



The Coalition

A publication of the National
Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition

Volume 6 Issue 1 _____ Spring 2002

God Bless America!



Delegates at the North Carolina meeting

The North Carolina Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association hosted the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition's 15th Semi-Annual Delegate meeting held October 11th - 13th, 2001 at the SEA TRAIL Golf Resort and Conference Center in North Carolina.

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The Coalition

NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition

At the last NNOAC Delegates meeting in Sunset Beach North Carolina, our nation was reeling from the vicious September 11th attacks on America. As our sorrow turned to action, we did what Americans have always done: We went on about our lives, secure in the knowledge that America will always overcome adversity, because it is the greatest country in the world. But much like our parents and grandparents, from the "Greatest Generation," as they recovered from the attack on Pearl Harbor, we know that the world and our lives were changed forever, the morning of September 11, 2001.

As the president and Congress shifts priorities to protecting our homeland and fighting the war on terrorism, it is natural for all of us to want to help those efforts. Police officers are mission-oriented and each of you has a strong desire to join this fight to protect our great nation and your own communities. But you must remember that the important drug enforcement and prevention mission that we were engaged in prior to September 11th has even greater importance today. As law enforcement professionals, we know of the damage that illegal drugs cause to the fabric of our society. The threat to the public posed by drug abuse has not been erased by the events of September 11th.

Our resolve to fight drug abuse must be stronger than ever. We must understand that drug trafficking is terrorism. We need to fight any efforts to reduce our nation's commitment to fighting drug abuse. Most importantly, we must fight those groups that are working to legalize drugs through strategies of harm reduction, medical marijuana, and industrial hemp. The damage that they will cause could make the loss of life from the September 11th attacks pale by comparison.

We have learned from congressional testimony by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator Asa Hutchinson and statements by Chairman Mark Souder, in the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, that heroin sales have provided significant financial support to the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. In a recent speech, President George W. Bush said, "terrorists get their money from global trafficking in narcotics...If you quit drugs, you join the fight against terrorism." Clearly, the efforts of police officers across the country, who risk their lives each day in the fight to eradicate drugs, are performing an important service by reducing the profits used to support terrorism.



Chairman Ron Brooks

As our nation shifts resources to fight the war on terrorism, there are drug legalizers who are taking advantage of the situation by calling on our nation's leaders to surrender in the fight against drug abuse. These proponents of drug legalization attempt to discredit our efforts by saying that we have lost the war on drugs and that our country's limited resources would be better spent fighting terrorism. But we know that there has never truly been a war on drugs. We have never committed the same resources to fighting drugs that we would if we were waging a war. Yet despite a less than complete commitment to the fight, we have reduced drug use and saved lives. From 1979 to 1992, by using a comprehensive strategy of prevention, treatment, and enforcement, we reduced by half, the drug use in America. A 50 percent reduction of any public health plague is a tremendous success. With the current leadership in this country, we will repeat and exceed that success. In the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy, President Bush and ONDCP Director John Walters have pledged that we will reduce drug use by ten percent within two years and 25 percent within five years. Those are ambitious goals, but they are achievable. With the leadership provided by President Bush, Director Walters, DEA Administrator Hutchinson, Speaker Dennis Hastert's Task Force For a Drug-Free America, Chairman Mark Souder's Subcommittee on Drug Policy, and with enforcement, prevention, and treatment working together, we will be successful.

These goals will not be easily obtained. We must remember that our cause is just and we need to stay focused on our mission of making America a safer place to live by reducing the availability of illicit drugs. We must explain to anyone who will listen, that drug manufacturing, smuggling, and sales are terrorist acts. I recently had the privilege of representing the NNOAC at the White House, when President George W.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, CONT.

National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition

Bush and ONDCP Director John Walters released the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy. In his speech, President Bush said, "Drug abuse threatens everything that is best about our country. It breaks the bond between parent and child. It turns productive citizens into addicts. It transforms schools into places of violence and chaos. It makes playgrounds into crime scenes. It supports gangs at home... Over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and their character."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in 1999, 52 persons died each day as the direct result of drug-induced causes. That is more than 19,000 of our fellow Americans, a steady increase from the 9,000 people who died from drug use in 1990. And, the economic costs to society from illegal drug use were estimated at \$160 billion. In 2000, Americans spent more than \$64 billion for illegal drugs. That is eight times the total federal expenditures for research on HIV/AIDS, cancer, and heart disease. Clearly, the sale of drugs on the streets of America is a bio-chem attack on our citizens. The loss of 19,000 lives and a cost of \$160 billion make drug trafficking an act of terrorism of tremendous magnitude, yet many Americans accept drug use as something that cannot be stopped. Although there are many links between drug trafficking and international terrorism, we only have to look at the death and ruined lives in our own country to realize that trafficking in drugs is an act of terrorism.

As police officers, we have never strayed from our duty or walked away from a fight. The American people want drug use stopped and they are looking to us, in cooperation with our partners in prevention and treatment to stop it. We cannot let them down. We must use every ounce of our professional skills, political influence, and personal strength to work with President Bush, the members of his Administration, and the leaders in the Congress, to protect our Nation's most precious commodity, its young people, from the evils of drug abuse.

I want to close with another quote from President Bush that puts in perspective why our work is so important. "Illegal drugs are the enemies of ambition and hope and when we fight against drugs, we fight for the souls of our fellow Americans." I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Board of Delegates meeting in Washington DC. Until then, God Bless you for the work that you do and God Bless America.

**National Narcotic Officers Associations
(NNOAC) Board of Delegates Meeting**
in
Washington D.C.

*Our meeting will be held Thursday and Friday,
April 4-5, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.
Delegates will meet with members of
congress and their staff on April 3, 2002.*

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Robert F. Orr

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the state of North Carolina



KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEECH TO THE COALITION

Thank you. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to talk with you today at lunch. On behalf of Chief Justice Lake and the Supreme Court of North Carolina, let me welcome our visitors to North Carolina and to my fellow North Carolinians, greetings.

Let me begin by expressing our profound appreciation for the work that you do. It is extraordinarily important in the ongoing and increasingly difficult challenge of ridding our society of the plague of illegal drugs. It is a job that undoubtedly is frustrating at times, underpaid all the time, and to which too little public attention is given. And most importantly, it is a job that is continually dangerous.

Just last week, right here in Brunswick County, Stephen Lanier, a deputy sheriff, was shot and seriously injured during a drug raid. Only one month ago, Lt. Monica Carey, head of the investigative squad in Clayton, a small town near Raleigh, was run over when a suspected drug dealer slammed his station wagon into reverse, killing Lt. Carey. Each and every day, you and fellow officers around the country place your lives on the line. Rarely do we, the public, take time to say "thank you" or acknowledge the critical importance of what you do. So, let me say on behalf of our state's judiciary and my fellow citizens, thank you for all that you do.

And while our focus is usually on the "traditional" fight against drugs, I was interested to see an article in the October 1 edition of the Raleigh News & Observer. The headline read: "Heroin proceeds finance terrorist network." In the body of the story it says, "Since the mid-1990's, while the spotlight shone on cocaine cartels in Latin America, bin Laden has fortified a drug trafficking network that provided money for Afghanistan's Taliban regime and financed his al-Qaeda terror network. "What better way to poison the western world than through drugs?" said Donnie Marshall, who headed the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration from July 1999 through June of this year. "It's another weapon in their arsenal."

While this might be old news to you professionals, I can assure you that the general public has been painfully unaware of the connection between illegal drugs, particularly heroin,

and bin Laden's terrorist organization. In many ways it puts you, as Narcotics Enforcement Officers, very much on the front line of our nation's war against terrorism and an important weapon in our nation's effort to rid our country of the double scourge of narcotics and violence.

In light of this, I find it most difficult to understand those who advocate the legalization of drugs. The most troubling part of my work is the review of capital cases—defendants sentenced to die for crimes that are simply put, just terrible. In virtually every one of these cases, the defendant is involved with substance abuse. Just last night the Court gathered to hear one last petition from a drug abuser convicted of murdering a 42-year-old lady in a robbery. He was executed at 2:00 a.m. Is it any wonder that a drug-crazed crack addict, downing a dozen beers in addition to crack, has little sense of the terrible acts he's committing? Cut off drug abuse and throttle the drug trade and you will certainly see a remarkable drop in the number of murders being committed.

I read a very interesting column in Newsweek this summer, written by a young man, I'm guessing in his 30's, who wrote about his long-running, but not addictive, "recreational" drug use. He was never busted or charged with any kind of drug offense. But here's what he had to say about how your job influenced his ultimate life decision to quit drugs.

"Sometimes my friends and I would sit for hours nursing drinks at a bar while we got the courage to make a deal in some other bar or on the street. Most nights we'd just go home a little drunk, our window of opportunity closed for that evening.... Instead of expanding my horizons, drugs made them narrower and narrower. If I'd had a reliable source, I'd have done drugs all the time. I considered them a lifestyle choice, like identifying with a political party or driving a particular brand of car. I wasn't an addict yet, but I was close."

"And that's the thing. While addictive tendencies may very well be genetic, becoming an actual drug addict happens over time. The more barriers there are—be they the cops or the hassle or the fear of dying—the less likely you are to get addicted. The road to addiction was just bumpy enough that I chose not to go down it. In this sense, we are winning the war on drugs, just by fighting them." Let's make sure we continue to press that fight because that's a war we have to win.

Now I'd like to change the focus of my remarks and redirect them to a topic that perhaps hasn't been addressed or discussed with you—at least not from the perspective that I

offer—that of an appellate court judge. Now my perspective is similar to that of all the other appellate court judges and justices around the country in every state of the union, whether as a member of an intermediate appellate court or the State Supreme Court. And in many ways it's the same perspective whether it's a state appellate court judge or justice or those members of the federal judiciary, including the United States Supreme Court. We have a very specific job to do: We take an oath to support the Constitution and laws of our nation and respective state. We review questions of law presented by the parties based upon the record from the trial court below, and we are obligated to try and follow prior decisions of our court and higher courts while applying statutes and constitutional provisions. We make a decision and write an opinion explaining that decision. If all of that leaves your eyes starting to glaze over, I understand. But you and others in law enforcement (and I might add also those individuals dealing with national security issues) are a critical component in what we do in the context of criminal law and, in particular, the application of constitutional rights.

In reality, you are the laboratory for the application of constitutional rights in a criminal law context. Let's take a quick look at the lengthy and tortuous path that I'm referring to. First and foremost, you and your fellow officers are out doing your job—you're trying to catch the bad guys doing bad things—bad guys violating the law—using, buying, selling, trafficking in illegal narcotics. And you're using all of the law enforcement technology and techniques that you've learned and developed. And let's take the best-case scenario and you catch "Joe Dealer" with the goods and you make the arrest. Now, despite all the classes you've been to, I suspect that while all of this is going on, the last thing you're thinking about is a bunch of obscure judges or justices sitting on some appellate court miles away — literally and figuratively — from this action going down.

But, what's the potential course that this case of *State v. Joe Dealer* may take? First of all, you've got to pull all your evidence together so that the District Attorney or Assistant District Attorney can put on a case, so to a certain extent, your case is at the mercy of that prosecutor and exactly how the prosecutor uses the evidence. Now, throw in a defense attorney who's trying to gum up the works and a trial judge trying to sort it all out and making rulings left and right, with little time to study the technicalities of the issue and in the end you've got a verdict (guilty, let's say) and a record that is a jumble of testimony, exhibits, rulings, arguments by attorneys, all of which gets pulled together and started up the ladder to the first level of appellate review. Let's say ultimately it gets to your state's highest court or in that rare case to the U.S. Supreme Court and at that point everything you did some three or four years ago is under the microscope, and all that the court knows about what really happened and why you did certain things is based upon that cold written

record, which is a product of prosecutorial decisions and trial court rulings and evidence presented at trial. And suddenly — well, maybe not suddenly—the court issues an opinion and it just doesn't affect Joe Dealer's conviction—but it's precedent for all future cases. Well, what turned out to be a pretty straight-forward drug bust is somehow now a major constitutional decision.

Granted, most cases get pled out, maybe dismissed, occasionally tried and won, once in awhile, lost. Rarely does that case of yours make it to that rarified and distant appellate court. But when it does, you're making law. And you may or may not like what gets made. And the end result may be a decision that makes it tougher to do your job and make a conviction stick on the next guy. After all, when the police officers back in Arizona took Ernesto A. Miranda into the special interrogation room to get him to sign a confession, little did they suspect nor could they have ever imagined, that not only would Miranda's conviction for kidnapping and rape be reversed but that a new constitutional doctrine—the Miranda Warnings—would be articulated by the highest court in our land and imposed in the years ahead on law enforcement in their dealings with suspects.

So what's the point of all of this? It's simply that in this post-September 11th atmosphere that we live in, great attention and focus is being placed on the broad spectrum of issues surrounding constitutional rights—rights that can be expanded or limited by court decisions—not in a vacuum but based on cases rising through the system which began with decisions—tough decisions having to be made by people like you trying to do a very tough job. Yet, it's those very decisions, years before, that end up being reviewed by appellate courts and decisions that end up profoundly affecting everyone.

It is unfair to expect you to be constitutional law experts or to be able to predict the subtleties of legal advocates and the resulting nuances of court decisions. And yet, your actions and decisions start an inextricable chain of events in motion. I can tell you that we want you to make the right decisions. Our job becomes so much easier and the decisions that result serve to both strengthen our commitment as a society to the rule of law and protect our society from those criminals that threaten the very fabric of our nation. You have such a challenging and difficult job. But I am confident that you are up to that challenge. I only encourage you as you go about your work to keep tucked away in the back of your mind that possibility that this may be the case that's going up on appeal—this may be the case that sets major legal precedent that can profoundly affect how you go about your jobs, precedent that affects how the criminal justice system deals with drug dealers' terrorists; precedent that we will have to live with for a long time to come. You are the front line men and women whose decisions become the building blocks of constitutional law. Thank you for all you do.

M C T F T

Multijurisdictional CounterDrug Task Force Training

by Peter J. Rieff



MCTFT, also known as Multijurisdictional CounterDrug Task Force Training, is a nationally known training program whose primary objective is to provide drug law enforcement training to local, state, federal and military justice professionals, as well as community-based, anti-drug coalitions. MCTFT conducts training in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and four U.S. Territories. Courses are taught by utilizing sworn, active, law enforcement professionals as instructors, as well as retired federal agents and state and local officers who are subject matter experts. Other instructors are drawn from such professions as Medical and Pharmaceutical, Psychology and Law. MCTFT seeks instructors/educators from all fields associated with drug law enforcement. Those wishing to explore opportunities as an instructor or adjunct with MCTFT may forward their resumes to "MCTFT" 3200 34th street, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

MCTFT is a partnership between the Florida National Guard and St. Petersburg College, with offices at the Allstate Campus of St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, FL. MCTFT offers traditional, modular, conference/seminars training at no cost to the organization requesting the training. It is COPS training COPS. Over 500 classes were conducted last fiscal year by MCTFT, and about 70,000 students were trained in live, as well as by videotape presentations. In addition, Distance Learning programs have the potential of reaching hundreds of thousands of students each time these programs are presented. Our mission is to provide LEA's and Community Based Anti-Drug Organizations the necessary information, up to date state-of-the-art training, which ensures the safety of all of those involved in Drug Law Enforcement and Demand Reduction efforts.

America must continue to fight the good fight against drug trafficking and use. The nexus between drugs and terrorism is well documented. To reduce our efforts in either area is a recipe for disaster.

Peter J. Rieff is director of the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training program at St. Petersburg Junior College, Florida.

The Coalition



Left: Sheriff Ronald Hewitt of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office welcomes delegates to the State of North Carolina. Sheriff Hewitt indicates that narcotic traffickers are terrorists and the cartels and traffickers are taking advantage of our national crisis. Sheriff Hewitt spoke of their recent loss of a deputy sheriff shot while executing a search and seizure warrant for narcotics.



Above: Michael Townsend, Executive Vice President of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, gave a presentation to the delegates. Mr. Townsend discussed the new public service announcements and the various drugs they will address. Mr. Townsend discussed the need for treatment with the successes of drug courts.



Above: Lieutenant Colonel Eric D. Lindner of the National Guard Counterdrug Office. Lieutenant Colonel Lindner led delegates with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag (below).

Below right:
Honor Guard



The Coalition



Robin Pendergraft, Director of the North Carolina Bureau of Investigation praised the effectiveness of the North Carolina Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association and the National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition. Director Pendergraft spoke of the nexus of terrorism and narcotics.



Kevin Whaley, Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, informs the coalition delegates that Washington DC recognizes the efforts of the coalition. Special Agent Whaley addressed the delegates on protocol in DC.



Brian Beatty, Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, spoke of the recent loss of a state trooper while performing his duties. Secretary Beatty spoke of the September 11th tragedy and that law enforcement always knew there was evil out there. He spoke of the renewed patriotism and respect for law enforcement and firefighters. Secretary Beatty believes the DARE program should continue as it is effective.



President Steve Surratt of the North Carolina Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association and host welcomes delegates.



Gary Wade, Special Agent in charge of the Office of Training at the DEA Academy in Quantico Virginia.



Omar A. Aleman, Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration, Demand Reduction Coordinator. Omar is a dynamic and energetic speaker. Omar addressed the delegates at the North Carolina meeting.



Members of the Coalition Executive Board, left to right – AL Katcher, recording secretary from New Jersey, Robert Ferris, vice-chairman from New Jersey, Tony A. Keller, Treasurer from North Carolina, Richard M. Sloan, Executive Director from California, Ronald Brooks, Chairman from California, Jeffrey A. Greczyn, member at large from New Jersey



Donald R. Taylor, Special Assistant for the National Guard Bureau Counterdrug Program and Peter Rieff (pictured on page 6), Director of the St. Petersburg Junior College, Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training, addressing delegates. They spoke of the counterdrug program and the thousands of law enforcement officers trained by the program.



The Coalition

National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition's 15th Semi-Annual Delegate meeting



Joseph C. Peters, Assistant Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs with the Office of National Drug Control Policy.



Left to right – Captain Edward Mourey, President of the Oregon Narcotic Officers Association, Roger Lake, President of the Washington State Narcotic Investigators Association and William E. Butka, director of the Connecticut Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association.



Jerry Lynch, Executive Director of the Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network

National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition's 15th Semi-Annual Delegate meeting



Roger Lake, President of the Washington State Narcotic Investigators Association and Robert Ferris, our Vice-Chairman, brief delegates on their recent visit to Congress.



William F. Alden, Deputy Director of DARE America – addressed delegates on the new program DARE America will institute modernizing the program. Some of the changes discussed will have the police officer change from instructor to facilitator and revise the elementary school program and the middle and high school programs. Currently DARE America is in 80 percent of America's school districts.



William F. Alden, Deputy Director of DARE America, speaking with Lieutenant Michael Rinaldi, Vice-President of the Connecticut Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association.



Chief Jay Kerr, of the Sunset Beach Police Department, welcoming delegates.



Mike Rinaldi and Joe Jacob and Chuck Crawford from PA Narcotic Officer Association



Above: Phil Little, NCNEOA

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A black silhouette of a woman in a dynamic, seated pose, possibly a dancer or performer, positioned on the right side of the advertisement.

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition (NNOAC) was created in July 1994, in Chicago, Il., as part of an effort to re-establish the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund. The Byrne Fund, which has been responsible for aiding our nation's war on drugs, was eliminated in 1994. However, as a direct result of NNOAC's efforts, the Byrne Fund was re-established by Congress the same year.

In addition to monitoring the narcotics section of the Byrne Fund, NNOAC focuses on domestic drug-related crime issues. NNOAC, which is comprised of 33 individual state narcotic associations, representing more than 50,000 narcotic law enforcement officers, serves as an umbrella organization coordinating the efforts of these associations.

NNOAC allows the state and local narcotic officers' associations to work through their individual state associations, thus allowing for an additional voice at the nation's capital. Each state is responsible for appealing to their state congressmen and legislature to attain support for their issues. The Coalition actively researches, monitors and supports legislative initiatives designed to increase the effectiveness of narcotic enforcement and law enforcement in general. 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 narcotic 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 narcotics officers association.

Over the past four years, NNOAC has been responsible for re-establishing the formulation of the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund, and has assisted in passing legislation associated with the assault weapon ban and the crime bill. We have participated in policy meetings with other law enforcement organizations on asset forfeiture, the national drug control strategy, national methamphetamine strategy, and national heroin strategy.

NNOAC has also been responsible for increasing the President's awareness and focus more towards local and state law enforcement participation. NNOAC has testified on Capitol Hill on a variety of drug issues, including the Byrne hearings, asset forfeiture, crack cocaine sentencing, and certification of Mexico hearings. 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.

Since the inception of NNOAC, all of the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) projects have been a valuable and essential tool for the Coalition, and for the law enforcement community in general, in identifying and detecting narcotic violators.



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Ski Country Painting Inc.
Spearing Service, Ltd.

Spectrum Community Services
Stanley Energy Inc.

Sun Health Spa

Sunset Shores Resort
Super Truck, Inc.

Swedish American Medical Fund

Templo Misionero Betel

The Gateway Company

The Last Dollar Saloon

The Mark

The Spirits' House Inc.

Theater Cafe

Thomas Dukeman

Thomas Kellogg

Tom McKinney

Tom Staples

Tri-cal Trucking, Ltd.

Vacek Sulkowski

Valley Run Stone

Vancouver Airline Cartage, Ltd.

Vermilion Co. Airport Authority

Vernof Schwartz & Co.

Village Center

Visimetrix Inc.

Vung Tau Restaurant

Wal-mart Stores Inc. DC6059

Walsenburg Care Center

Warsfield Associated Group

West Highland Mortgage Co.

West Town Auto Repair

Zion Benton Moose Lodge #667

Executive Director's Report

By Richard M. Sloan

It has been eight years since the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition was formed. We have come a long way since then! Having started with 17 states, we now have a membership of 34 states, Puerto Rico (Territory) and the six RISS projects. Our goal is to have all fifty states represented by the Coalition in Washington D.C. and throughout the entire country.

This Coalition was formed with its aim to help protect all law enforcement officers by being a watchdog in Washington D.C. over the laws, both pending and passed, that impact all of us. Also, and very importantly, we watch, very carefully, any handling of the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund, as it funds many Narcotic Task forces throughout the United States--the purpose for which its creator intended. Our efforts are to make certain that the ample proceeds in this fund are not whittled away by any governmental office looking for a few bucks to spend on its own agenda.

The following states are not member states of the Coalition, as they do not have a state Narcotic Officers' Association---something we would like to see changed. They are: Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The Coalition would like to assist any state in forming a Narcotic Officers' Association if it doesn't already have one. We would be glad to go to that state and meet with their representatives in order to bring this about. We would appreciate hearing from any of you who might know of someone who would be interested in helping to get an Association started in any one of these states. Please contact me with that information.

On October 12, 2001, we held our Board of Delegates' meeting in Sunset Beach, North Carolina, which was hosted by the North Carolina Narcotics' Enforcement Officers' Association. The meeting was a success, and I would like to thank all the members of NCNEOA for their cooperation in this effort, specifically NCNEOA President Steve Surratt, Phil Little and Tony Keller.

A lot was accomplished at this meeting. Ron Brooks was elected Chairman and Allan Katcher was elected Recording Secretary for the next two years. The NNOAC membership fee structure was changed at this meeting to reflect lower fees for all members. The changes are as follows: states with 1000 members or more will be \$500 per year, states with 500 to 1000 members will be \$300 per year and states with under 500 members will be \$200 per year.

I am now in the process of changing our website. My nephew, Edward Schofield, has redesigned our website and is presently putting the pages together, which will make it more user friendly. By the time you read this it will have been completed. Check it out at www.natlnarc.org!

Our next Delegate meeting will be held in Washington D.C. on April 4 and 5, 2002. For those of you contacting your congressional representatives for lobbying purposes, there will be a meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2002, at the hotel where you will receive your handout material, with Wednesday April 3, 2002, being the day for your congressional visits. Our meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. This is an important meeting and I am encouraging all member associations to send a representative! I look forward to seeing all of you in Washington D.C.

**National Narcotic Officers'
Associations Coalition
P.O. Box 2456
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