

# KPOA Recognizes Officers of the Year

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On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association recognized Officer Brandon W. Winebarger and Officer Scott A. DeShields, both of the Murray Police Department, as the 2014 Kentucky Peace Officers' Association Officer of the Year. This award represents the highest honor bestowed by the KPOA and is awarded to an officer who demonstrates exemplary service to the profession or Commonwealth.

The 2014 Officer of the Year award was presented to two officers who worked together to bring a life threatening situation to a safe conclusion. Officers Winebarger and DeShields responded to a suicidal woman wielding a knife and standing on edge of a building several stories tall on the Murray State University campus. The officers located the woman and engaged her in conversation. Eventually they successfully persuaded her away from the ledge and convinced her to relinquishing the knife and seek psychiatric care.

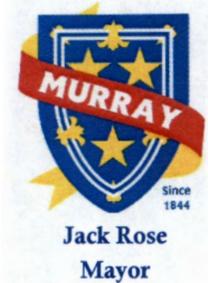
Officers Winebarger and DeShields remained calm during this tense situation and were able to safely accomplish this task without resorting to force. Captain Chris Scott, who submitted the nomination said, "It is our firm belief that Officers Winebarger and DeShields are directly responsible for the lady on the ledge being alive today, for without their actions this situation could have had a tragic conclusion".

The Kentucky Peace Officers' Association is pleased to present Officer Winebarger and DeShields with the 2014 KPOA Officer of the Year award for their outstanding service. These officers are a tremendous example of the training, dedication, and selfless service that Peace Officers across the Commonwealth demonstrate every day.

If you know of an officer deserving of this award please consider nominating them for the 2015 KPOA Officer of the Year. Nominations will open in December and close in May. You may nominate a deserving officer at [www.kpoa.info/nomination.htm](http://www.kpoa.info/nomination.htm)



Officer Brandon Winebarger and Officer Scott DeShields accepting the Officers of the Year award from KPOA President Ben Stickle.



# Murray Police Department

"Service and Integrity"

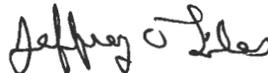


TO: Kentucky Peace Officers Association

RE: Officer of the Year Nomination

On September 22, 2014 at 0305 hours, Murray Police Department was requested to assist MSU Police in locating a female subject who had called the Crisis Center and stated she was on a ledge with a knife, threatening suicide. MPD Dispatcher Jill Hudson had triangulated a possible position of the Fine Arts building on the MSU campus. Murray PD Officers DeShields and Winebarger responded along with Sgt. Mark Johnson of MSU Police to the Fine Arts building to look for the subject. As Sgt. Johnson checked the east side, Winebarger and DeShields began their way up several flights of stairs on the west side. Officers Winebarger and DeShields located the consumer, wielding a knife near the top of the building on a ledge several feet from the balcony/stair landing in a location where one misstep could have ended her life. These two officers talked with the woman for several minutes until being joined by Officer Stephen Robinson of MSU. After a period of time and using skills learned in CIT training, Officer DeShields was able to talk the woman from the ledge to the stair landing and to give up the knife she was wielding, along with assistance from Officer Winebarger who was not CIT trained. With a weapon involved, not to mention the precarious position she was in on the ledge, obviously this situation could have ended much differently as there were multiple bad endings possible. Both officers kept calm and kept the woman calm during the situation and she was eventually able to receive help from EMS due to their actions, as the consumer had already made cuts to herself. Officer Robinson has since the incident, made multiple comments on how well Officers Winebarger and DeShields handled the situation and insists they deserve the credit for bringing the situation to the best possible conclusion that could be reached. We believe with the relative inexperience with such a situation these officers had at the time, they both performed in an outstanding manner and should be commended for their effort. Officer DeShields had only completed CIT training the previous January. According to Officer DeShields, Officer Winebarger was instrumental in keeping the consumer calm and the two worked as a team to bring her off the ledge through using verbal communication and was never required to use physical force to bring the incident to a conclusion. It is our firm belief that Officers Winebarger and DeShields are directly responsible for the lady on the ledge being alive today, for without their actions this situation could have had a tragic conclusion. On behalf of the Murray Police Department we would like to proudly nominate both Officer Scott DeShields and Officer Brandon Winebarger for consideration of the Kentucky Peace Officers Association Officer of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

  
Chief Jeffrey O. Liles

  
Captain Chris Scott