



Biloxi Lions Club

Lions Roar



Founded February 18, 1924

<http://biloxilionsclub.org>
www.facebook.com/BiloxiLions

April 13, 2022

District 30-S State Convention

The convention is the last weekend in April. At our meeting, nine people raised their hands that plan to attend. It's not too late to register. You can even come that weekend and register then.

Outstanding Citizen of the Year

We will be presenting the award for the Outstanding Citizen of the Year at our next meeting!

Mother of the Year

Our annual Mother of the Year award will be presented at our weekly meeting on 4 May.

Deaf Camp

The Deaf Camp will be the weekend after Easter. Right now, they have plenty of volunteers signed up.

Sea and Sun Camp

Sea and Sun Camp is coming soon. They are still looking for volunteers. However, there is a form to fill out if you want to volunteer. The forms have been at our tables for the meetings. If you want to volunteer and have not been able to make our meetings, please contact Greg Crapo or any club officer and we can get the form to you.

Installation Banquet for 2022-2023 Officers

We will have our Installation Banquet on 13 July at the Seafood and Maritime Museum (where we meet!). As a reminder, the banquet is an evening affair so there will NOT be a noon meeting that day.

Election of Officers

We had our election of officers for 2022-2023 today. Elected were:

President – Melinda Freeman

1st VP – Star Ransonet

2nd VP – Gerald Gardner

3rd VP – Greg Crapo (this position will convert to Communications/IT/Marketing once we change our structure to align with International)

Secretary – Joe McCormick

Treasurer – Suzette Duhe'

ROAR Editor – Penny Edwards

Tail Twister – Glenn Quave

Lion Tamer – Wayne Ross

Membership – Cindy Bamburg

1 Year Director – Jaye Brice and Leslie Johnson

2 Year Director – Margot Swetman and Jerry

Dodge

3 Year Director – Austin Knue and Miriam Mitchell

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Major Johnny Poulos, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Director, 10-34 Project, Officer Wellness & Resiliency Program.

The Mississippi Highway Patrol is introducing a new program focusing on the health and wellness of their officers.

Law enforcement agencies across the country are investing in wellness programs, including the Mississippi Highway Patrol, who in January 2022 started their own program called the 10-34 Project. Major John Poulos presented the program to

Meetings are noon every Wednesday at the Maritime and Seafood History Museum

the Jackson County Rotary Club and other law enforcement officers. “Where we are starting is peer support. We are going to bring in troopers. We are going to train them in how to provide support to fellow officers. There’s a lot that goes on in law enforcement, but we are going to dig a little deeper and when it comes to support outside of financial or training or equipment. There’s other support that officers need to have in place and that’s why this wellness and resiliency program is so important.”

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Department already has a similar program in place that focuses on keeping health insurance affordable for employees. Sheriff Mike Ezell says wellness programs in law enforcement targets several aspects of an officer’s life, including how the job impacts mental health. “Police officers, deputy sheriffs, they see more things in a week than most people will see in a lifetime. And so, we have to have some mechanisms to deal with that. We talk about things with each other now, but the highway patrol coming out with this plan, hopefully we can all come together and be better employees and be better for our communities we serve.”

For Major Poulos, he believes the 10-34 Project could be a game changer for officers of the Mississippi Highway Patrol and their families. “The support from the public goes a long way with law enforcement officers and their mentality whenever they have to respond to a domestic or traffic stop. So again, we’re taking the responsibility within the Mississippi Highway Patrol to try and provide that support.”

WXXV Fox 25, January 13, 2022, Ashleigh Fortenberry



The WXXV article above gives a good overview about the Mississippi Highway Patrol 10-34 Project that Major Poulos told us about today. He

mentioned “PTSD”. We normally hear that acronym when talking about military people. However, everyone is susceptible to PTSD, depending on their work or life experiences. Major Poulos told us that they had been working on PTSD only for the officers. Unfortunately, this can also extend to their families. He shared with us a very poignant story about him and his wife.

“Studies show that repeated exposure to traumatic events have long lasting effects on officers. But not only on them, on their families as well. Since we tend to focus on us, we tend to forget what the families go through. I got schooled pretty quick with my wife. I think I had been on the Highway Patrol about 3 years and I had a bad night. I had worked a fatality where 2 people were killed and I had to give the death notifications. Normally, I would call my wife to let her know if I would be working late; this one particular night I didn’t call her. I just had so much going on that I didn’t call. So, I get home, I go to our room and start taking off my uniform. She comes in and just stands there. She asks, “Is everything OK?” I’m tired, so I just give her a look. She says, “OK. Any reason why you didn’t call me?” I replied, “I’ll tell you why I didn’t call you. Because I had to work a fatality crash; two people were killed; I had to find their families to do the death notification; and I just didn’t have time to call you.” So, I’m thinking that’s a good enough response. Normally, she would leave, but she is still standing there. I see her still standing there with her arms crossed and I said, “What?” So she says, “Let me tell you something. Every day and every night when you leave here I will watch you walk out that door. I watch you get into your blue and gray car and you go out there with all your buddies and all of you work and know what each other is doing. I don’t! But, that’s OK because I signed up for the job just like you did. But what you forget is that when you start your shift, I start mine! And when you walk through that door and end your shift and I physically see you walk through that door is when I end my shift. You talk about these death notifications you always make; I get it.

Except did you ever think I dread the day when I might get that knock on the door? When I see all these blue and gray cars pulling up in my driveway, and it's not your car; but I know what they are there for. Have you ever thought about that!!! You just remember that, mister."

That was the first time in my life that I was speechless. When we graduate Troopers, I tell that stories to their families because I want them to understand that, "You're going to go through a lot, but don't let him/her ever disrespect you, because you will get through that!"

As always, we enjoy having Major Poulos come talk with us and we look forward to hearing from him again.

