

THE LOCAL 600 PAGE

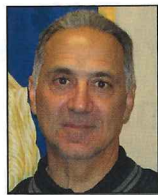
For Retired Police
and Corrections
Officers

The benefits of Local 600

Retired Police & Corrections Officers are eligible to join Local 600, which is located at the NJ State PBA office in Woodbridge. Annual dues are \$50 and benefits of membership include:

- Maintaining dual membership in your current Local and Local 600
- Five Safety Cards per year
- Access to the "Members Only" section of the NJSPBA Local 600 website, which includes optional benefits such as financial planning, Aflac Insurance and information about dental and vision insurance plans, life insurance plans and purchasing memorial property
- Monthly delivery of *New Jersey COPS magazine*, the official publication of the NJ State PBA
- A monthly State PBA Watch List which updates legislation affecting current and retired PBA/PFRS members
- A list of job openings for retired officers
- Survivors Bulletin
- Annual newsletter
- Monthly luncheon meeting: Second Tuesday of each month. Log on to www.njspba600.org for location and time.

Local 600 endorses Monmouth County Sheriff Golden



JIM
TOMA

On Aug. 30, I had the pleasure of being invited to Freehold, county seat of Monmouth County, where Sheriff Shaun Golden and Undersheriff Fred Deickmann guided Local 600 President Tom Lombardi and me around the most technologically advanced, multi-functional police/fire/emergency services building in New Jersey.

The facility was a dream of Sheriff Golden that became a reality through his perseverance and the belief in him placed by Monmouth County officials and taxpayers.

The facility houses the Sheriff's Office, communications for all police, fire and emergency management, an operations center for natural disasters and emergency services, operations of the police academy and corrections.

As amazing as the tour was, the highlight of the day was sitting down with the Sheriff, who is running for re-election in November, and listening to him lay out his vision and its effect on active, as well as retired, law enforcement professionals.

Impressively, the Sheriff is a career-law enforcement member—With a career spanning the Colts Neck PD and Toms River PD and now as Sheriff, he understands our issues, needs and feelings. Sheriff Golden is also the Republican County Chair, but that has not stopped him from being an independent thinker, and standing up for what's right at the risk of alienating fellow Republicans. He believes strongly in the sanctity of our pension system and the funding of that system, and he expressed to us that the idea of separating the pensions due to the strength of PFRS seems like the logical choice.

Golden is also strongly in favor of reinstating COLA, perhaps on a tiered system taking care of the most needy retired members first. And most importantly, he believes that all parties affected should be part of the solution, working together to come up with ideas about how to strengthen our pension so that eventually it will be there for all who served.

I found the Sheriff to be someone who serves and governs through the eyes of law enforcement, but also through compassion. Serving his community as a paramedic, volunteer firefighter and EMT gave him the opportunity to see people who were in need, whether through sickness or tragedy. He expressed how that experience instilled within him the desire to give back.

He has developed programs for special needs residents, and started a registry throughout the



Local 600 State Delegate Jim Toma (left) shakes hands with Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden alongside Local 600 President Tom Lombardi during an Aug. 30 tour.

county so all special needs residents are able to get help and support in a time of emergency, or during interactions with law enforcement, fire or EMS.

The Sheriff has hired a veterans coordinator to assist those county residents who have served, and is supportive of his employees who have served.

Sheriff Golden also explained his two-pronged approach to the ever-growing drug (specifically, heroin) problem not only in his county, but throughout the state as well. He speaks to schools and PTAs throughout the county to discuss education programs on awareness and prevention, emphasizing family awareness of prescription medication abuse.

He is also pursuing enforcement-strong interaction with all county departments, assigning manpower to assist narcotics task forces, and he is working with drug treatment facilities to provide rehabilitation and recovery.

The Office has also worked closely with the Office on Aging with Project Lifesaver Program, which provides electronic location systems for memory-impaired seniors and children with autism.

Sheriff Golden currently is directly responsible for eight county facilities and, through his insistence, they are secured by retired law enforcement personnel, providing employment for many of our members (50 to 60 at last count). He was determined to not allow low-paid security guards to be responsible for the safety of his employees, while at the same time provide jobs for retired members.

After spending the day with Sheriff Golden and listening to his beliefs and vision, the NJ State PBA Local 600 fully endorses Sheriff Golden in his bid for re-election in November. I ask all members and their families in Monmouth County to support the Sheriff. ♥