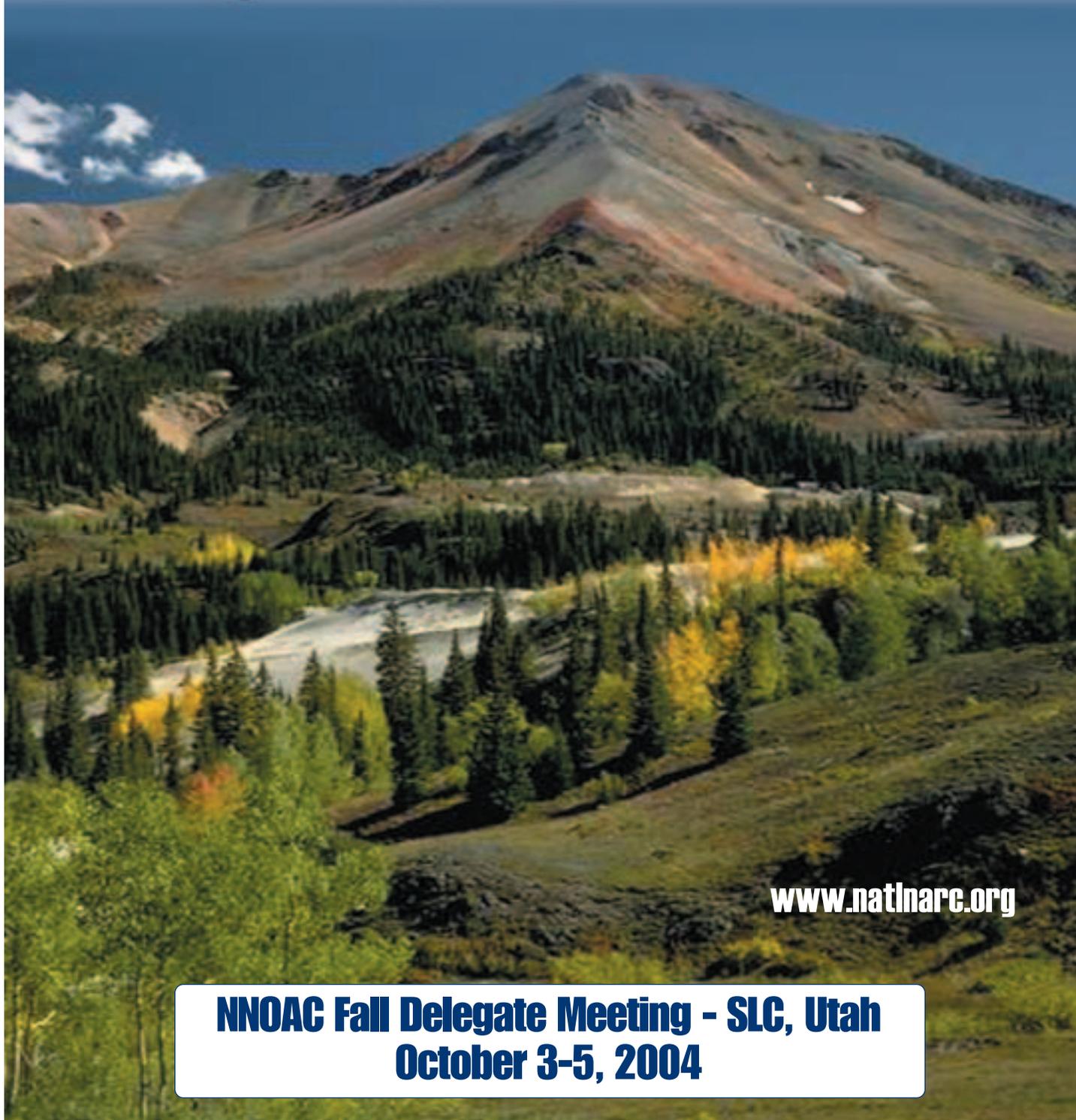




The Coalition

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**NNOAC Fall Delegate Meeting - SLC, Utah
October 3-5, 2004**

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**Join
the
fight!**

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NNOAC

You must establish a local or state narcotics officers association. The membership fees are \$500 per year for member states with over 1000 members in their association, \$300 per year for associations with 500 or more members and \$200 per year for associations with under 500 members. For more information on how to become a member or for additional information please contact one of our Executive Board Members.

Submission Guidelines

The Coalition is published twice per year. Any articles or photographs received after the deadlines will be held for the next edition. Typewritten articles should be double-spaced. **DO NOT TYPE IN ALL CAPS.** All articles must be signed to be printed. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission for clarity, brevity, etc. Photos must be captioned. Do not staple captions to, or write on photos. Submit articles to: William Butka, Phoenix Park Ste. 10, 29 North Plains Hwy., Wallingford, CT 06492. If you have any questions, call **800-946-4645**, pin# **860-820-4171** or e-mail: webutka@snet.net.

**Deadlines for
Submissions by Issue**

Issue	Deadline
Winter Edition	15 January
Fall Edition	15 August



MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



Alabama Narcotic Officers' Association
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Arkansas Narcotic Officers' Association
California Narcotic Officers' Association
Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association of Connecticut
Florida Narcotic Officers' Association
Georgia Narcotic Officers' Association
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New England Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association
New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association
New Mexico Narcotic Officers' Association
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New York Narcotic Officers' Association
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(MAGLOCLN)
Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)
New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)
Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC)
Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)
Western States Information Network (WSIN)
Tennessee Narcotic Officers' Association
Texas Narcotic Officers' Association
Utah Narcotic Officers' Association
Washington State Narcotics Investigators' Association
Wisconsin Narcotic Officers' Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ronald Brooks, President



President Ron Brooks

Focusing on a positive message

Often times when I write these President's messages, they are filled with bad news for our profession or my predictions of challenges that are facing us.

I want to focus for a moment on some of the successes that we have had. In Arkansas, the Medical Marijuana Act did not

qualify for the 2004 ballot. In Connecticut, HB5355, allowing the medical use of marijuana, failed to pass and this was the second try medical marijuana legislation in Connecticut by the legalizes. In Illinois, SB2440 and HB0486, the Medical Cannabis Act, was introduced to the Illinois House and Senate and, although these Bills would be very damaging, HB4868 was tabled with little or no support and there is very little activity on the Companion Bill in the Illinois Senate, can mission another legalization act. The petition to regulate cannabis grown in Michigan failed to qualify for the 2004 ballot. In Minneapolis, a group working to change the City Charter to allow medical marijuana, failed to qualify this year. In Nevada, the Regulation of Marijuana Amendment to allow medical marijuana, failed to qualify for the November 2004 ballot.

Each of these initiatives and efforts through a legislature were supported by George Soros and the legalizers, and were defeated thanks to the efforts of State narcotic officers' associations, local law enforcement groups, and mostly, due to the work of our allies in the drug prevention and parents organizations. In addition, Drug Free America Foundation and other organizations have filed an Amicus Brief in the Raich case, which will be heard before the United States Supreme Court. It is critical that we win this case if we are going to continue to fight the decriminalization or legalization of marijuana and other drugs at the State level.

And finally, we once again defeated the Hinchey Amendment in the United States House of Representatives, thanks to efforts made by Chairman Mark Souder and the staff at the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Drug Policy. If passed, the Hinchey Amendment would have prevented Federal law enforcement officers enforcing marijuana laws in those states which authorized medical marijuana. I am proud to say that the NNOAC led the efforts to gather reports from law enforcement organizations, which was used by Chairman Souder to help defeat this amendment.

But to despite the good news, there continues to be bad news on the horizon. Other states and communities continue to press for medical marijuana and more importantly, the Drug Legalization Movement continues to grow in funding and providence. They have prominently supported candidates in local, state, and federal elections, and have channeled money through PAC's to make sure that they have the leverage to push for the support of their agenda.

As for our work in fighting drug legalization, is far from over. Of immediate importance is the need for the NNOAC, each of our State associations, and the other law enforcement professional organizations, to ensure that adequate funding continues for state and local law enforcement.

As you know, the President's 2005 Budget Proposal eliminated the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program and consolidated state and federal law enforcement funding into justice assistance grants, with the proposed total reduction of funding at more than 63%. The reduction of funding is critical, but even more critical, is the elimination of the Byrne Grants, because I believe that even if total funding were restored without a program requiring those funds to be used for drug enforcement related efforts, many states, especially those that quote the idea of medical marijuana or other drug decriminalization or legalization acts, it earmark the federal funds they receive for programs that do not include multi-jurisdictional task forces and other drug enforcement efforts.

During this past year, I have had many meetings with key members of the Congress and their staff explaining the importance of the continuation of the Byrne funds. While many of them understand that law enforcement funding is critical, it has been a difficult education process to explain why not only is restoration of full funding important, but that funding that has been in the Byrne grant must remain in the Byrne grant to ensure that drug enforcement efforts are not lost.

NNOAC has led the fight in our congressional meetings and letter writing campaign, and I would again urge each of our State associations, and their members as individuals, to write or call the members of their State congressional delegation and explain how important the retention of funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant is, if we are to continue the successes that we have had in drug enforcement.

I know each of you have important and demanding jobs, and that your service to your State association, and to the NNOAC, is voluntary and in addition to your regularly scheduled duties. Each of us are faced with increasingly complex and busy lives, but if we do not continuously work to keep adequate resources available to fight drug trafficking and to ensure that drug legalization and decriminalization efforts fail at the State and Federal level, then all of our previous work will have been for nothing.

I would ask that you each, and in addition to writing to members of Congress, you encourage other community organizations, law enforcement associations, chiefs and sheriffs groups within your state, also carry the message to Congress that drug enforcement is still important and funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant is critical of the safety of our nation.

I want to thank all of you that commit not only your time and efforts to drug enforcement, but who work out of commitment for

Continued on page 17

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Richard Sloan, Executive Director

Mexican Murderers Still At Large

Here we are, half way through 2004 already looking forward to our October meeting in Utah, which will be sponsored by the Utah Narcotic Officers Association.

Our meeting in Washington D.C. last April was outstanding, with President Ron Brooks putting together a powerful agenda. One of the agenda items that I pursued and pushed for was to bring to the attention of our Board of Delegates the problems that we, as a country, are having with our neighbor Mexico. The seriousness of this issue was sadly and suddenly brought to my attention with the assassination of Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, David March by an undocumented illegal alien from Mexico, who had been in and out of this country several times and was wanted for possession and sales of drugs. The presentations by Deputy March's wife Teri and Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Jan Maurizi brought out the frustrations faced by law enforcement today, in regards to the extradition treaty between the United States and Mexico. Mexico will not extradite any Mexican citizen residing in Mexico who has committed a crime in the United States, that if convicted would be sentenced to life imprisonment or death. Deputy District Attorney Jan Maurizi has traveled numerous times to Washington D.C. from Los Angeles to meet with Officials and push to get the Treaty changed. Teri March went to the Police Memorial service in Washington D.C. and while at

the service met President Bush, who told her "We're going to get him!" (Referring to the person who murdered David March) The President told her this twice, "We're going to get him."

After returning from our Coalition meeting in Washington D.C. and until today, I can see that nothing is being done to attempt to change the treaty. This treaty gives carte blanche to any undocumented illegal alien to cross the border, commit a crime, murder civilians and law enforcement officers and return to Mexico with no fears of extradition.

I see now that NAFTA will allow all trucks coming into the United States from Mexico to deliver their goods anywhere in the United States. With the thousands of trucks crossing the border from Mexico, the United States can only check a small percentage of them. How many of these unchecked trucks are carrying illegal aliens, terrorists, drugs etc. We, the United States, seem to be going out of our way to appease Mexico, not allowing the INS to do round-ups of the illegals, giving them drivers licenses and free medical treatment etc. Why don't we use some of these giveaways as bargaining tools to get the extradition treaty changed and start saving lives here in the United States?

I would now like to ask President Bush "When are we going to get him!"



Executive Director
Richard M. Sloan

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Northwest Regional News

Coalition members in the Northwest Region continue to recruit and retain membership in the NNOAC. Ed Mouery from Oregon and Lee Cornell from Montana have recruited in Alaska. Even though Alaska has not yet elected to participate, we appreciate the recruiting efforts of Ed and Lee. Similar efforts to encourage membership in the states of South Dakota and Wyoming have not met with success. These efforts are ongoing.

Several Northwest Region members are working through difficult schedules and administrative channels to attend our

By Ron Nelson, Northwest Regional Director

meeting in Utah. The President of the Idaho Narcotics Officers Association, John Tull is working to have a representative at our meeting. Former Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association President, Roger Lake plans to attend with the current President, Dalan Brokaw. Steve GutKnecht of North Dakota and Lee Cornell of Montana continue to provide support from their areas and may be able to attend pending other work related priorities. The Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association continues to support the NNOAC and we look forward to seeing everyone in October.

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

Since the beginning of the drug epidemic in the 1960's, law enforcement officers in many states have formed statewide narcotic officer associations. Most of these associations are involved in providing drug enforcement training for law enforcement officers and drug resistance education to the public. Additionally most associations worked closely with their own state legislatures and criminal justice policy organizations to develop strong drug laws and policies. These associations have been responsible for enhancing the professionalism of narcotic enforcement.

Although many of the narcotic officers' associations were very successful in representing the needs of law enforcement officers within their own state, they realized that they were not especially effective in working with the Congress or Federal criminal justice policy agencies. It became apparent to the leadership of these state associations that they needed to come together as a combined group in order to effectively represent narcotic officers at our nation's capital.

During 1994, the Funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Program was removed from the Administration's budget. This funding was crucial for the continuation of many local and state drug enforcement programs. This was the catalyst for the foundation of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC). The NNOAC was created in July of 1994 in Chicago, Illinois, when the leadership of many of the nation's state narcotic officers' associations came together as part of an effort to re-establish the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund. As a direct result of the NNOAC's efforts and the efforts of many other concerned groups, funding was restored to this vital program.

The NNOAC is currently comprised of 36 individual state narcotic associations, the six RISS projects and the Territory of Puerto Rico representing more than 50,000 law enforcement officers from across the nation. It serves as an umbrella organization, coordinating the efforts of these associations in our nation's capital. Each member association appoints a delegate to represent them at the NNOAC Board meetings. With, "one association, one vote," every association receives equal representation regardless of the size of their association. The NNOAC is managed by an Executive Board, which consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director. Those positions are elected from within the ranks of the appointed delegates. The President appoints committees such as membership, drug policy and web-site.

The NNOAC represents its member associations by monitoring all relevant Federal legislation and policy. The Coalition focuses on domestic and international drug-related crime issues by developing and maintaining relationships with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) and the National Guard Counter Drug Program and all other relevant agencies and programs.

The NNOAC allows state and local narcotic officers' associations to work through their congressional delegations allowing for a unified voice in the nation's capital. The Coalition actively researches, monitors, and supports legislature initiatives designed to increase the effectiveness of narcotic enforcement and law enforcement in general.

Over the past eight years the NNOAC has been very successful in representing narcotic officers from its member associations. Our successes have included restoration of the full funding for the Edward Byrne Program in 1994, and providing support, which resulted in the passage of legislation regarding the ban of assault weapons, the Administration's Crime Bill. The NNOAC has participated in policy meetings and conferences with other law enforcement organizations and have been active participants in the preparation of ONDCP's National Drug Control Strategy, the Department of Justice's National Methamphetamine Strategy, and DEA's National Heroin Strategy.

The NNOAC has also been responsible for increasing the awareness of

the Administration and Congress regarding state and local drug enforcement issues. NNOAC delegates have testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on a variety of drug issues, including, the Byrne hearings, asset forfeiture, minimum mandatory sentencing, medical marijuana, funding for the National Guard, and the Certification of Mexico. NNOAC delegates have also participated as briefing team members for congressional study trips. In addition, a member of NNOAC was part of the President's Law Enforcement Steering Committee, which consists of National law enforcement groups. This committee is responsible for advising the President on key law enforcement issues. NNOAC serves on the ONDCP committee to develop the National Drug Control Strategy, on the Advisory Committee for the Counter-Drug Intelligence Executive Secretariat for the implementation of the Central Counter-Drug plan. NNOAC also serves on the Law Enforcement Intelligence Forum (LEIF) which advises the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance on Regulations regarding the collection and distribution of criminal intelligence information and serves on the committee for National Model Drug Laws.

As the NNOAC continues to grow, so will its participation in the legislative and policy areas. To learn more about the NNOAC and our positions regarding Federal drug policy and legislation, please visit our web site at www.natlnarc.org.



Below is a list of NNOAC's goals and objectives:

- To ensure that the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund is fully funded in order to maintain the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, which are the backbone of narcotics law enforcement.
 - To maintain, increase, and intensify drug asset revenue sharing – the most important tool that narcotic law enforcement has today.
 - To assist in the preparation of the National Drug Strategy.
 - To place more emphasis on the domestic side of the drug strategy by increasing state and local level involvement on the direction taken in the fight against drugs.
- To increase unification, networking, and act as a liaison for the exchange of information.
- To have an impact on legislation affecting narcotic officers and narcotic enforcement in the United States.
 - To act as a conduit for the exchange of information, intelligence, and training guidelines affecting narcotic enforcement.
 - To identify and refer members to quality training for narcotic law enforcement officers to ensure their safety and effectiveness.
 - To act as a resource for states that want to establish a narcotic officers association.

HOMEcomings

By Michael Talbot

Our anticipation was high. We had been planning this trip back to my family farm to continue the remodeling of the home where I had spent most of my childhood. Having loaded the U-haul truck, my wife and I were now anxious to get the 1,250-odd mile trip to Iowa under our belts.

My property manager Ed, an all-round 'Mr. Fixit,' had been renovating the kitchen and bathroom in our absence. Having chosen the kitchen cabinets and bathroom fixtures on a speedy trip back seven months prior, we were excited to see everything installed. Therefore, it was a surprise to find the work that we'd thought was completed was still being done. Tired after our three-day drive, we didn't question why. The next day we discovered the answer.

My wife was clearing the top of the clothes dryer removing drop cloths and rags when she found a strange object shaped like a boat. Indeed, we would find out that it was the appropriate name for a piece of aluminum foil carefully folded to hold a substance we later found to be Methamphetamine. Because of who I am and what I do for the police force, finding this in my home was a shock.

I was an actor for five years on the TV series "Miami Vice" through which I made close ties to law enforcement. This has led to my raising money for fallen officers' families, being an advocate of the D.A.R.E program, and, in the past few years, being a member of The Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association.

Hurt and angry upon finding that drugs were being used in my home, I confronted Ed, who immediately put the blame upon someone else who had been helping him with the work. Because, I had trusted Ed for the last three years, I gave him the benefit of the doubt and stressed that we should continue on with the renovations.

An alarm bell sounded in my mind when Ed arrived the following morning and began removing a number of items from the small outbuilding he had used for storage.

I called the Sheriff's office for advice and was informed that the farm and Ed had been under surveillance for the past year.

Methamphetamine has become an epidemic in Iowa due to the easy access of the fertilizer called anhydrous ammonia, which is a key ingredient in its manufacture. The most common chemicals used to start the meth making process are over the counter cold and asthma medications. Typical brands include Sudafed, Revive and Mini-thins, which contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as decongestants or stimulants.

I suggested that the Sheriff's Department come and search the property; they went through the house and all of the buildings in search of propane tanks, plastic tubing, camp stove fuel, empty pill bottles, ephedrine or pseudoephedrine tablets, anhydrous ammonia, ether, coffee filters with red stains, funnels and batteries.

During these first few weeks we had a number of telephone calls looking for Ed and numerous vehicles driving in and out of the farmyard at all hours. This added to the assumption that he had been manufacturing and selling meth on my property, but had moved his operation elsewhere.

We were awakened around one fifteen A. M. on a Sunday morning by a Deputy Sheriff, who informed us that Ed had been found cooking meth on another property but had fled with most of the evidence before the police had arrived. We were warned he could be heading our way. Knowing that Ed still had keys to the outbuildings, I grabbed my 9mm from the nightstand and went to the window.

From this point on our lives became a living hell. We stayed up all night with no sign of Ed. In the early hours of Monday morning a search warrant was issued on Ed's home and van. A Hazmat team was called in because the van held such noxious fumes that it was dangerous to human health.

During all of this chaos we were losing valuable time on the renovations we'd planned, and Ed would obviously not be returning to finish the job.

We were now four weeks into this trip and we hadn't completed one room. Stress began to build in both of us turning the simplest things into chores. My wife and I argued over everything.

We still had six doors and one window to trim, baseboard to install once the wainscoting was finished; a bathroom wall consisting of sheetrock



Michael Talbot

Continued on next page

Homecoming, cont.

only, an entire shower stall to tile, five rooms to paint not to mention a number of other jobs that had been discussed.

Five days later, Ed called us to say he was checking himself into Rehab. This is when we learned about the HIPAA law, the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Privacy Rule. A hospital providing rehabilitation facility to addicts cannot divulge to the police or others, including family members an addict's admission, whereabouts or impending release without the patient's authorization. This law was introduced to protect an individual's privacy while in hospital but, at the same time it protects the 'dealer' who knowingly takes this opportunity to admit himself in order to evade the authorities regardless if an arrest warrant has been issued.

From rehab, Ed kept close contact with the local police department, even sending a detective to the farm to make sure I hadn't disposed of his tools and other property. Who was in the wrong here?

After only four days of "drying out" Ed was soon "high" again, this time with a new appearance, clean shaven and darkened hair.

I had never before had a reason to call 911. During these past few weeks, I had called 911 five times. One of those occasions was late one evening when I was outside barbecuing; a dark-colored van pulled into the yard, slowly turned around, and then pulled out again, heading north. I had a gut feeling that Ed was inside.

Finally, six weeks after our arrival Ed was arrested; he would be going before a judge the following morning. You could almost see the weight being lifted from our shoulders. Now, maybe we could get a good night's sleep.

Ed was charged with manufacturing a controlled substance, a class B felony. His bond was set at \$32,500, which no one expected him to be able to raise. But within one hour, he went before a judge who lowered the (Bond?) charges and Ed was able to post the \$1,000. The last thing I wanted was to see Ed again. He had broken my heart.

That same day he returned to the farm. A Deputy Sheriff had warned us that Ed was on his way to pick up his belongings with the help of several of friends. We were offered a Deputy to stand by to witness the removal, as it was getting dark. Three hours later they were done for the night, though Ed had to return a number of times that week to remove the rest of his junk.

The most frustrating aspect of the past two months was that it appeared that Ed had more rights than I did, and I hadn't done anything wrong.

The positive side of this whole mess is that I'm on a crusade to educate the people of my town about methamphetamine and the destruction it can cause. Ed's drug use has affected not only his life but also at least thirty-five members of his family and friends, besides us.

According to the National Drug Intelligence Center, the level of methamphetamine use in the United States appears to be rising among adults. The primary market areas for methamphetamine (which is also known as crank, meth, speed, beanies, chicken feed, and redneck cocaine) are Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, and the central states (Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas.) Nationwide, 31% of state and local law enforcement agencies identify methamphetamine as their principal drug threat.

DEA, HIDTA, and Pulse Check report that availability is low but slowly and steadily increasing in the mid-Atlantic, New England, and New York/ New Jersey regions, particularly in Manchester (NH), Newark, New York, Portland (ME), and Washington, D.C.

I am hoping that by relating my experience to you, I have helped New England become more aware of this epidemic that is due to arrive, if it hasn't already. As of this writing Ed has not yet gone to trial. He is innocent until proven guilty.

By the way, the bathroom was finished on the last day of our trip.

Michael has been in over fifty films and television shows most notably portraying Detective Stanley Switek in the 'Miami Vice' TV series and Detective Eddie Dirkson, Brian Dennehy's partner in five 'Jack Reed' movies.

Other credits include 'First Blood', 'Manhunter', 'Racing With The Moon', 'Any Which Way You Can', 'Mommie Dearest', 'Used Cars' and 'Carrie' to name a few.

On screen or off screen Michael supports Law Enforcement. He is a member of the Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association of Connecticut and the New England Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

He has been a guest speaker at the O.C.D.E.T.F South East Region conference held in Hilton Head, S.C. and the O.C.D.E.T.F Pacific Region conference in Coeud'Alene, Idaho.

Last year he attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Connecticut State Police.

The Coalition

NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



Gary Armstrong - California, Cathy Dalin, Linda Oak, Eugene Rudolph and Gary Preeo - California.



Indiana Delegation.



The Idaho Narcotics Officers Association



Tennessee Delegation at Speaker of the House reception.



NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



Eugene Rudolph, Madeleine Z. Bordallo-D-Guam and Richard Sloan.



New Jersey Delegation.



Representative Cunningham and Ron Brooks.



Cathy Colling and Ron Brooks at the Congressional reception.



Richard Sloan and Christy McCampbell

The Coalition

NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



Richard Sloan and his two daughters. Linda Oak, left and Cathy Dahlin, right.



Presentation of the NNOAC Lifetime Achievement Award to Speaker of the House, J. Dennis Hastert by President Ron Brooks.



Doc, Michael Rinaldi, Congressman Simmons CT (R) and Bill Butka, Coalition newsletter editor.



Col. Joseph James and Speaker Hastert.



Chief of Staff Herb Giobbi and Michael Rinaldi CT NEOA.

NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and President Ron Brooks.



Coalition Recording Secretary Al Ketcher, NJNEOA.



Jim Milford receiving his award from President Ron Brooks.



Tim Lane - Tennessee and Craig Durbin - Oregon.

The Coalition

NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



North Carolina Delegation at Congressional Welcoming Reception for members of Congress and their staff.



Kathy Collings, Doc and Bob Ashenfilter -IN, resting in the Congressional cafeteria.



The Coalition

NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



Craig Durbin, Ron Nelson and Elizabeth Lawrence - Oregon Delegation.

Mr. James Mavromatis, Special Agent in Charge, El Paso Intelligence Center, Drug Enforcement Administration.



The honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Member, United States House of Representatives (R, CA-50th).



Scotty Parker, Phil Little and Tim McLawhorn from the North Carolina Delegation.



Teri March presenting to delegates. Teri's husband David was murdered by a Mexican National in the line of duty.



NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



The honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Member, United States House of Representatives (R, CA-50th) and Ron Brooks.



Phil Little, Col. Joseph, Joey Kimble and Shane Dougherty - TN.



Teri March and friend.



Janice Maurizi, Eugene Rudolph, Cathy Dahlin and Linda Oak.



Eugene Rudolph and Richard Sloan.



Tim Alexander - NJ and Robert Almonte-TX.

NNOAC SPRING DELEGATE MEETING - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2004



RISS Delegation.



Gary Armstrong, CNOA President Mike Kennedy (left) and Janice L. Maurizi, Esq.



Dan Greathouse, Don Kennedy - NESPIN and Mike Rianldi CT.



Tim Lane - TN, Craig Durbin, Ron Nelson and Elizabeth Lawrence - Oregon Delegation.



Arizona Delegation.

PRESIDENT SIGNS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' SAFETY ACT INTO LAW

By Jason Baker

Last month, during a well-attended White House ceremony, President Bush signed H.R. 218, the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act, into law. The Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act was sponsored by Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) with overwhelming, bi-partisan support in both houses of Congress. H.R. 218 will give off-duty and retired police officers the right to carry their firearms throughout the nation to help prevent crime in our communities and protect themselves from criminals. As seen by the overwhelming support H.R. 218 enjoyed, it only makes sense that in this day and age, members of law enforcement should continue to have the tool of their trade available at all times in order to continue to serve and protect, even while off-duty. H.R. 218

was one of the top priorities for law enforcement organizations across the nation during the 108th Congress.

In addition to the endorsement by the NNOAC, H.R. 218 is endorsed by over 80 law enforcement organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, the National Troopers Coalition, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ronald Brooks, President
Continued

your community and your profession to support your State narcotic officers' associations and the NNOAC, because without your efforts, we would be facing even more difficult challenges than we are today.

I want to end by reminding you of the importance for us all to participate in the coalition, for people to take the time, and for associations to allocate the funding in other resources to ensure that each member association is represented in our upcoming October 4th and 5th meeting in Utah. I would also urge you to work closely with your regional directors to help States that have not formed narcotic officers' associations form, and to bring those states which have narcotic officers' associations that are not members of the NNOAC, to one of our meetings in an effort to have them join.

I want to thank Dick Sloan, who works tirelessly, and without salary or other benefits, to run the business office of the coalition, and without his efforts, there would be no coalition.

I want to also thank the members of the Executive Board and the Regional Directors who have worked so hard to help this coalition grow and make it the professional organization that it is.

In closing, I want to remind each of you that the NNOAC is not an association or an organization, but a coalition that allows each our State associations to retain their economy, but to have a consolidated and consistent voice on those national issues that effect resources and policies that govern drug enforcement. I look forward to seeing many of you in Utah and to working with you on other critical issues.

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National Meth Policy Conference in October

By Amy Powell, Deputy Director of the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws

The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) is pleased to present the **National Methamphetamine Legislative and Policy Conference, October 25-27, 2004 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota**. There is no registration fee for this event, which is funded by a grant awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Award #2000-DD-BX-0027, in partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

As more states address the challenge of methamphetamine (meth) labs, NAMSDL has received numerous questions from state-level law enforcement, health, and policy officials. These questions include:

- Are there agreed-upon medical protocols to use with children found at meth lab sites?
- Are restrictions on the sale of over-the-counter drugs effective in reducing the diversion of precursor chemicals?
- Are there statutory standards for the clean-up of meth lab sites?
- Is there effective treatment for meth addiction? If so, what impact does that have on placement decisions for the children of meth-addicted parents?
- How are state statutes protecting these children? Are states using child abuse and/or neglect laws? If not, what statutes are being applied?
- Are states passing restrictions on how over-the-counter drugs containing pseudoephedrine are displayed for sale?
- Are contractors who are paid to clean up meth lab sites licensed or otherwise regulated?
- Do home buyers receive notice that properties for sale were former meth lab sites?

NAMSDL has organized the Methamphetamine Conference with the goal of presenting state officials with policy and legislative options that can foster effective, comprehensive, and coordinated responses to these issues. Participants will hear overviews of existing relevant state statutes and presentations on the practical application of selected state laws and results these laws have generated. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive state-specific assistance from national and state experts. Additionally, recommendations from two national working groups will be presented at the conference to inform state and local planning and implementation of medical protocols for children exposed to methamphetamine production, and clean-up standards for meth lab sites.

Over three hundred participants from dozens of states are expected to attend, including elected officials, law enforcement officials, state agency administrators, addiction treatment professionals, environmental specialists, physicians, child protective services staff, attorneys, public health officials, and others working in their states and communities on meth-related issues.

To request registration materials, please contact Melania Hardy, NAMSDL's Administrative Coordinator, at melaniahardy@natlalliance.org or at 703-836-6100, x12. To learn more about NAMSDL, please visit our website at www.natlalliance.org.

The Capitol Report

Funding Threatened, NNOAC Must Be Heard

Congress will return for an intense pre-election fall session after Labor Day and will face tough choices on issues that directly affect state and local narcotic officers. Chief among those issues is state and local law enforcement funding assistance, and members of the NNOAC will have a chance to make their voices heard.

Funding for law enforcement assistance next year, particularly the Byrne Memorial grant program, has been threatened again. The President's FY 2005 budget request urged Congress to eliminate the Byrne program as we know it and create a new program in its place that would be funded at a much lower level.

Fortunately for task forces focused on the illegal drug threat, it appears that overall funding levels will not be slashed by the amount requested in the President's budget. Concerns remain, however, about the consolidation of law enforcement assistance programs, including Byrne, into one new streamlined program. What might this mean for drug enforcement at the state and local levels?

First, overall funding available will decrease. The House of Representatives has proposed to consolidate the Byrne and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant programs into a new program called the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program. The House Appropriations Committee proposes to fund this program at \$634 million, which is more than \$83 million less than this year's combined funding for Byrne and LLEBG, but \$125 million more than the President's budget request.

Second, the new program will leave state government with more discretion over the use of funds – uses that are not related to drug enforcement. The House Appropriations Committee has not retained the specific emphasis on drug enforcement in determining how the funding may be used. It authorizes funds instead for “law enforcement programs” in general. While we do not know specific program guidelines that would be developed by the Bureau of Justice Assistance governing the use of funds, the legislation notes that all current uses of funds will continue to be authorized.

The concern is not that current uses of funds would not be allowed under the new program, but that narcotic enforcement would suffer because the emphasis on drug trafficking would be reduced. Counter narcotics task forces

could face reduced funding or elimination based on decisions made at the state level.

Earlier this year the House passed a Department of Justice reauthorization bill that would formalize the creation of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program and authorize more than \$1 billion to be allocated each year for the next five years. However, the House did not specify the emphasis on drug trafficking enforcement.

The Senate has not yet introduced its Department of Justice reauthorization bill, but we understand that they will unveil their proposal this fall, and that it *will include* the focus on narcotics enforcement.

NNOAC President Ron Brooks has been working hard in Washington to make the coalition's voice heard on these issues. What can all NNOAC members do TODAY to help Congress make the right decision regarding Byrne? Try one or all of these four activities:

1. Call your congressmen and senators and tell them that the Byrne Memorial grant program should be fully funded, and that drug enforcement should be a key priority within the program;
2. Schedule a meeting with your congressmen and senators or their staff in their local district offices and talk directly with them about what reduced funding for Byrne would mean for you and your agency;
3. Draft an opinion piece about the issue and submit it to your local newspaper;
4. Go out of your way to talk to newspaper and television reporters about what reduced Byrne funding might mean for your agency and for drug enforcement in your area.

Narcotic officers nationwide are in a good position to influence policies in Washington that will make a big difference on the streets at home. While the nation's attention is focused on the terrorist threat, we must not let policy makers forget about the chemical attack occurring on American streets every day: illegal narcotics. The NNOAC continues to remind the public about this reality, and is fighting the good fight – both in Washington and in communities across the nation.

-By Ben Bawden, The Charles Group

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