

# EXPLORER

The Park Law Enforcement Association Newsletter

**SUPPORTING THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE KEEPING OUR PARKS & WILDLIFE AREAS SAFE**

**Volume 6**

**Summer 2002**

## President's Message

■ Captain Stuart Foland

This is my first column to address all PLEA members since being elected PLEA President at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual PLEA Conference in Bowie, Maryland on March 8, 2002.

The Conference was hosted by the Maryland - National Capital Park Police Prince George's County Division. I would like to express my appreciation to Chief Larry Brownlee, St., Agency Staff and the Planning Commission for a most educational and enjoyable Conference. The Conference Committee members were great hosts and did an exemplary job paying attention to every detail. Off-site tours addressing security issues at major facilities were most enjoyable and the tour of the Maryland - National Capital Park Mounted Patrol Unit and facility was very impressive. I want to thank everyone who attended and supported this Conference.

It's an honor being elected PLEA President, working with members of the Board of Directors and addressing any challenges that may come our way over the next two years.

PLEA members elected to the Executive Board for 2002-2004 is as follows:

**PLEA Vice President: Chief Larry M. Brownlee, Sr., Maryland - National Capital Park Police – Prince George's County Division** in Riverdale, Maryland.

**PLEA treasurer: Sergeant Fred McCormick, Minneapolis Park Police Department** in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**PLEA Secretary: Sergeant Steve Newsom with the Hamilton County Park District Rangers** in Cincinnati, Ohio.

There are several realistic goals I want to accomplish as President, one being to network with the PLEA current membership and State Affiliates for increased communication. I will also be contacting other park law



*New PLEA president, Captain Stuart Foland*

enforcement agencies to seek interest in PLEA. This is to address any issues with members and to seek out non-members that may not be aware of PLEA and the overall mission: to improve law enforcement and visitor protection services in park and recreation areas through professional development, networking, etc. thus assuring a better quality of life in all park and recreation areas. Second, I would like to establish several new State Affiliates, which would bring new blood and ideas to the Association and for the future. State Affiliates, as you know, receive one seat on the Board of Directors, and a voice on issues discussed at PLEA Board meetings. The meetings are held twice a year, once at the Annual PLEA Conference and at the National Park and Recreation Association Conference.

Coincidentally, I was contacted by Roland M. Bringham, President/At Large Representative for the Utah State Park Officers Association, which has 66 members, about their desires to become a State Affiliate to PLEA. Memberships presently consist of Law Enforcement Rangers with Utah State Parks and Recreation, but they are seeking other groups such as the State Conservation Officers and other local and Federal Park Officers to join

Please see President on back page



### PLEA Officers

Stuart Foland  
President  
Johnson County Park Police

Larry Brownlee, Sr.  
Vice President  
Maryland – National Capital Park  
Police

Fred McCormick  
Treasurer  
Minneapolis Park Police  
Department

Steve Newsom  
Secretary  
Hamilton County Park District

### Board Members

Steve Pokrywka  
Wyandotte County Parks

R. Daniel Crone  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. Bruce Wicks  
University of Illinois

Stephen W. Thomas  
City of Albuquerque

Bill Jacobs  
Minneapolis Park Police (Retired)

John R. Bryd, Sr.  
Durham Park Rangers

Tim Curtin  
Forest Preserve District of  
Dupage County

L. Nathaniel Pinkard  
Mill Creek Metro Park District

### State Affiliates

Kansas PLEA

Illinois PLEA  
Mark Johnson  
Fox Valley Park District

Ohio PLEA

### Newsletter

Norman Lapera  
Editor  
East Bay Regional Park District  
nlapera@ebparks.org

## IN MEMORY



### **OFFICER KRISTIN MARIE PATAKI** **1/5/78 – 5/4/02**

Officer Kristin Marie Pataki lost her life in the performance of her police duties for the Maryland – National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, on May 4, 2002. Officer Pataki was hired by the Maryland – National Capital Park Police on March 5, 2001, and graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy on September 13, 2001. She was assigned to Patrol Division. As a patrol officer, Officer Pataki was very dedicated and professional and took great pride in carrying out her duties as a police officer. She wanted to make a difference in the community that she served. Her colleagues at the Park Police, as well as officers from the local law enforcement agencies that she came in contact with admired Officer Pataki. A Memorial Service honoring Officer Pataki and four other Park Police officers who have died while actively employed by the Park Police was held Monday, May 13, 2002, at the Park Police Headquarters located at 12751 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. A memorial, "Fallen But Never Forgotten," was dedicated at that time.

**Members of the Park Police mourn the loss  
of our fallen friend.**

**She will be forever in our memory.**



## IN MEMORY

# James C. Lindsey

## Former PLEA Vice President and Board Member, Dies

By Ralph Hays

James C. Lindsey (JC, as most of us know him) passed away on May 5<sup>th</sup> after a long and difficult struggle with cancer. I talked to him a while back, and he told me it wasn't good this time – he'd fought the same cancer a few years ago – he'd lost a lot of weight and the pain was pretty bad sometimes. He said he had good days and bad days and that if he were felling well enough he'd see us at the PLEA Conference in Maryland last March. It turned out he wasn't feeling well enough for a visit when we were there but didn't want any fuss about it. So a handful of us who knew him well kept the knowledge to ourselves under the hope that there would be a turnaround in his condition. But that was not to be.

JC was instrumental in the formation of PLEA more than twenty years ago. As Deputy Chief of the United States Park Police, his presence on our board lent immediate and needed status and legitimacy at a time when only JC and PLEA Jerry Wimpee had a clear vision of what it was they wanted to accomplish. JC was Vice President of PLEA when Jerry Wimpee was President, and continued in that role under Leland Curtright. JC turned down the presidency of the organization several times, feeling that he could do more good as an organizer and worker in support of whoever filled the president's chair. He made the job easier for everyone of us who were lucky enough to have him serving with us on the board.

Over the years, there were many times I called on him for advice and counsel. He didn't always tell me what I wanted to hear, which made his advice all the more valuable. He was a

skilled and tenacious negotiator and if you undertook to argue any issue with him you better have your ducks all lined up in a row, because he was just as hard-nosed in an argument as he was good-natured in the social conversations he so enjoyed.

JC Lindsey gave a great deal to PLEA in the years since those early formative days, and the legacy he left the PLEA Board may not be known to many, or apparent even to some who served on the board with him. JC brought the consistent and untiring quest for truth and excellence to the table every time he sat in a meeting. He was the one who consistently worked to bring out the best in the people on the board by refusing to agree just to be agreeable and by making sure all sides of every issue were explored. That tradition of open and forthright discourse still exists on the PLEA Board because JC set it in motion more than twenty years ago and nurtured it until it became the usual manner of business. He taught us a great deal about how to disagree without being disagreeable by the example he set.

JC never served as PLEA President, but he was one of its most influential leaders. True leaders don't need to be the boss, because people will follow them anyway. JC was a cop's cop and a true leader. He was also a mentor and true friend who will live on in the hearts of those of us who knew and loved him. He made the world a better place and all of us better people for having known him.

Rest in peace, my friend.

## James C. Lindsey U.S. Park Police Official

James C. Lindsey, 62, who was a member of the U.S. Park Police force for 23 years before retiring in 1985 as deputy chief of operations, died of colon cancer May 5 at his home in Waldorf.

Mr. Lindsey was a patrol officer assigned to George Washington Memorial Parkway at the beginning of his career. He moved up to the agency's headquarters in Washington, where he supervised operations, the criminal investigations branch and the internal affairs unit.

He spent two years in Seattle as a regional law enforcement specialist before returning to headquarters in 1973 as commander of Special Forces branch. He was deputy chief of field offices before being named to his final post, deputy chief of operations, in 1982.

In retirement, he worked as a claims investigator for the National Park Service.

Mr. Lindsey was born in Washington and raised in Bladensburg. He graduated from Bladensburg High School in 1958 and attended the University of Maryland and American University.

He was a founder and past vice president of the Park Law Enforcement Association and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Retired Police Officer Association and the FBI Association.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Joan Lindsey of Waldorf; three children, Scott Douglas Lindsey of Frederick, Shelly Elaine Hill of Middletown, Frederick County, and Steven Michael Lindsey of Waldorf; a brother, Edward T. Lindsey Jr. of Frederick; and six grandchildren.

*This Obituary appeared in the Washington Post on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002.*



# 23<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PLEA CONFERENCE

## MARYLAND ROLLS OUT THE CARPET

### Keynote Speech by Marye Wells-Harley

Newton White Mansion, Friday, March 8, 2002

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to add my congratulations to those of you who have just been installed as officers of the association for the next year. Special congratulations go to our own Commander Brownlee.

I trust you are enjoying your stay here in Prince George's County, and I am sure you have heard a thing or two about the wonderful people and you have seen some of the resources we have within the county and in the Maryland- National Capital Park Police. All of our officers contribute greatly to the quality of life of our citizens. We appreciate their contributions more and more every day.

I know that the Maryland-National Capital Park Police are counted among the best park police forces in the nation -and I also know, that those ranks are relatively small. True, park police forces with sworn professional officers, jurisdictional powers, and appropriate law enforcement training are woefully fewer than the number of park systems across the country.

When Commander Brownlee told me that your conference theme was "Meeting The Challenge", and shared with me some of the session topics, I could only nod in agreement. We, too, have shared many of the challenges of park agency law enforcement over the last several years and I understand all too well what dedicated law enforcement professionals face every day.

The challenges you face are many -and we certainly do not have the time to address them all tonight. I would like to take a few minutes to discuss with you what I see as our major challenges from my position in the director's office. Perhaps the largest challenge which faces each of our park police agencies is remaining independent. In times of tightening budgets, we are tempting targets for takeover by municipal and city police and by state and even federal law enforcement organizations.

Several years ago, there was a move within this county to merge the Maryland-National Capital Park

Police with the Prince George's County Police. Studies were done, summits were held, and pros and cons were debated by elected officials and community leaders. In the end, our park police remained independent because they were seen as a valuable service to the community -both citizens and professionals know that should we lose the presence of the park police, we are no longer the first priority in responding to calls for service and the county realized that they would be taking on patrol and security responsibilities for more than 23,000 acres of parklands and over 150 facilities. The merger was shelved.

But, we must remain vigilant, and we must make the case for remaining independent. Each new program, each new investigation and each community contact must promote the benefit of having a specialized police force focused on protecting our parkland and recreational facilities.

Our second major challenge is one of perception. You've all heard the questions, I know. "Are you a real policeman? What exactly do you do?" "Are you allowed to make arrests?" What authority do you have?"

These are just some of the queries which come our way. Many citizens do not clearly understand the importance of park police, nor do they think about the professionalism and years of training it takes to become an excellent officer. Even within the parks and recreation profession we need to keep repeating the message: We have and we are professional police officers, we are well-trained, and we do have an important job to do in our community. When you return to your park systems, please take a minute to talk with your agency head and your public relations officer. Remind them of the importance of this message, and offer to work with them to reinforce it on a regular basis.

The third major challenge facing every park police department is training, and keeping up with available technology. Here in Prince George's County, we have made a commitment to ensure that all of our officers are well-trained. Seldom does a week go by that someone is not off at a training session on procedures, resources, or personal development. I can assure you that our training funds are very well used.



In addition, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police have been out front on some of the latest technology. We like to watch crime scene investigators on CBS and find out that the lumiscope they're using is exactly the one we have-and are sharing with state and local agencies which haven't bought one yet. We like to get closer to solving a decade-old traiside murder case because of the new DNA technology available to us. We like to be the source of information when a federal agency calls for assistance!

The last challenge I want to talk about tonight is one of customer service. Your customer is not the "bad guy", as some might suspect.

The customer of every park police force in the country is the young mother watching over children at the playground, knowing they will be safe because a park police officer is in the area.

Your customer is the victim of a crime, who you've been able to guide through the complicated judicial process to a successful prosecution.



*PLEA Board Members on tour of the Naval Academy at Annapolis*



*Commander Brownlee and Officer Mary McAuley during the opening comments of the conference.*



*Three of Prince George's finest staff their information booth.*

Your customer is the retired community center volunteer who waves to you as he leaves the facility for the evening, safely reaching his car in the parking lot and heading home.

And your customer is the everyday citizen who takes pride in a wonderful park system, not noticing that you are there. For that, we thank you all.

Thank you for allowing me to share this time with you -have a pleasant and safe trip home. Please stop by to see us when you are in our area.



*The conference hosts, Commander Larry Brownlee and Ms. Marye Wells-Harley.*



## News From Across the Nation

### Hennepin Parks

An update of changes at our agency... Don Davis has retired and I have been promoted from Captain to Chief. The common name of the Park District is being changed from Hennepin Parks to Three Rivers Park District, this name will be phased in over the next two years with the most visible changeover (letterhead etc.) scheduled for May 1, 2002. We are no longer the Public Safety Department. We are now the Public Safety Section of the Department of Administrative Services.

As you can see, a few things have changed since I met you at the Park District Forum last year! Don is doing very well though I suspect he won't stay retired

for long. We still talk almost daily and get together every few weeks. He speaks highly of you, of course, and if he ever gets e-mail I will give him your address.

I have the ok to participate in the Association conferences. I see there is one sometime in March, I suspect it might be too late for me to attend that one. If registration is still open, please let me know.

Thanks!

Chief John Gundersen  
Three Rivers Park District Public Safety  
Phone 763-479-1172, Ext. 20

### Army Corps of Engineers

*When growing up, I spent a disproportionate amount of time outdoors.*

My earliest appreciation of nature, and discussions of basic values and life were instilled in me as a child by my grandparents between bites in a small fishing boat. Each summer from an early age, I looked forward to spending time with them at their summer cabin on the Iowa River. Among other things, I wrestled with how I fit into the world, the difference in right and wrong, and what was fair ... especially when it came to taking my turn behind the oars.

In retrospect, these experiences most certainly influenced my choice of vocation as a career Corps of Engineers Park Ranger. As real estate ranger for a 26,000-acre project, I am in the compliance business. My job requires a bit of outdoor endurance, diplomacy, an even temperament, and a sincere belief in what one is trying to accomplish. My duties include the surveillance of over 200 miles of Government boundary line and resolution of illegal trespass and encroachments.

The world is changing daily. The challenges to our responsibilities of land stewardship grow increasingly more difficult in my profession each year.

Corps rangers carry no firearms and have no arrest authority. The Corps relies on cooperative agreements and local law enforcement protection. Rangers are not law enforcement officers but have a proprietary interest enforcing Federal Codes within the "red lines" of the Government boundary line. Rangers must have the ability to quickly decipher situations, accurately read body language, and use good judgment. Through visual presence, verbal persuasion, and use of verbal or written warnings or citations, rangers perform their duties. Rangers strive to use the lowest level of enforcement necessary to resolve a problem.

My membership in the Park Law Enforcement Association, an organization of park professionals, has helped to "arm me" with additional information and networking to be more effective in my work with the Corps. My job is diverse. Each day brings new challenges. For the most part I enjoy what I do. Rangers often work where others come to find enjoyment. Visitors must wonder what rangers do on their days off. Do they go to an office?

In my spare time, when not mowing the yard or off exploring some remote part of the world, you will find me in a fishing boat at my cabin on the Iowa River ... some things never change...

R. Daniel Crone, Park Ranger



# Olympic Experiences

*It burned as I breathed in the cold.....* no, very cold air. Day makers lit up the night sky creating shadows on the icy snow covered fields and competition track. Bleachers and fences were erected and buildings constructed to create a venue that would become the focus of the sports world during the 19<sup>th</sup> winter Olympics. Soldier Hollow; the venue for Biathlon, Cross Country and Nordic combined events would be our work site for the next 20+ days. The excitement and anticipation could be felt amongst the officers who were working - for many, together for the first time.

For most, home away from home consisted of camping with a room mate in a motor home with a noisy heater. Motor homes are meant for summer camping in nice tree lined campgrounds; not for staying warm inside while the mercury dips to 15 below outside and expecting to maintain things like running water. Although after a day or two, our bungalows were comfy havens where one room mate tried to sleep while the other tried to quietly dress in multi layers that made them look like the younger brother in 'The Christmas Story'.

Meals at work varied only by the flavor of the crackers, soup or candy bar. At first the 'mountain pack' was good eating, but like anything eaten without variety for days on end.....the good eating changed into practical jokes and wasted food - unless you could trade for a military MRE. Those military guys will eat anything.

Some were offended by the whole setup; but if you could roll with the punches and make the best out of the circumstance, adversities like the cold became matters to joke about and a distant memory once your relief arrived or you began a different/warmer shift.

The thrill of working this 'once in a life time opportunity' festered inside while outwardly you dealt with the cluster of meshing together agencies and work forces that rightfully belong separated. Federal officers were charged with overseeing 'mag & bag' operations and State/Local Officers (and law enforcement volunteers from neighboring States). This oversight resulted in a few cases of wet behind the ears Federal officers overseeing State/local/volunteer officers who outranked them in position and/or years of service. This made for some interesting conversation.

Time, common goals and the brotherhood of law enforcement has a way of breaking down these barriers

and created an atmosphere of cooperation and resolve to do our jobs to the best of our abilities. Networking and friendships developed as officers worked side by side. It's this working closely with fellow officers and the sharing of individual experiences that makes events like this lasting. Yes, being part of the Olympic experience did create 'once in a life time' experiences; but with the memories still fresh in my mind, it's not the athletic events that I watched or the ceremonies I experienced that I hold most dear. What I cherish most from the time spent away from family enduring long cold nights or trying to figure out what color windshield placard was required in conjunction with another colored placard was the friendships developed and stories shared while working side by side with fellow law enforcement comrades on a mission that at that moment in time was the most important assignment any of us could have.

Ya, the festering of being 'there' has consumed my soul and made me glad that I took the time, sucked it up and played it for all it was worth. All the pins; either swaps or purchased, will add to a great wall hanging someday and my kids will say that 'my dad was there' when they think of their Olympic memories. But I'm most proud that perhaps in some small way I did my part to make the games safe and memorable for the athletes and sports spectators of the world.....go USA.

Eugene Swalberg, Park Ranger  
Utah State Parks and Recreation

**You know I have been thinking** about my law enforcement experience at the Olympics and thought about what my assignments were and what happened. I didn't have anything real exciting happen during the entire three week period I was there. No hair raising episodes at all. So, as I think about it - that is exactly what we all wanted to happen, so I would just have to say that my Olympic Law Enforcement experience was very successful. I mostly enjoyed working with other law enforcement personnel from state parks and other agencies from across the nation, and how we all came together for the same purpose, to serve and protect. I have had a lot more exciting assignments, but if asked to do it again I would because it was the OLYMPICS, for me a once in a life time opportunity.

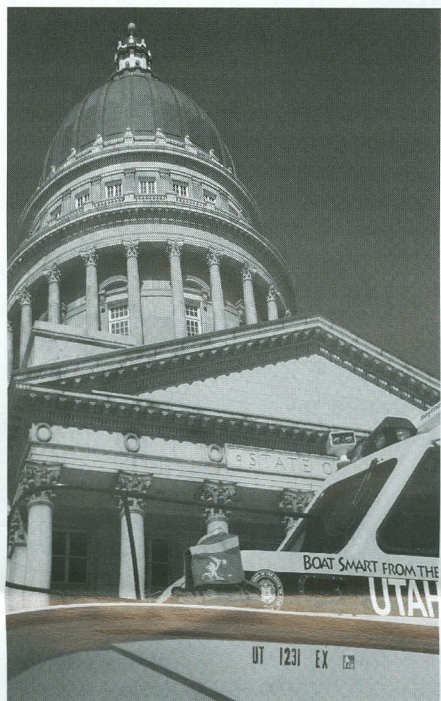
Floyd Powell, Park Ranger  
Utah State Parks and Recreation



# UTAH BOATING RANGERS TRANSPORT OLYMPIC FLAME

## Safe Boating Messages Part of International Event

Nothing, not frigid winter air, foggy conditions or floating sheets of ice could dampen the Olympic spirit and excitement of the nine Utah Boating Rangers selected to carry the Olympic flame across the salty waters of the Great Salt Lake Wednesday, February 6, 2002.



Utah Boating Coordinator and former NASBLA President Ted Woolley, and Great Salt Lake State Marina Boating Ranger Bob Rosell captained *Rescue One*, which carried the Olympic cauldron and flame. Utah State Parks and Recreation Director Courtland Nelson lit the cauldron aboard *Rescue One*. With torch in hand, Nelson declared that he

was carrying the torch for all Utah State Parks and Recreation employees.

Woolley and Rosell then began their 30-mile journey, transporting the flame from the south shore of Great Salt Lake to the northernmost point of Antelope Island State

Park, flanked by five other Utah State Park patrol boats. Captains and co-captains - Bob Foote, Chris Haller, Dave Harris, Laurie Lovato, Curtiss Sinclear, John Sullivan, Ron Taylor, and Randy Thomas – helped break the icy surface, which is extremely unusual on the Great Salt Lake due to its high salinity. These Boating Rangers safely delivered the flame to its destination.

Curtiss Sinclear, manager of two boating parks in eastern Utah, declared the day the highlight of his 20-year career.

Upon arriving at Antelope Island State Park, *Rescue One* and the State Park patrol boats were greeted by the Clinton and Syracuse City Fire Departments, which sprayed an arch of water from their fire engines. A cheering crowd of 3,000 gathered at the Antelope Island marina as the flame arrived. Hundreds went aboard *Rescue One* to have their photograph taken with the cauldron and flame.

"It was a great honor to carry the Olympic flame and a very emotional day," stated Woolley. "Hearing the school children sing, seeing the excited faces of everyone, then watching the flame carried away by a torchbearer...it was an incredible day."

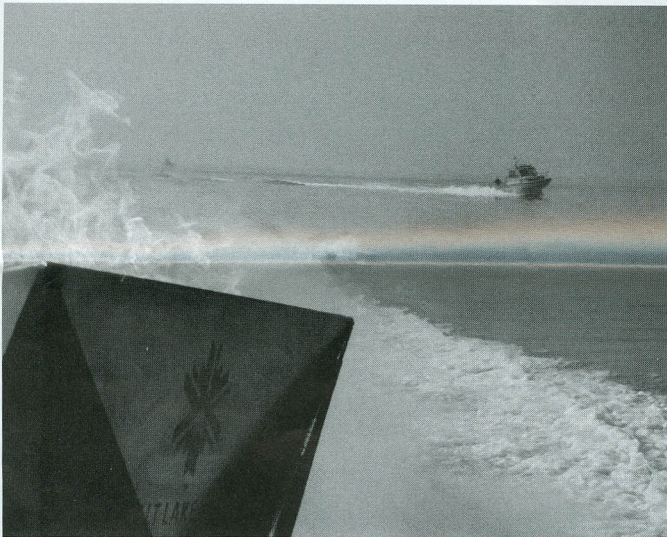
Woolley worked with National Safe Boating Council to prominently display the safe boating message, "Boat Smart From The Start...Wear Your Life Jacket," on both sides of each boat. To reinforce the safety message, all passengers onboard wore a special Olympic Torch Relay life jacket provided by Stearns, Inc. National and international media coverage included NBC and CNN. In addition, all local television stations covered the event and photographs appeared on the front page of all major Utah newspapers.







## The Olympic Torch



## Crosses the Great Salt Lake





## PRESIDENT - continued from page 1

them. Since Bringhurst has sent a letter of intent to me indicating the Association's Charter, Articles of Incorporation and its Constitution and Bylaws. I contacted the PLEA Board of Directors and it was unanimous to accept the Utah State Park Officers Association as a Charter Association to PLEA. Congratulations, and I want to thank Roland and members of the Utah State Park Officers Association for their devoted interests and support of PLEA. We are looking forward to their involvement with PLWA over the coming years.

If other Association's or individuals in the park law enforcement profession would like to set up a PLEA State Affiliate, please contact me. I will assist you step by step through the affiliation process, which can be done very easily, and then it's just a matter of getting four interested people in the profession together to form your Board. This is where ideas are generated and things really start happening (workshops that provide annual law enforcement training opportunities, networking, articles for a newsletter and possible affiliation with your State Park and Recreation Association, etc.).

You can make your Association what you want while keeping in mind the overall mission.

Just a couple of more items before I close, I want to thank Chief Norm Lapera of East Bay Regional Park District Police for his continued dedication and serving as PLEA

President from March 2000 – March 2002. Chief Lapera continues to be Editor of the PLEA Newsletter, "EXPLORER", so if you have material send it to him via e-mail at [nlapera@epbarks.org](mailto:nlapera@epbarks.org). Please send law enforcement articles, photos, information about your agency, etc. Any other solicited articles would be appreciated.

The PLEA Mid -Year Board Meeting will be held during the NRPA Congress in Tampa, Florida this October and several PLEA program sessions have been accepted. Hamilton County District Rangers in Cincinnati, Ohio will host the 2003 PLEA Conference. More information in this conference will be forthcoming in subsequent newsletters.

Recently, you should have received your annual dues invoice for membership. If not, please contact us on our website at [www.parkranger.com](http://www.parkranger.com) or call us at 1-877-PARKLAW. We appreciate your support and if you know of other non-members in park law enforcement profession and other individuals that support park law enforcement and visitor protection services in park and recreation areas, please tell them about PLEA and be a part of a great Association.

If you have any questions or comments please e-mail me at [Stuart.Foland@jocoks.com](mailto:Stuart.Foland@jocoks.com) or send a letter to Captain Stuart Foland, Johnson County Park Police Department, 7900 Renner Road, Lenexa, Kansas 66215/

Thanks for your support.

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