

20230906 Members Meeting
LGA Monthly Board/Membership Meeting

Call to Order

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Public: approximately 40 attendees

Board of Directors: Jeff Zimmer, Eric Wooster, Anne Wood, Brian Goldsworthy, John Cataldo, Jane Stringer, Lewis Mustian, Patricia Price

Executive Director: Tammy Clarke

Chair/Co-Chairs: John Franz and Carol Warfel

Meeting opened at 9:30 am

Welcome

Jeff welcomed everyone.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jeff covered Housekeeping items:

- Vegetation survey. Current volunteers are much appreciated. Need more volunteers to help. This survey work will impact the treatment program for next year.
- The County Candidate forum is on September 16th for Brunswick County.
- The Board approved the Membership and Marketing Committees recommendation of a fee increase. There has not been a fee increase for 10 years. Check the bulletin for more information on the increase.
- Next Membership meeting is October 4th and there will be two wildlife biologists speaking.

Speaker/Presentation

Sheriff Forum: Five Sheriffs or their designee from the Counties surrounding the Lake came to address current law enforcement issues in their county and provided some insight into their current programs. There was a questions and answers at the end.

Introductions

Eric thanked the Speakers for coming.

Captain Patrick Jacobs for Sheriff Jack E. Smith – Northampton County

Capt. Jacobs provided a handout on “Report It” a Citizen Property Inventory System. This on-line system allows you to record the serial numbers of various merchandise that you own, so the serial number and description of the item is easily accessible to you to provide to law enforcement or insurance company of stolen. reportit.leadsonline.com. Log in and record serial number.

Captain Jacobs covered statics on robbery, missing persons, fraud, and more. Don't have a large crime rate on lake. Captain Jacobs recommended to always lock your vehicle and your home doors. Don't give a theft an opportunity. Preventative measures are having a house alarm, be vigilant in your neighborhood, talk to neighbors, if something or someone doesn't look right, get a description.

The crime rate is going down with proactive patrols of the streets. Captain Michael of narcotics spoke briefly about getting Crime Stoppers more active for Northampton County. See something usual report it. Drug offenses increase in summer. Seeing an increase of driving under the influence of drugs and alcoholic. See something say something – Report it. Thank you for everything you do. Captain Jacobs advised all attendees that Northampton Sheriff's department will provide free home safety inspection. Contact Northampton Sheriff.

Sheriff Tyree Davis – Halifax County

Sheriff Davis provided safety recommendations such as to lock your car even if you take your key fob, lock house doors, if you have a house alarm system be sure the sensors are set properly so emergency calls are valid. See something say something. Report it, they will follow up or conduct surveillance. How not to become a perfect victim – put a "Be Ware of Dog" sign and a "No Trespassing" sign in the front and rear of your home in NC. Sheriff Davis provided information and statistics on the violent crime rate which has gone down, and all other crime rates have gone up. Sheriff officers have been reactive in the past, now being proactive. Community Watch is important. Regular checks on business and citizens can request a residual check but only for two weeks. The sheriff's department was a Food Pantry. Now the Sheriff's department supports food pantry programs in cooperations with churches and other county organizations. Sheriff Davis is working diligently to improve the County's reputation when working with other agencies and it is slowly changing. Currently working well with Northampton on drug prevention. They want to have a good relationship with citizens.

John Branche – Warren County

Sheriff Branche took over the position in December. Ben Jackson Deputy Sheriff also attended. Currently have nine open Officer positions. This is an impact because residences are spread out in Warren County. Sheriff Branche talked about how he has held and worked several positions within the department. He talked about working closely with HOAs and putting parameters on rentals; having the patrols be more visual and talking with citizens and recommending having an active Neighbor Watch; See something say something. Gates into community – helps control egress. Seclusion is nice but also something thefts look for too. Protect yourself, have an active neighborhood watch in your community, have alarm systems, have external/internal cameras and motion lights. Not a lot of crime on the lake. Catalytic converter thief is down in Warren County. Drugs: Fentanyl is down but very addictive. One time use of Fentanyl can lose a life or be hooked. Have questions or concerns contact the Sheriff Department. The Department enjoys outreach programs. It gives the opportunity to be part of the community at lake events.

Captain Whittemore for RW (Bobby) Hawkins Jr – Mecklenburg County – See presentation posted on the LGA website for more information.

Captain Whittemore has been with Mecklenburg for 21 years.

Mecklenburg currently has four open Officer positions.

Captain Whittemore talked about the Drone Program. Main reason is for search and rescue. There are training and Licensing requirements and numerous safety requirements.

Captain Whittemore talked about the CSI technology available to the department. A small phone and a tablet to process crime scenes, see slides for more details. The rescue boat from the Fire Department, see slides for more detail.

He covered statistics and closed them by telling the attendees that they are the most important part of crime prevention for you and your neighbors. Be aware and observant. See something, say something - report it.

Captain Joey Lopresti for Brian K. Roberts – Brunswick County See presentation posted on the LGA website for more information.

Highlights provided by Captain Lopresti:

- Presentation of the statistics from their office including 43, 561 calls for service and 8,581 911 calls. These calls generated 639 reportable incidents and 566 IBR crimes. Of these crimes our office closure rate is 78%. There were 39 reportable crimes in the lake area (5-7 mile radius) and a 70% closure rate for these crimes. All serious felony crimes against people were Cleared by arrest with exception to a few grand larceny related cases and one burglary with no cameras/leads).
- They experienced 2 “known” fentanyl overdoses and 44 unknown/combo overdoses. They administered Narcan 7 times, most overdoses were in the form of medications, and many were at our prison that falls within our county.
- The Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office participated in multiple grant processes which allowed them to fund improvements to SRT equipment, surveillance equipment, training for their Telecommunicators and digital mapping for their public schools. They also completed the Next Generation 911 project which increases location information for callers to their dispatch center.
- CRASE (Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events) and Stop the Bleed Initiatives were implemented throughout the county placing 70 kits and 300 tourniquets throughout the county. Over 400 people have been trained to date.
- BCSO Public Safety Discovery Camp was a huge success this summer for nearly 60 children that participated in the weeklong camp.
- The Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office now oversees and handles all Animal Control/Protection Services in the county.
- Employment: They currently have 1 opening for a patrol deputy and 3 at the academy and will graduate in December.
- They completed 8,409 Nightly business checks and 28 vacation checks.
- Quickly discussed how to keep our guests and family safe by ensuring that home address can be easily known, reported, and seen from the street for emergency responders.

Questions for Speakers

What is a good alarm system. Vary depending on if you have good internet. Have good cameras and a monitoring system that calls the police.

Attendee suggested to have a fine for false alarms after two to three false alarms. Counties are concerned that residents will turn off their alarms if a fine is assessed. Be sure to contact your alarm system company to have the correct setting on your alarm system.

Attend asked if the five county Sheriff departments collaborate regularly Working together. Response: The five counties do not get together on a regular basis currently. They do have contact with each other but not a formal meeting. The laws are different by States which makes a difference. They will consider it.

Jeff thanked the Speakers for their time and valuable information provided.

Adjourn

Meeting closed at 11:10 am