



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.

August 2025 By Our FBINAA Members

California Chapter News

Retirements



Chief Alex Yao, NA Session 246

Chief **Alex Yao, NA Session 246**, retired from the University of California Police Department at the end of June, concluding a distinguished career spanning over 33 years in public service.

For the past five years, he served as Chief of Police at UC Santa Barbara. Chief Yao's journey began as a Cal Watch Volunteer and a Community Service Officer while he was an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. He rose through the ranks to become the second-in-command at the UC Berkeley Police Department before taking on his role as Chief of Police at UC Santa Barbara. Throughout his career, Chief Yao was recognized for his outstanding service, philanthropic initiatives, and unwavering dedication to community engagement. He worked hand-in-hand with

students, faculty, staff, and local stakeholders, building strong partnerships and fostering trust between the department and the broader community.

Chief Yao's legacy of service, leadership, and community partnership will leave a lasting impact on the University of California Police Department and the communities he served. We extend our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes as he embarks on his well-earned retirement.

Connecticut Chapter News



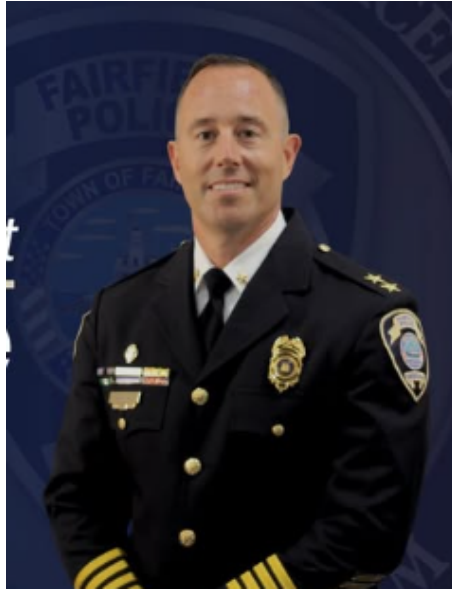
On July 11, 2025, members of the Connecticut Chapter enjoyed a sunset cruise on The Schooner Argia, exploring the Mystic, CT coastline. The skies at times looked ominous, but the weather held out for a great time for all aboard.

Promotions

Retired Chief **Jason Thody** of the City of Hartford, **NA Session 282**, was appointed as the Chief of Police in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Chief Thody retired from the Hartford Police Department in 2024 after serving the city for nearly 30 years.

Fairfield Police Chief **Robert Kalarmas**, **NA Session 276**, was appointed as the Chief of Police for the Town of Redding, CT. Chief Kalarmas has served Fairfield for 25 years and is an Executive Board Member of the CT FBINAA.

The Connecticut Chapter sends warm congratulations and best wishes to both Chiefs as they begin their exciting journeys!



Robert Kalarmas, NA Session 276

Retirements

Town of Easton, Police Chief **Richard Doyle, NA Session 209**, retired after serving the town for 37 years. The Connecticut Chapter sends best wishes to Chief Doyle on his retirement.

Passings

The Connecticut Chapter is sad to announce the passing of the following chapter members.

Eugene Ready, NA Session 101: He retired after serving 21 years with the New Canaan Police Department.

John Forlivio Sr., NA Session 210: He retired after dedicating 37 years to the New Canaan Police.

Peter "Pete" McDermott, NA Session 121: He retired after 37 years with the West Hartford and Windsor Police Departments and then spent many years instructing police recruits at the Connecticut Police Academy.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of these valued individuals during this difficult time.

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter News



Annual Retrainer in Gettysburg, PA

From June 1-3, the Eastern PA Chapter held its annual retrainer in Gettysburg, PA. The event was well attended, and all had a good time. Thank you to everyone who came out, and we hope to see you next year. On July 20, 2025, **Matt Kuhnert, NA Session 293**, rode in the 38th annual The Ben to the Shore Bike Tour with the Wheels of Justice team. The 65-mile ride raised \$1,321,506 for the families of fallen first responders. Great job, Matt!



Matt Kuhnert (l) and another rider at the Ben to the Shore bike ride

On September 17, 2025, the chapter will host a welcome back luncheon and training where we will honor our most recent graduates from Sessions 294 and 295. This event is being held at FOP Lodge 5, 11630 Caroline Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154. Please check your calendars and come up to support the chapter and our graduates.

Promotions



Promotion of Jeff Heim (l) with Max Klinger (r)

Jeff Heim, NA Session 278, was promoted to chief of police for Willistown Township in July. He took the reins from Max Klinger, who retired in June. Jeff has been with the department since 1999. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from West Chester University, and he was a long-time member of the West Chester Emergency Response Team (SWAT). Congrats Jeff!

Retirements



Robert "Max" Klinger, NA Session 230

On June 30, 2025, Chief **Robert "Max" Klinger, NA Session 230**, retired after 36 years of service to Willistown Township. Max joined the department in 1989 and became chief of police in 2020. He has a master's degree in public administration, and he's also the treasurer for the Radnor Fire Company. Congratulations and good luck in retirement!

Florida Chapter News

*Bill Bratten**George Piro**President's Reception*

The Florida conference was a resounding success, drawing a total of 205 delegates. Attendees included 156 active law enforcement officers and 49 retired officers, along with 78 spouses and guests. Our youth program saw 19 participants. The conference featured impactful training sessions, including insights from Bill Bratten, who shared his extensive experience, and Retired Miami SAC George Piro, who recounted his time interviewing Saddam Hussein. Social activities offered a variety of engaging options, such as the President's Reception, a golf tournament, a pistol shoot competition, a whiskey tasting, and a banquet event. Spouses and guests enjoyed leisure time with shopping excursions and a yacht lunch cruise on the Gulf.



Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Game

NE Florida Area Representatives Paul Restivo and Bill Werle hosted an engaging event on Tuesday, July 8, at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp baseball game. The Jumbo Shrimp welcomed the Florida FBI National Academy Associates (NAA), with Motorola proudly sponsoring the evening. Motorola's ongoing support of the Florida Chapter of the NAA remains invaluable.



President's Award

Former Florida Chapter President **Patty Wells, NA Session 221**, received the Florida Chapter President's Award for her distinguished service. Patty's involvement with the Florida National Academy Associates (FL NAA) began even before her 2005 attendance. She has served in key roles, including Area Representative and various Executive Board positions, culminating in her presidency in 2022. Patty has been instrumental in the success of the chapter's conferences and consistently brings positive energy to the organization.



Doug Muldoon Award

Mike Hardee, NA Session 243, was honored with the Doug Muldoon Award for his extensive and dedicated service to the FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA). He significantly contributed at both the chapter and national levels, including establishing the National Academy's first Spiritual Leadership Network and assisting with programs for Ukrainian children. His unwavering commitment to the FBINAA community was the basis for this recognition.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has announced the appointments of several Florida FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA) Chapter members to the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC):

Sheriff **Wayne Ivey, NA Session 237** (reappointed)

Chief **Robert Bage, NA Session 248** (reappointed)

Chief **Todd Garrison, Tampa Area Rep, NA Session 252** (newly appointed)



Florida Association of Police Explorers Awards Ceremony

On Saturday, June 21, 2025, Third Vice President Craig Capri and Past President Patty Wells attended the annual Florida Association of Police Explorers awards ceremony in Tampa. The Florida Chapter continued its tradition of support by donating **\$5,000** to the association.

Retirements



Melanie Bevan, NA Session 219

Chief **Melanie Bevan, NA Session 219**, officially retired on July 21, 2025, after nearly a decade of dedicated service to the City of Bradenton. Chief Bevan has led the Bradenton Police Department since February 2016. Prior to this, she served the St. Petersburg Police Department for 30 years, retiring at the rank of Assistant Chief. Throughout her tenure, she demonstrated integrity, vision, and a commitment to strengthening the department and fostering connections within the community we serve

Hawaii Chapter News

Passings



Orby Groves, NA Session 77

Orby Ralph Groves, NA Session 77, passed away on May 22, 2025, at the age of 95. Orby was born at Tripler Hospital on the island of Oahu in 1929. He served in the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star. He married the love of his life, Ruthie, in 1952.

Orby joined the Honolulu Police Department in 1952 and retired from service in 1983 at the rank of Assistant Chief of Police. His past assignments include the Investigative Operations Bureau, Traffic Division, Planning and Training Division, District III, and the Office of Internal Affairs.

On May 25, 1966, Orby graduated from the 77th session of the FBI National Academy. He was the fourth police officer from the Honolulu Police Department to attend the FBI NA. Orby was a dedicated member of the Hawaii Chapter, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer in 1984/1985 and the Chapter Historian for many years.

Chester Hughes, NA Session 114, shared the following. "Being one of the founders of the Hawaii Chapter, Orby and his wife, Ruth, knew everyone. Our annual re-training trips to the neighbor islands were something to look forward to because each island went all out in making the events meaningful, and the spouses had a program that they all enjoyed and looked forward to, also. The comradeship of the four counties police departments was very 'tight' and the exchange of police matters flowed without hesitation; it was a great time being in the police department and an NA graduate. Each year's re-training session, Orby was the source of the history of the Hawaii Chapter."

Orby is survived by his wife of 73 years, Ruthie; sister Alberta Deinhardt (Fred); children Stacey (Roy), Orby "Butch" (Judy), Cynthia (Manuel), Kathleen (Derrick), Michael (Wipanan "Jinny"), and Jolyn (Randall); 13 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren. The Hawaii Chapter sends condolences to Orby's ohana and friends.

Illinois - Railsplitters Division Chapter News

Promotions



Kurt T. Davis, NA Session 282

Kurt T Davis, NA Session 282, was appointed Chief of Police for the Effingham, IL Police Department on July 1, 2025.

Retirements



Jason McFarland, NA Session 244

Chief of Police **Jason McFarland, NA Session 244**, retired from the Effingham, Illinois Police Department on July 2, 2025. During his 25-year career, Chief McFarland worked his way up the ranks by serving as a patrolman, detective, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Chief of Police.

Nebraska Chapter News



Captain Wells ran the Yellow Brick Road Challenge alongside FBI Director Kash Patel.



John Wells, NA Session 294



Max Hubka, NA Session 294

Please join the Nebraska Chapter in congratulating Captain Max Hubka of the Lincoln Police Department and Captain John Wells of the Omaha Police Department on their recent graduations from the FBI National Academy Session 294!

Captain Hubka described the entire training experience as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to embrace the big picture of law enforcement, learning alongside and from our federal partners. Reflecting on his biggest takeaway beyond the invaluable networking, Captain Hubka shared that one of his master-level classes introduced the phrase “Love those you lead,” emphasizing the importance of balancing work, friendship, and professionalism as a leader.

Captain Wells also called the National Academy the best professional training he has ever attended. He highlighted the exceptional instructor cadre in each of his classes, noting that the defined goals and insights provided validation for his own leadership style, methods, and skillsets, tools he’s eager to bring back and put into practice at OPD. An added highlight for Captain Wells was the opportunity, as part of Session 294, to run the Yellow Brick Road Challenge alongside FBI Director Kash Patel.



Youth Leadership Program graduate, Sydney Vollmer, from YLP Session 26

Please join the Nebraska Chapter in recognizing our Youth Leadership Program graduate, Sydney Vollmer, from YLP Session 26. Sydney will be a junior at Papillion La-Vista South High School this fall. Her biggest takeaways from YLP 26 were learning valuable leadership qualities and time management skills, as well as enjoying classes on social media, artificial intelligence, and situational awareness. Of all the courses at YLP, Sydney particularly enjoyed “The Alert Class,” which focused on active shooter threats and developing a safety plan for her own high school. Sydney expressed her gratitude to everyone who made it possible for her to attend YLP and shared that she enjoyed a small vacation in Washington, D.C., after graduation, serving as her parents’ tour guide.

New Jersey Chapter News

Our 2nd Quarterly Meeting at Martell’s (Point Pleasant, NJ) was a tremendous success, drawing a record-breaking crowd of over 230 attendees. It was a beautiful day at the Jersey Shore, and the incredible turnout reflects the strength and camaraderie of our FBINAA NJ Chapter.

Promotions



Chief Dawicki and Captain Pozo

On June 23, 2025, **Joseph Dawicki, NA Session 289**, was sworn in as the chief of police of the Fairlawn Police Department.



Clifford Spencer, NA Session 289

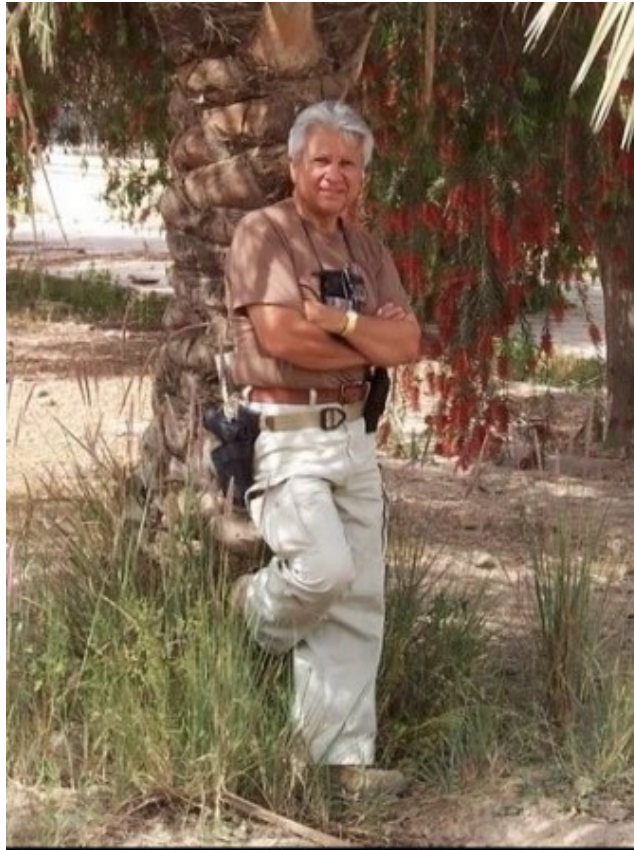


Mark Deltin, NA Session 291

On June 18, 2025, Mount Holly Township swore in **Clifford Spencer, NA Session 289**, as their Chief of Police.

Mark Deltin, NA Session 291, was promoted to the rank of Captain with the Ocean Township Police Department in May of 2025.

Passings



Gerald M. Aponte, NA Session 116

Gerald M. Aponte, 82, NA Session 116, former Chief of Police in Manchester, CT, and North Arlington, NJ Police Department, passed unexpectedly and peacefully in his sleep at his home in Farmingdale, NJ on July 13, 2025. Per Jerry's request, there will be no services or funeral.

Ohio Chapter News

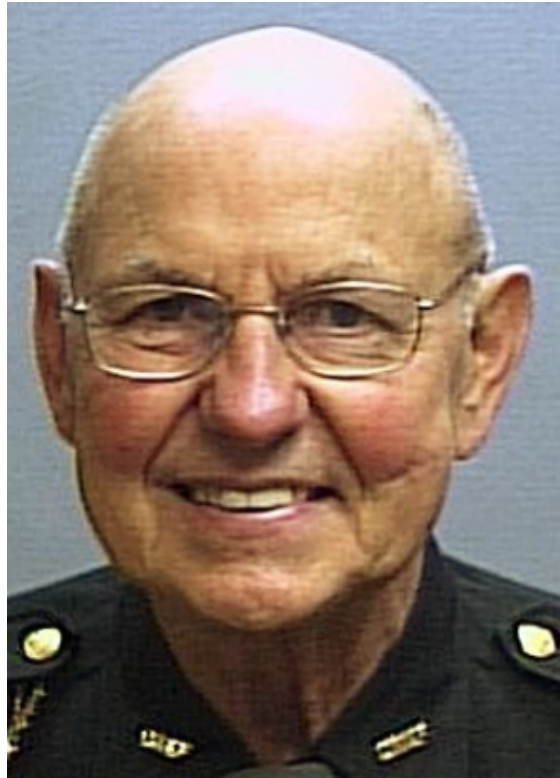


YLP Adriana Randjelovic

Adriana Randjelovic of Independence, Ohio was selected to represent the Ohio Chapter for the 2025 Youth Leadership Program. Adriana aspires to a career with the FBI and she related to us upon her graduation that it was the most rewarding experience of her lifetime. Congratulations, Adriana.

Also, we are very happy to report that the chapter president, Matt Fisher, has made remarkable improvements from the aneurysm he suffered and is well on his way to recovery. Thank you to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and support.

Passings



William Crosier, NA Session 109

Chief **William Crosier** (Ret.) from the Willoughby, Ohio PD, **NA Session 109**, passed away on July 14th. He was a 50+ year police veteran. He was forward-thinking and sent many command-level people at the sheriff's dept to various well-respected leadership schools, principally, the FBI NA. He was a past president of the OACP, and an award of distinguished service is named after him in honor of his work with OACP. Chief Crosier came on the job in 1960. What an amazing career!

Oregon Chapter News

Representing Oregon for NA Session 296 are Sunriver Police Corporal Jason Van Meter, Sweet Home Police Captain Ryan Cummings, and Washington County Undersheriff John Koch.

2025 Fall Re-Trainer - September 16th – 19th at the Running Y Ranch Resort in Klamath Falls (5500 Running Y Rd, Klamath Falls, OR 97601). We are excited to announce that all presenters for our upcoming fall conference have been confirmed. This year's program offers an engaging mix of topics, including financial wellness, leadership, organizational change, and resiliency. Additionally, a representative from the FBI will present a compelling case study (Negasi Zuberi – cinder block cell case). Our featured speakers include:

- Retired Lieutenant Travis George
- Dr. Michael Whittington, NA Session 285
- Lieutenant George Croll, NA Session 281
- Retired Chief Jason Armstrong
- FBI SA Christopher Giovanetty

With such diverse presentations, we look forward to another outstanding event.



Regional Lunch at Gladstone's Bar and Grill

On July 16, 2025, the Oregon Chapter held a regional lunch at Gladstone's Bar and Grill in Gladstone, Oregon. The event was hosted by Clackamas County Captain Michael Copenhaver, NA Session 293, and Clackamas County Undersheriff Brad O'Neil, NA Session 286. We had 13 Oregon Chapter members attend the event! The Oregon Chapter started hosting regional lunches a few years ago to reach all our members in our Great State! Attending this regional lunch are Undersheriff O'Neil, Oregon State Police Deputy Superintendent Josh Brooks, NA Session 277, Captain Copenhaver, Retired Oregon City Lieutenant Al Kitzmiller (Hidden behind Copenhaver), NA Session 140, Washington County Chief Deputy and Oregon Chapter President Erroll McCrea, NA Session 282, Washington County Sheriff Caprice Massey, NA Session 284, Silverton Police Chief and Oregon Chapter 3rd Vice President Todd Engstrom, NA Session 287, Lake Oswego Captain Clayton Simon, NA Session 279, Retired Placer County Captain Jeff Granum, NA Session 229, Silverton Captain Mark Gaither, NA Session 294, St. Helens Sergeant Jose Castilleja, NA Session 294, Retired Chicago Sergeant Paul Carroll, NA Session 171, and Gladstone Police Chief John Schmerber, NA Session 223.



Steve Swenson, NA Session 184

Where are they now... This month's feature is on retired Eugene Captain **Steve Swenson, NA Session 184**. Captain Swenson was born in Brooklyn, New York, but moved to San Diego, California, during his youth. Before his law enforcement career, Captain Swenson was "Baywatch" before Baywatch was cool and served as a lifeguard for the City of San Diego at Ventura Cove and Mission Beach. Captain Swenson was also working his way through the El Cajon Police Department, starting as a Cadet and then a paid intern before being hired as a full-time officer in 1976. He moved to Oregon when he accepted a full-time position with the Oakridge Police Department in 1979. He left for the Lane County Sheriff's Office but was laid off with 43 others soon after. He was hired by the Springfield, Oregon, Police Department in 1981. He was promoted through the ranks, obtaining the position of Captain. He was then hired by the Eugene Police Department in 2000 as a captain and held that rank until he retired in 2011. In 2015, Captain Swenson started his own private investigating company, SS Investigations, LLC, which he retired from in 2021. Captain Swenson attended the 184th session of the National Academy as a sergeant with the Springfield Police Department. He has been an active member of the Oregon Chapter since he attended the National Academy and served as our president in 2005. Captain Swenson stated, "He enjoys his association with the National Academy through the Oregon Chapter, and it has been a great way to stay connected with the contemporary issues in policing." He routinely attends our events and retrainers. He and his wife, Meredith, of 11 years, live outside Florence, Oregon, at Mercer Lake. Captain Swenson has one son who is a Gunsmith at Benelli Firearms and a daughter who is a homemaker in Bend, Oregon. Between his son and daughter, he has seven granddaughters! We wish Captain Swenson well as he continues to enjoy his retirement!

Promotions



Carl Wilkerson, NA Session 277

Please join the Oregon Chapter in congratulating **Carl Wilkerson, NA Session 277**, as he has been officially sworn in as Lane County Sheriff on June 11, 2025, after being unanimously appointed by the Lane County Commissioners. Sheriff Wilkerson started his career with Lane County as a cadet in the Explorer Post and a Marine Patrol Boat Aid. He served as a reserve deputy until he was hired in 1996 as a deputy sheriff. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2013, Lieutenant in 2018, and then Chief Deputy in 2019. Sheriff Wilkerson has served in both the corrections division and the patrol division during his career!

Congratulations, Sheriff Wilkerson!

Retirements



Jason Jones, NA Session 287

The Oregon Chapter would like to congratulate Portland Police Bureau Captain **Jason Jones, NA Session 287**, who is retiring from the Bureau on August 12, 2025. Captain Jones is not leaving law enforcement as he has accepted a captain position with the Westminster Police Department in Maryland! Captain Jones started his law enforcement career in 1995 when he became a Deputy Probation Officer with Lassen County in California. He was hired as a Portland Police Officer in July 1999 and rose through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, to Captain. In addition to his duties, Captain Jones has instructed at the Portland Police Advance Academy and the Bureau's Inservice Training. He has instructed in ethics, crisis Intervention, police history, procedural Justice, and implicit bias. Captain Jones also taught similar classes at the Oregon Police Academy (DPSST). Captain Jones holds a PhD in Leadership and is an Adjunct Instructor at Portland State University, the University of Portland, and Clackamas Community College. He has instructed at Mt. Hood Community College as well. He has developed 32 courses related to criminology and criminal justice. Captain Jones has been married to Candace for 27 years, and they have three adult children, with two who will be near them in Maryland. We are going to miss Captain Jones in Oregon, but we wish him the very best as he starts another chapter in his law enforcement career in the State of Maryland!

Rocky Mountain Chapter News



From Left to Right: Joe Frabbiele (Colorado Springs PD), Jason Saenz (US Space Force), Brett Durante (Cheyenne PD), Joel White (Douglas County SO), and Chris Dietrich (Glenwood Springs PD).

Welcome aboard, Rocky Mountain Chapter attendees, to the FBI National Academy Session 295!

Promotions



Jason Kennedy, NA Session 263

Douglas County Sheriff **Darren Weekly, Session 290**, has announced that he has appointed **Jason Kennedy, NA Session 263**, to the position of Undersheriff. Undersheriff Kennedy has 33 years of experience with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. He most recently was the Division Chief of Professional Standards, but he has held key positions across various divisions, consistently demonstrating leadership, investigative expertise, and a commitment to advancing law enforcement operations. Jason is taking over for retiring Undersheriff David Walcher, who just concluded a 4-decade career in law enforcement. Congratulations, Undersheriff Jason Kennedy!



Chief **Shane Chaney, NA Session 279**, who has been serving as an interim chief since February, has been appointed to become the full-time Chief of Police for the City of Casper. Chief Chaney began his career in Casper, WY, and has served in various assignments and roles for 30 years. Congratulations to Chief Chaney!

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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