



# Bluecoats of Barnstable Newsletter

Vol. 14

Winter / Spring 2019

No. 1

## A message from the President



Thank you to all the Bluecoats of Barnstable members who attended our Annual Meeting in September at the Oyster Harbors Club, where we honored retired Chief Paul MacDonald and introduced new Chief Matthew Sonnabend.

In her tribute to Chief MacDonald, Past President Ree Hirsch commented, “Whenever the Bluecoats Board of Directors met with the Chief, his first concerns and requests were always for funding of safety equipment for the Police Officers of the Town of Barnstable. The Chief’s phenomenal support of the Bluecoats of Barnstable has enabled our organization to grow and provide the Police Department with equipment not covered by the town budget. We wish the Chief much happiness and good health in a long retirement.”

New Chief Sonnabend’s remarks follow in this newsletter where he addresses the challenging times our Police Officers face every day and the importance of the Bluecoats of Barnstable support.

David Hirsch was recognized for 15 years of service as the Treasurer. Thank you David! Past President, Stan Hodkinson was elected Treasurer and thanked for leading the Bluecoats Board for the past four years during a period of growth in membership.

The Membership approved a change in the bylaws of the organization to increase the maximum number of members to 325. Currently our membership stands at 306. We encourage you to nominate for membership those who would support our mission.

We introduced our first two Lifetime Members who challenged others to join them in building a restricted reserve account for when the need is greatest. I am pleased to announce that since our annual meeting, three more members accepted that challenge and joined the ranks of Lifetime Members. Thank you!



During 2019 we look forward to building our membership and continuing to work with Chief Sonnabend to meet the needs of our Police Officers and their families. Thank you for being a Bluecoat of Barnstable.



With Gratitude,  
Sharon Hawkins

# Remarks from the Chief

## *Bluecoats 14th Annual Meeting*



Friends,

It was an honor to be with you and represent the Barnstable Police Department at the 14th annual Bluecoats of Barnstable dinner. As always, it was a spectacular evening filled with good conversation and enthusiastic support for what my brothers and sisters do on a daily basis. It is wonderful to see and experience; however, it was also an evening tempered by the significant events of the past year.

It was a year that saw a major change within the Police Department as we said goodbye to Chief Paul MacDonald after 37 years of devoted service to our community and the men and women of the Barnstable Police Department. Chief MacDonald began many significant initiatives for both the Department and our community during his 11 years as Chief. Those initiatives will not only continue to grow and thrive, but they have laid the groundwork for others to follow. We thank him for his service and guidance.

The Bluecoats also witnessed change. Sharon Hawkins became President, while Stan Hodgkinson assumed the mantle of Treasurer from the long serving hands of David Hirsch. I congratulate each of you on your new positions and look forward to continuing to work with you, the members of the Board, and all of the Bluecoats in the future.

Unfortunately, this year was not without tragedy.

We were all knocked down and shocked by the murder of Yarmouth Police Sergeant Sean Gannon on Thursday, April 12th. Sergeant Gannon was shot to death while serving an arrest warrant here in our own town. It was a blow that none of us in either police department expected, or will ever forget. But, while we were seemingly at our lowest and in a very dark place, our communities supported us and lifted us up.

Foremost among the supporters was the Bluecoats of Barnstable. Without question, nor hesitation, you came forward. You stepped to the front and said, "Lean on us". You provided key support to the family of Sergeant Gannon, quietly and without fanfare. I tell you that your generosity and thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed. That one action spoke volumes of your character and what the Bluecoats of Barnstable is really about. Thank you.

But, that was not to be the end, or an isolated incident. Just as we thought that the storm had been endured and weathered, another officer was slain. The violent murder of Weymouth Police Sergeant Michael Chesna took place 3 months later on Sunday, July 15th. Sergeant Chesna was attacked and killed that morning while serving his community and responding to a call of a suspicious person.

Just 12 days later, before anyone had a chance to catch a breath, the shooting of two Falmouth Police Officers on Friday, July 27th sent us reeling again. Officers Ryan Moore and Donald Demiranda were also responding to a call of a suspicious person when the attack occurred. Thankfully, the officers were able to overcome their attacker and ultimately survived their wounds. What could have been a very dark day had been avoided.

Unfortunately, this was not to be the last incident for the summer. On August 27th, a gunman shot at and attempted to murder two Attleboro Police Officers as they responded to a report of a man with a gun at a church. Miraculously, the officers were not injured and were able to subdue their attacker before he could harm anyone.

To stand before you and speak for the first time after such a difficult and emotional year was a particularly humbling and poignant experience. I had thoughts of sadness for those that were lost and the unimaginable pain their families must be in. I had memories of having to explain these things to my children, to see the fear and concern on their faces. I also had anger. I was angry that this could happen here, to any one of us.

Additionally, I felt supported as I reflected upon the work that you have tirelessly performed over the years. Yes, the Bluecoats of Barnstable has given in excess of \$327,000 to the Barnstable Police Department since being incorporated in 2005. Yes, the Bluecoats of Barnstable has given the Barnstable Police Department gifts such as a drone, 115 hazardous material suits, ballistic vests, night vision goggles, 10 hand-held radios, life insurance for each officer, and other valuable tools to improve the safety and welfare of the officers.

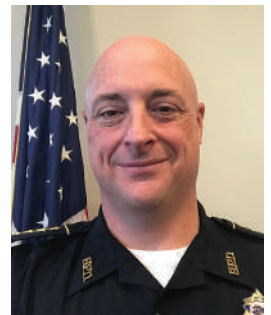
The Bluecoats was formed 14 years ago by a group of driven and dedicated individuals with the simple mission of unconditionally supporting the Barnstable Police Department. Until this year many, including myself thought that meant providing gifts and tangible items; however, I was wrong.

As I stood before you and saw the assembled membership, I reflected back to that terrible April day and realized what the true mission of the Bluecoats is. With a simple and unassuming phone call you stepped forth and fulfilled it. Hopefully that day will never be repeated here in this community, but if it should be, there can be no doubt that the members of the Barnstable Police Department and their families will be unconditionally supported by the Bluecoats of Barnstable.

For that, we all thank you.

**Matthew Sonnabend, Chief**

Barnstable Police Department



Chief  
Matthew Sonnabend

## Donations to Barnstable Police Department Since 2005 Incorporation

\$12,000	Assistance to complete the "in-station" FITNESS CENTER
\$10,000	Ten TASERS so every officer who qualifies can carry their own TASER.
\$5,000	SHOTGUN RACKS for keeping the shotguns inside the cruisers
\$8,000	BALLISTIC VESTS
\$16,400	Five state-of-the-art HAND-HELD RADIOS, and thirteen BALLISTIC HELMETS for the SWAT team
\$8,400	Two pair of NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES.
\$27,000	Towards the lease on the new HYANIS POLICE STATION, Main Street
\$9,100	ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION KIT
\$1,400	Two wireless, hand-held RADAR SPEED GUNS.
\$10,000	Continuing Education
\$15,000	SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
\$2,000	AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER CAMERA
\$8,000	Two MOBILE-DATA TERMINALS for cruisers
\$25,000	Purchase of new Harley Davidson MOTORCYCLE
\$12,500	Expiring ballistic vests for officers
\$5,200	One hundred fifteen (115) Hazmat suits
\$23,467	Five AED's and 8 iPads with cases and 1 year service contract
\$7,500	Three Mountain Bikes
\$20,000	Two SWAT Team ballistic vests and two Helmets; + six hand-held Radios
\$18,500	Drone and infrared camera
\$24,500	Ten additional hand-held radios
\$10,300	For new Dog and permanent kennel for the K-9 Unit
\$10,000	\$10,000 New tables and chairs for Headquarters Training Room
\$52,953	For Helmets, Vests, Equipment and Trauma Kits
\$41,500	To date for a \$100,000 insurance policy covering every sworn officer killed or disabled in the line of duty.
<b>\$383,720</b>	<b>Total to date</b>

# 2018 Annual Dinner

## Stan Hodkinson & Chief Matthew Sonnabend Introduce New Regular Members



**Paul Pinard**



**Roy S Chase Jr**



**Leonard A McCue IV**



**Katherine A Grant**



**Robert S & Dawn M Sprague**



**Peter Scarafile & Judy Walden Scarafile**



**Jonathan W Gilmore**



**Brook T Conley**



**Michelle & Paul MacDonald**

**New Regular Members Unable to Attend – Carol Gwozdz, Mario Boiardi & Robert Platt**

## Stan Hodkinson & Chief Matthew Sonnabend Introduce New Founding Members



**Michael Crissan**  
(Regular Member)  
**Michaela Herlihy**  
(Founding Member)



**Jennifer Curley**



**Allen J Donaruma**

**New Founding Members  
Unable to Attend**

**Ron Gwozdz  
Deborah Boiardi**

**Martina Madonna  
Robert Madonna**

**Leo Gildea**

# 2018 Annual Dinner

## September 5, 2018 Annual Dinner Candid Pictures from Oyster Harbors Club



Brett Ford & Mark Curley



Judy & Peter Scarafile



Sue Kittredge – Wayne Kurker



Leo Fein – Betty Penn – Dan Cronin



Elizabeth Wurfbain – Peter Martino  
Jessica Sylver



Peter & Jeannie Meyer  
and Chief Sonnabend



Jennifer Sonnabend & Chief Sonnabend  
with Michelle & Paul MacDonald



Presentation of Plaque to  
David Hirsch with President Hawkins



Jennifer Conley – Katharine Grant  
Courtney Germani

### Lifetime Members Announced

THANK YOU

to Mr. & Mrs. Frederick P. Floyd Jr. and Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Page on becoming Bluecoats of Barnstable's first Lifetime Members.



New Lifetime Members Fred & Marcia Floyd and Chris & Carol Page

This year the Board of Directors established this new classification of Membership to create a Restricted Reserve account to be used solely for the support of families of fallen or severely disabled Barnstable Police Officers whose injuries or death occur in the line of duty. These funds would be utilized to help the family struggling to meet expenses such as mortgage payments, car payments, tuition and medical premiums.

A Lifetime Member makes a one-time donation of \$25,000.00 or a pledge of \$5,000.00 a year for five years.

Since the annual meeting, the following members have joined the ranks of Lifetime Members: Rodney & Jan Corson, Carrington & Linda Clark, Jeff Bilezikian and Wayne P Kurker.

**Thank you to all for this tremendous outpouring of support for our Barnstable Police Officers and their families. Please consider becoming a Lifetime Member to help us build the Restricted Reserve Account that will be there when the need is greatest.**

# 2018 Annual Dinner

## September 5, 2018 Annual Dinner Candid Pictures from Oyster Harbors Club



Presentation of Gift to Retired Chief MacDonald



Lifetime Member Chris Page



Chief Sonnabend



Jack Corbett, Stan Hodkinson, Chief Sonnabend, Wanessa Pizaia, Cailin White, Dennis Reddy and Jian Barcelo

# 2018 Annual Dinner

## September 5, 2018 Annual Dinner Candid Pictures from Oyster Harbors Club



New Founding Memebers



New Regular Memebers



Dawn and Robert Sprague



Sharon and Carl Riedell with Allen Donaruma



Lifetime Member Fred Floyd



Director Ree Hirsch



David Hirsch



Linda Tetreault – Mark Cohen – Chief Sonnabend



The MacDonald Family

# 2018 Annual Dinner



President Sharon Hawkins & Past President Stan Hodkinson with Officers Wanessa Pizaia, Cailin White, Jack Corbett, Jian Barcelo & Dennis Reddy



Cliff Carroll / Sam Baxter / Warren Ryder  
Shedlon Stewart / Chris Page

## Meet Our Newest Members

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members, all of whom have joined since the Annual Meeting. We thank both the new members and their sponsors for making Bluecoats of Barnstable a stronger and more supportive organization of the Barnstable Police Department.

### New Founding Members

**Dorothy A. Savarese**

sponsored by Stan Hodkinson

### New Regular Members

**Mario H. Boiardi**

sponsored by Chris Page

**Gary Tratt**

sponsored by Bob Jones

**Ellen Tratt**

sponsored by Bob Jones

**Christine Leduc**

sponsored by Stan Hodkinson

**Jane A. Driscoll**

sponsored by Ellie Mayfield

**John Stackhouse**

sponsored by Judy Scarafile

**Linda Stackhouse**

sponsored by Judy Scarafile

**Steven X. Xiarhos**

sponsored by Matt Levesque

**Thomas J. Goodfellow**

sponsored by Roy Chase

**Michael F. Kayajan**

sponsored by Mark Germani

### New Lifetime Members

**Jeff Bilezikian**  
**Carrington Clark**  
**Linda Clark**

**Rodney Corson**  
**Jan Corson**  
**Wayne P. Kurker**

**Save the Date  
for Next Years  
Annual Dinner**

**September 11, 2019**



OYSTER HARBORS CLUB

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