

# CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

NUMBER 89

SEPTEMBER 2018

## In Memoriam

### **Albert Richard "Rich" DeFilippi 1956-2017**

It is with great sadness that we are informing you of the passing of Albert Richard "Rich" DeFilippi. Rich served on the Constables' Education and Training Board (Board) from May of 2007 through December of 2015 in the Board's County Court Administrator position. Rich brought sound and reasonable recommendations to Board discussions and his wealth of experience and knowledge working in court administration provided valuable input to the Board. He was a valued asset to the Board and Program Staff were fortunate to have had his wealth of experience to help guide Board decisions over the years. He will be missed by all who were fortunate to know him.

## CETB Fund Workgroup

At the February 15, 2018 Board meeting, the Board requested that a special Workgroup (consisting of Board members and representatives from the various Constables' Associations) be convened to discuss possible outcomes for the solvency of the Fund. This Workgroup developed both Short-Term and Long-Term Courses of Action that were presented to the Board.

The Workgroup met on March 27, April 5, and April 19, 2018 and the members included: Carl Barley (York County Constables' Association), Stevie Draklan (Lehigh County Constables' Association), Daniel Hollenbaugh (Adams County Constables' Association), David Kneller (Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Constables), Antoine Malloy (Allegheny County Constables' Association), Michael Mucy (Fayette County Constables' Association), Richard Salter (Monroe County Constables' Association), Christofer Savage (Montgomery County Constables' Association), Gregory Smith (Franklin County Constables' Association), Shawn Vinson (Lancaster County Constables' Association), John Weiser (Commonwealth Constables' Association), Patrick Welsh (Columbia/Montour Constables' Association), and Stacy Wertman (Bucks County Constables' Association). The participating Board members included Judge Thomas Brletic (Allegheny

### **Constables' Education and Training Board Members:**

**Board Chair – Thomas S. Brletic  
Board Vice Chair - Craig Westover**

**Francis C. Peitz, Jr.  
Rodney D. Ruddock  
Major William P. White  
John Bruno**



**Charles H. Ramsey  
Chairman, PCCD**

**Derin Myers  
Acting Executive Director,  
PCCD**

**John Pfau  
Manager,  
Bureau of Training Services**

County), Constable Francis Peitz (Allegheny County), and Constable Craig Westover (Venango County). We would like to recognize these individuals for their willingness to assist Program Staff and the Board in developing the proposals that were presented to the Board.

### **Board and Commission Actions**

At the July 17, 2018 and August 9, 2018 Board meetings, the Board discussed various options to address the financial shortfalls that the Training Fund will experience in the upcoming 2019 training year. To that end, the Board looked at proposals to reduce the overall costs associated with the administration and implementation of the various aspects of the training program. This included Basic Training, Continuing Education Training, and Firearms Training and certification.

As a result of these discussions, four changes to the administration of the training program were recommended for approval by the Board and were adopted by the Commission on September 12, 2018. These changes are intended to reduce the overall costs associated with the certification and recertification of Constables and Deputy Constables while meeting the legislative and regulatory requirements of the Act. The four actions are as follows:

1. Provide a 4-Hour Annual Qualification for 2019 using current qualification standards.
  - The 2019 4-Hour Annual Qualification will consist of a Safety and Administration Briefing, a written examination and the successful completion of the Constable Qualification Course (CQC) with a score of at least 75%. No other annual firearms training or remediation will be provided. No remediation or practice ammunition will be provided. A qualification course of fire only is an acceptable general practice within law enforcement training.
2. Eliminate Optional Training classes effective January 1, 2019.
  - The Board has offered Optional Training classes since 2005 which has included defensive tactics skills and re-certifications for chemical aerosol and expandable baton. However, less than 2% of the total Constable population takes advantage of these classes and these “less than lethal force” options are widely available at the local level.
  - Since there are no statutory or regulatory references to this Optional Training, the Board recommended and the Commission approved a motion to eliminate Optional Training classes effective January 1, 2019.
3. Change Continuing Education from 20-Hours of training to 8-Hours for the 2019 training year.
  - For 2019 each 4-Hour block of instruction will consist of lecture, class discussions, a class exercise, a PowerPoint presentation, videos, and written examinations. The two topics for 2019 will be a 4-Hour Social Media module and a 4-Hour Self-Aid/Buddy-Aid module.

4. The firearms certification of a Constable who does not successfully pass the written examination or practical skill proficiency shall cease immediately, effective January 1, 2019.
  - The Board recommended and the Commission approved a Policy Statement that indicates that the Constable or Deputy Constable's firearms certification will cease immediately when a Constable or Deputy Constable fails the written examination or practical skill proficiency (Constable Qualification Course).
  - The 2019 4-Hour Annual Qualification will consist of a Safety and Administration Briefing, a written examination and the successful completion of the Constable Qualification Course (CQC) with a score of at least 75%. No other annual firearms training or remediation will be provided. No remediation or practice ammunition will be provided. A qualification course of fire only is an acceptable general practice within law enforcement training.

The Board will continue to consider additional actions to close the deficit of approximately \$742,000, which is a result of expenditures of the Program exceeding the revenue supporting the Fund. Other Long-Term Courses of Action under consideration are reducing classroom training expenses by utilizing online training modules.

More details on the Board's actions can be found in the Board's approved meeting minutes: <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/training/Pages/Constables%20Board-Meeting-Minutes.aspx>.

### **Future Plans**

Program Staff will now develop an Implementation Plan to execute the four actions adopted at the September 12, 2018 Commission meeting. This may require additional Board Policies to be adopted or revised and those Board Policies will then be presented to the Board and Commission for their approval at future meetings. Updates will be provided as they are finalized.

### **Training 2019**

Please ensure that you have completed or are currently enrolled into both Continuing Education and Firearms Training classes in 2018 to ensure no lapses in your Constable certifications. Program Staff will keep the Constable population informed as quickly as possible as the Implementation Plan is put into place.

### **Additional Con. Ed. Class in the SW Region**

An additional Continuing Education class has been added in the South West region: SW15CE18, October 19-21, 2018 at the PSU-Fayette campus.