Employees and Volunteers Recognized

LE Member of the Month, Sgt. Christopher Kearney

March 29, 2018, approximately 0730, Sgt. Kearney learned that a recently stolen vessel ran aground with the suspect on board in the ICW-Stump Pass area. He immediately responded by land. At the same time, he requested assistance from the Marine and Aviation Units. He was the first land unit to arrive at the Marina. With Aviation now hovering over the vessel and suspect, Sgt. Kearny requested assistance from an employee at the Marina, who was the closest to the vessel. Sgt. Kearney noticed a white male, later identified as Adam B. Donohew, attempting to swim with a personal flotation device. Due to hypothermia, the subject was unable to move his arms or legs to get into the vessel. In fear of the subject suffering from further medical concerns, Sergeant Kearney selflessly reached down and pulled the subject into the vessel. Sgt. Kearney summoned Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The EMS personnel determined the subject needed immediate attention, and transported him to a local hospital. Thanks to his quick actions, the subject was medically cleared and formally charged with several felony-related crimes.

Support Services Member of the Month, Richard Gill

Richard Gill has been working with other staff members over the last several months on cleanup and reorganization of the IT Lab/Equipment room. Over the last several years, we have been unable to dispose of obsolete equipment due to environmental regulations preventing local landfill disposal and lack of a state contract-certified electronics disposal vendor. Richie found another way. We had accumulated over 270 non-functional hard drives. Richie brought this service to my attention and was tasked to follow-up. When the costs of onsite destruction appeared to be too high, Richie followed up with the vendor and found that they offered a disposal service at approximately half the price. After reviewing the proposal and our budget, we proceeded with the initial disposal of 279 obsolete nonfunctional hard drives within our current budget limits, and will continue with this as a routine service. Richie’s alertness and initiative in identifying this service, and his follow-through with the vendor to obtain the service within our budgetary limitations, has resulted in a viable solution to one of our long-term problems.

Detention Member of the Month, CDFC Steven Dargis

Last month, CDFC Steven Dargis was assigned to K-1 Housing Unit. He followed through on the initiative to reduce the introduction and possession of contraband. With his efforts, he wrote 29 reports. CDFC Dargis searched cells, finding and removing contraband items, as well as enforcing the Jail rules, and writing disciplinary reports. He gained intel by being out from behind his desk and walking around his housing unit and speaking with the inmates. CDFC Dargis was able to find some actionable intelligence on the introduction and location of nuisance contraband and was able to share this information with the entire Detention Bureau. His hard work and dedication as well as his passion for what he does is truly appreciated and he is well deserved of some recognition for a job well done. Way to go Steve!!
On 2/21/18, multiple citizens of Charlotte County became victims of ten vehicle burglaries and one stolen motor vehicle in the same area of the county. The cases were assigned to Det. Martinez and Det. Vaughan for investigation. It was soon discovered that the stolen vehicle had been seen in Desoto County and was later recovered after it was set on fire. State Fire Marshal and Desoto County Sheriff’s Office began their arson investigation with few leads of their own. Det. Martinez and Det. Vaughn began aggressively working with the Desoto County Sheriff’s Office, which developed leads to suspects. On 3/8/18, multiple citizens of Charlotte County fell victim again for two vehicle burglaries and one stolen vehicle. These cases were assigned to Det. Diaz to investigate. Det. Diaz built on the information and leads that Det. Martinez and Det. Vaughan developed. This allowed Dade County to locate and arrest those suspects in the stolen vehicle from 3/8/18. Det. Martinez, Det. Vaughan and Det. Diaz performed their jobs in a professional, dedicated and vigilant manner, which was demonstrated while working with Desoto County, Dade County and the State Fire Marshal. They were able to develop solid suspects and probable cause for their arrest. These detectives met with the family members and developed a bond to have these suspects who lived in Desoto County brought to Charlotte County for interviews. During the course of this investigation, the detectives interviewed over 10 subjects and seven were interviewed an average of two hours each. These detectives not only obtained confessions for Charlotte County crimes, but also obtained confessions for Desoto county and Sarasota crimes. Victims of the stolen vehicle on 2/21/18 wrote a letter of appreciation for the efforts of the team. Fourteen cases for Charlotte County are closed with arrest and the information on the confessions were forwarded to other agencies to close their cases. We recognized your efforts and see you as role models for others.

Because of her varied background, Jerry feels she brings a unique skill set to her work at CCSO. “I can jump right in and pick up something new. Or I can relate what’s going on to what’s been happening before.” The Birmingham, Alabama native who ways she has moved 37 times began work about three months ago at the Training Center scanning documents, and at D-3 handling inventory. As a self-described project-oriented type, she created a spread-sheet program designed to send an e-mail to Alicia Graham, D3 Secretary, when supplies get low. Some of her skills come from multiple jobs in the medical and veterinary field. She also served as Personnel Liaison Officer, a civilian position in the Army’s Military Traffic Command. “Any equipment or personnel that moved in Europe came across my desk, she says. Jerry says she’s eternally grateful for every deputy who puts on a uniform to keep us safe. “I like to think they are doing it for me.” Regarding her diverse life, Jerry says she has to enjoy what she does, and flexing her creativity is what she likes. “I’ve always been that way. It doesn’t matter whether I’m getting paid or not, if I don’t like it, I say ‘Thank your and leave.” Jerry, we hope you stay a while.

By David Trautman, Volunteer
Years of Service and New Hire Ceremony  March 20, 2018

Lane Stealey and Ciera Crews were both sworn in as Civilian employees.

Peter DiPiazza and Tyler Goff were both sworn in as Certified Law Enforcement employees.

Promotion

Sue Moskwa was promoted to position of Fiscal Support Specialist in the Finance department.

15 Years of Service

Cpl. Sergio Bertuzzi

10 Years of Service

Cpl Daniel Tricarico

Gunfighters MC

Our local Gunfighters Motorcycle Club sponsored two kids to go to CCSO Summer Break Sports Clinic.

Girl Scout Cookies

The gift of Girl Scout Cookies were delivered to our District 1 office in Englewood. Of course, we welcomed them with open arms.

5 Years of Service

David Zucosky
Jennifer Wireman and Claudette Bennett graduated from CPA # 60 along with 22 other students on March 8th. The next available class will start in September. Sign up yourself or family online at CCSO.org.

On March 17th, The ARCHway Institute held its annual golf tournament, raising $6,630.36 for the Sheriff’s Drug Recovery Initiative. The funds raised pay for recovery at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care’s (CBHC) Recovery Center for those who cannot afford it. Left to right: Dan Stuckey (ARCHway), Kelly Pomerville (CBHC), Jan Stuckey (ARCHway), and Sheriff Bill Prummell.

“Over the Edge” event on April 14th was hosted by Drug Free Charlotte County. These brave men and women willingly repelled over the edge to help raise money and bring awareness to a great cause, Drug Free Charlotte County.
UPDATE On May 14th we will add $846.00 to our total bringing it to $9,000.00. Last year our total was just a little over $3,100.00. I am blown away and so proud of our team. A lot of work has been put in, since the start of our fundraisers to the event (which ends up being a 15 hour day) we made it fun. Starting with decorating our site (theme of ZooTopia) to the activates throughout the day. Great job by our hula-hopers for winning that challenge (Isla may have helped by hula-hooping in Mommy’s tummy), placed 2nd in the derby race (beating out the Fire Truck), Zumba, Scavenger hunt, and changing clothes for the different themed laps. Yes at the end of the day we were exhausted, however it was worth every step. We could not have achieved this without all your donations and support.

Thank you...June, Megan, Jennifer, Robin, Tamberlin, Terri, Leigha, Michelle, Tammy and Omayra

Club President Jim Hinck awarded Sheriff Prummell the Paul Harris Fellow and a Vocational Service Excellence Award on behalf of the entire membership.

Sheriff Prummell presents Mr. Dwain Revard, 89 years young the Florida Sheriff’s Association’s Distinguished Service Award for his support of 35 years. This occurred in our District 1 office on April 19th.

At the April 19th Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch Meeting Sheriff Prummell and Lt. Chris Williams were in attendance. Later on, Sheriff Prummell addressed the group regarding the importance of a strong Neighborhood Watch Program.

You might not notice our CCSO Volunteers but they are there, quietly backing us up, making our jobs a whole lot easier. Thank you Volunteers, not just April 15-21, but all year long.
Words of Wisdom

“I wish someone would have made me do it”. What am I talking about? It’s simple, deferred comp. I have been retired for two years now, I am always running into other CCSO retirees and find that most of us are enjoying life and being retired. But there is one underlying theme that I am seeing. That is money or lack of it from those that did not plan for retirement. The people that I see that took advantage of Deferred Comp early in their career are doing extremely well. Those that go back to work do so more out of boredom than need. Most if not all enjoy being able to travel, buy or build new houses, buy new vehicles and are extremely happy in their retired life. Then there are the others that did not participate in a deferred comp program, or take advantage of the Florida Drop program. These folks HAVE to work and they don’t like it. After a career in Law Enforcement and dealing with the stress of that job, they have found that life after CCSO is not always fun and they are no longer retired. These folks always seem to have an excuse to ignore these programs and didn’t think about their future. But to be honest, what shiny new employee is thinking about retirement? Well take some advice from someone in the job of being retired, DO IT. Take advantage of the programs being offered and realize that you too will be retired someday, and you will want to enjoy it, not work at it...
Sherman

Life after retirement

Wendy Merritt, now Wendy Bennett joined the Charlotte County Sheriffs Office after working several years with the Florida Highway Patrol. Wendy worked primarily the road patrol with CCSO retiring in August of 2012. Wendy remarried in 2015 and is loving life and spending time with her kids, who are doing well and her first grandson, Houston. Wendy’s daughter Shelby is a fire fighter, daughter Sidney is a Sergeant with Charlotte Correctional Institute, son Skyler is Chef at the Perfect Caper in Punta Gorda and son Spencer is working in agriculture. Wendy’s words of wisdom to pass on are that with all the changes in the world we live in, she wishes that more common sense could be taught.

Until next time,
Sherman Robinson
(Major CCSO Retired)