africa on a photography safari, which he really enjoyed, as one of his hobbies in retirement is amateur photography! Chief Miranda spends most of his time doing projects around the house and volunteering with the Rotary Club, sitting on the Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital Foundation Board, and the Newport Library Foundation Board. His stint as President of the Newport Chamber of Commerce ends July 1st.

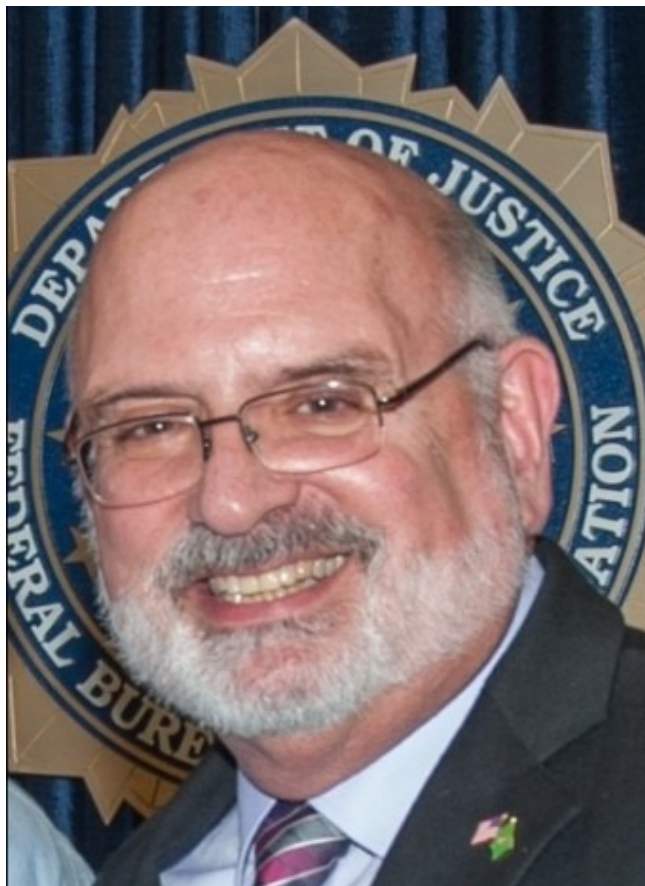
It was hard to keep up with Chief Miranda just writing this article, as he is very busy in retirement! The Oregon Chapter is very happy that he and Sheri are doing well in retirement.



Oregon Chapter Session 298 graduates with Yellow Brick Road Bricks

Session 298 Oregon Chapter graduates, Coos Bay Police Chief Chris Chapanar, Oregon State Police Captain Evan Sether, and Oregon State University Police Captain Michael Harmon proudly holding their bricks after completing the Yellow Brick Road!

Texas Chapter News



Steve Volkman, NA Session 164

One of the greatest strengths of the National Academy graduate community is the ability to maintain connections across generations of graduates and create opportunities to support the National Academy mission. With that spirit in mind, the Texas Chapter would like to introduce **Steve Volkman, NA Session 164**, a distinguished active member whose career and continued service exemplify those values.

A graduate of the 164th Session of the FBI National Academy, Steve attended as a U.S. Army Military Police Officer and remained active in National Academy chapters throughout his military career, particularly in Hawaii, where he lived for ten years. Following a distinguished 32-year career in the U.S. Army, he joined the FBI as the Administrative Officer for the Honolulu Field Office before transferring to the Houston Field Office in 2011. He retired from the FBI in August 2022 after a combined 46 years of military and federal public service. His background provides a wealth of military, federal, and civilian public safety knowledge that can benefit members across all stages of their careers.

Although retired from government service, Steve remains deeply engaged in leadership, mentorship, and community involvement. He currently serves as Chairman of the Houston Chapter of the Society of FBI Alumni and was elected National President-Elect in 2025, with his term as National President beginning in 2027. Drawing upon his extensive professional network, distinguished military and FBI careers, and unwavering commitment to service, Steve serves as a valuable bridge between active and retired professionals, fostering mentorship, preserving institutional knowledge, and strengthening the lifelong relationships that make the National Academy community unique. His continued contributions reflect the enduring values of the National Academy and strengthen the relationships, traditions, and professional excellence that benefit members, their organizations, and the communities they serve.



Lino Garcia, NA Session 298

The Santa Fe (TX) Police Department proudly announces the graduation of Captain **Lino Garcia** from the 298th Session of the FBI National Academy, with graduation ceremonies conducted on June 18, 2026. Captain Garcia joins an elite group of law enforcement leaders from across the nation and around the world who have completed one of the most prestigious and demanding professional development programs in policing. A 14-year veteran of the Santa Fe Police Department, Captain Garcia currently serves as the Commander of the Criminal Investigations and Special Operations Division, where he oversees critical investigative functions and specialized law enforcement operations that directly contribute to the safety and security of the Santa Fe community.

Captain Garcia's achievement represents a significant milestone for both his career and the department. He joins Chief of Police Robert Shores, a graduate of the 292nd Session of the FBI National Academy, as only the second member of the Santa Fe Police Department's command staff to complete the program. Captain Garcia's graduation reflects his dedication to excellence, lifelong learning, and progressive leadership while further strengthening the Santa Fe Police Department's commitment to professional development, innovation, and service to the community.

Washington Chapter News



Session 299 candidates

L to R: Kamal Sharif, Dan Ozment, McAvoy Shipp, Erik Olson

The Chapter hosted a candidate luncheon on June 4, 2026, at SeaTac to welcome Session 299 attendees Kamal Sharif (Port Townsend PD), Dan Ozment (Chelan County SO), McAvoy Shipp (Vancouver PD), and Erik Olson (Department of Fish & Wildlife).

Also in attendance were Session 297 graduates Adam Vermeulen (Marysville PD), Stan Seo (King County SO), and Andy Brandon (Port Orchard PD), guests, and Executive Board and Committee members.



Candidate luncheon attendees

(L to R): Lisa Drake (Chapter Vice President), SA Armando Ramirez, Adam Vermeulen (Marysville PD), Stan Seo (King County SO), Kamal Sharif (Port Townsend PD), Dan Ozment (Chelan County SO), McAvoy Shipp (Vancouver PD), Erik Olson (Department of Fish & Wildlife), Andy Brandon (Port Orchard PD), Tom Olson (Port Townsend PD, NA Session 194), Mike Whitney (Vancouver PD, NA Session 252), and Cindy Reed (Washington State Gambling Commission Ret., NA Session 134).

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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FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia 22135