



BLUECOATS OF BARNSTABLE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2023

AS WE PASS THE MIDWAY POINT OF MY FIRST YEAR AS YOUR PRESIDENT,

I find Bluecoats of Barnstable to continue to be a well-respected, healthy organization. Our membership continues to grow conservatively, making our mission of supporting the Barnstable Police Department possible both in supporting our officers and their families and in supplying much-needed equipment our Town is sometimes unable to afford. Through the generosity of our Lifetime Members, our Endowment Fund continues to grow even in these trying economic times. As you have all heard many times before, your support directly impacts the spouses and offspring of an injured or deceased member of our Barnstable Police Department. As our endowment fund grows, and our list of Lifetime Members increases, we will become an even larger benefactor to those most in need.

As a member of Bluecoats you ask, "What can I do?" The answer, though not new, remains the same now as throughout our 18-year history; identify potential new members. Membership is our most important asset. We are a dynamic organization; we have members leaving Cape Cod, stepping back from more active times, and most unfortunately, we have lost members due to death. All of us surviving original members are now 18 years older than when our five original incorporators conceived the idea of private citizens banding together to help our amazing Barnstable Police Department. Of the original five, we are extremely fortunate that three of us remain active. However, experience has taught us that if we become



**DAVID HIRSCH
PRESIDENT**

stagnant, our organization will cease to exist. As your president, I challenge everyone of you, our incredible members, to identify a new prospective member by calling or emailing anyone on the Bluecoats Board of Directors or Membership Committee, to submit the name of a friend or relative, neighbor or coworker you would be proud to

call their sponsor. Once the prospect is vetted, we will help you sign up the new member. If you are not comfortable in approaching the prospect after the board approves the nominee, someone from the Board or Membership Committee will do the work. You will still be the new member's sponsor. Put your board and committee to work and call me at 508-775-2034 or our membership chairman, Cliff Carroll, at 508-685-4567. You all support Bluecoats of Barnstable with your dues; now support us with your help in identifying new members and keeping us strong for the next generation of Barnstable.

I thank you all in advance and remind you once again that our Annual Dinner Meeting will be September 13th at the beautiful Oyster Harbors Club. Within the next few pages learn about the amazing program that will be presented by two of our Barnstable Police Detectives.

Have a great summer,

David Hirsch

David Hirsch
President

Letter From the Chief

DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope you had a wonderful winter and a fantastic holiday season. Here we are once again in early spring, and preparations are well under way for what is sure to be another amazing summer on Cape Cod. It seems that the seasons go faster each year and, before too long, we will all be gathered once again for another wonderful evening of fellowship and support at the Oyster Harbors Club for the Annual Dinner.

This winter has been an especially busy one for the members of the Barnstable Police Department. We continue to adapt to the newness of the Police Reform Law and the ever-increasing influence of the Police Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) on everything we do as a professional organization. From the moment a candidate applies to become a Barnstable Police Officer, to the day that they depart for a well-earned retirement after years of devoted public service, POST will be an integral part of their career.

Along with POST have come several new changes in the amount of required training that each officer must receive annually. Additional firearms training, qualifications, taser recertifications, standards for School Resource Officer training and certification procedures, along with additional department training hours have all been added since we last spoke in September. While these additional training hours will no doubt help to increase the professionalism and knowledge of every officer across the Commonwealth, they do present some challenges administratively and to the budget.

I have no doubt that the men and women of the Barnstable Police Department will rise to the challenges presented by POST or any other issue we may face. Our Officers are truly dedicated professionals that come in to work each day and provide an exceptional level of service to their community with pride and honor. We are fortunate to have such men and women step forward to accept the challenges of a career in police work to make their community safe and help to maintain a quality of life that is desired by all who live, work and vacation in our beautiful corner of the Cape. Especially in this day and age.



MATTHEW SONNABEND
CHIEF OF POLICE

That leads me to the greatest challenge we are facing in a long time. A challenge not only for our department, but for our community as a whole: finding qualified people who want to join our ranks and represent the community. Recruitment numbers for our profession as a whole have seen a sharp decline since COVID, and we are having a hard time keeping pace with the number of vacancies that are occurring. While this is true of many professions, it is particularly hard on ours.

We do not work in a career field where we can refer people somewhere else, close the doors, or send calls to voicemail because not enough staff are available. We cannot elect to skip training for our officers because then they will fall short of mandatory requirements for their certifications. Our community deserves well-trained men and women to respond to their emergencies. We are always here and always will be.

A staffing shortage increases the workload of each and every officer. With fewer people to back-fill shifts, or answer calls, everyone else has to pick up more. More shifts, more calls, more reports, and less time off, particularly as we enter the busy summer season.

I would ask, especially this summer, that if you see one of your officers out there working to serve our community, take a moment and let them know what they do matters. Remind them, as so many of you already do, that there are still members of the community that appreciate what they do. It goes a long way and they deserve it.

In closing, I want to thank you personally for your friendship and unwavering support of the Barnstable Police Department since 2005. No matter the day, or the hour, you stand ready to fulfill your oaths as Bluecoats of Barnstable and provide the support our officers deserve. Your dedication and devotion to our officers is awesome.

Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!

Matthew Sonnabend

Matthew Sonnabend
Chief of Police

Department Spotlight

CYBER SECURITY AND FRAUD “GRANDMA HELP I’M IN JAIL!”

The Barnstable Police Department Cyber Security and Fraud task force focuses on prevention, detection, and mitigation of complex cyber-enabled financial crimes ultimately arresting and convicting the most harmful perpetrators. Our Barnstable Police Department Officers have received training from some of the most experienced experts in the field of cyber-crime investigations and digital forensics in the country. This team of officers is a crucial addition in serving the community in the ongoing battle against cyber predators and perpetrators.



DETECTIVE STEVEN BARRETTE

is a 19-year veteran of the Barnstable Police Department. He is currently assigned to the Investigative Services Division and has been sworn in with the United States Secret Service as a Task Force Officer on the New England Cyber Fraud Task Force. Over the course of his career Detective Barrette has spearheaded numerous investigations that have led to the retrieval of hundreds of thousands of dollars for victims in Barnstable as well as throughout the United States. Detective Barrette is a founding member of the Barnstable Police Department’s Digital Forensics and Investigations Unit as well as the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office Digital Evidence Consortium.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT KEVIN CONNOLLY

is a 25-year veteran of the Barnstable Police Department. He is currently assigned as the supervisor of the Digital Evidence and Investigations Unit in the Investigative Services Division. He has also been sworn in with the United States Secret Service as a Task Force Officer on the New England Cyber Fraud Task Force. Over the course of his career Detective Sergeant Connolly has led investigations involving digital evidence that has led to the prosecution and conviction of numerous child exploitation predators. He has also been involved with several Title III wiretaps that targeted and dismantled large drug trafficking organizations on Cape Cod. Detective Sergeant Connolly is a founding member of the Barnstable Police Department’s Digital Forensics and Investigations Unit as well as the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office Digital Evidence Consortium.

SAVE THE DATE



OYSTER HARBORS CLUB

Annual Meeting
September 13, 2023

AT THE
OYSTER HARBORS CLUB



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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

REGULAR:
\$200 Per Year
(\$100 Additional for Spouse)

FOUNDING:
\$1,000 Initial Year
\$200 Subsequent Years

LIFETIME:
\$25,000 One-Time Payment or
\$5,000 Five Annual Installments

Sponsor a new member today by contacting any member of the Board of Directors or sending an e-mail to Bluecoats@comcast.net.



19
LIFETIME

91
FOUNDING

200
REGULAR

\$455,919

Bluecoats donations to the Barnstable Police since 2005. Thank you, Bluecoats members, for your continued support of our mission.



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