

JONES

Named President of Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police

/Profiles by Kelly Foreman, Public Information Officer

When Covington Police Assistant Chief Michael “Spike” Jones began his law enforcement career with the Covington Police Department 22 years ago, he also joined the brotherhood of the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police.

And after serving both as a legislative lobbyist for a few years and the organization’s sergeant-at-arms since 2003, Jones was elected president during the FOP fall conference in November.

“It is an awesome responsibility when you consider that we are caring for our membership, but most of all – and probably most importantly to our membership – we are caring for their families as well,” Jones said.

Former president, Martin Scott, served the organization for 18 years, Jones said.

“I have seen the work that our past president has put into [the organization] and I take great pride in having been elected to fulfill those responsibilities,” Jones said. “But I realize that it is a very heavy responsibility as well. I’ve got big shoes to fill.”

The upcoming year holds new opportunities for the FOP, Jones said, as the organization looks at involving members in technological upgrades to improve communications.

“Kentucky is a pretty big state from East to West and we are working on improving our ability to get our message out more rapidly,” he said.

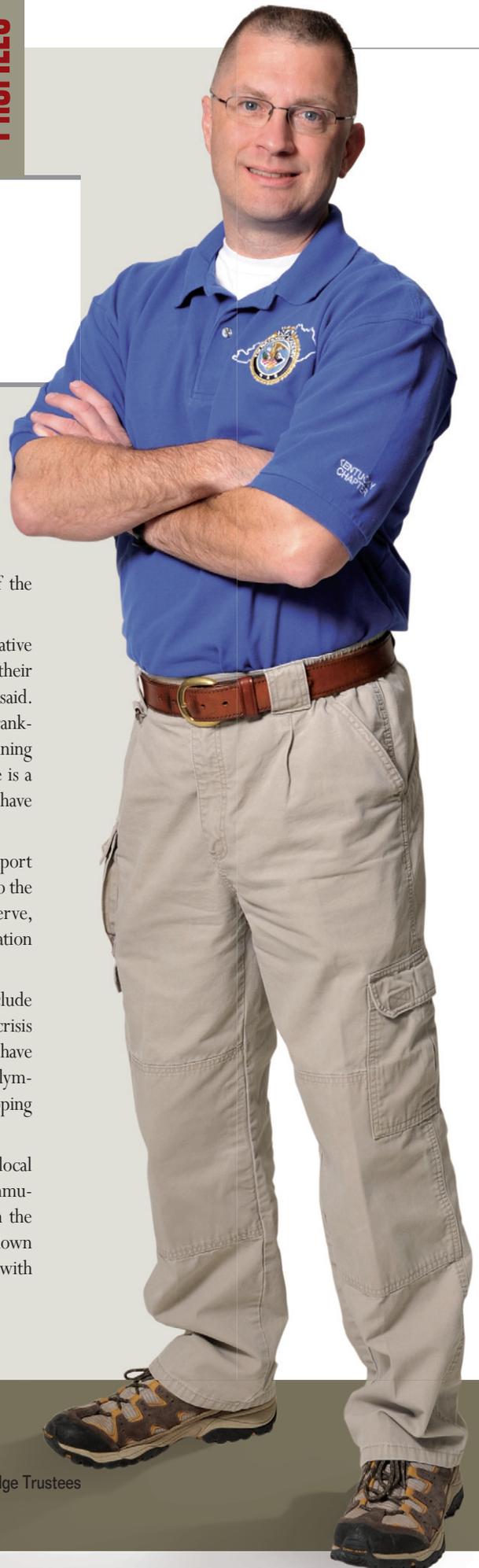
Lobbying will continue to be one of the organization’s top priorities.

“My primary objective now is legislative – safeguarding our officers’ retirement, their pension and their quality of life,” Jones said. “One of our most important roles is in Frankfort during the legislative session. Maintaining the vigilance we have maintained to date is a daunting task, but I’m confident that we have the staff to safeguard our future.”

Because of its many endeavors to support not only officers and their families but also the communities in which those officers serve, Jones said the FOP is an essential organization to Kentucky law enforcement.

The organization’s many initiatives include providing legal assistance to officers, crisis intervention to families of officers who have suffered a loss, service to the Special Olympics, Easter Seals and a Christmas shopping program for underprivileged children.

“Those types of involvements on the local level are really essential to building community, to building good relationships with the police and, in many instances, breaking down those barriers that a lot of people have with police officers,” he said. 🍷



Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police

Berl Purdue, Vice President
Michael “Spike” Jones, President
Robert “Bubba” Bringham, 2nd Vice President
Denis Spaulding, Secretary
Don Brashear, Treasurer

Mike Sweeney, Sergeant-at-Arms
Tim Davis, Chaplain
Scott Hildebrand, Chairman of State Lodge Trustees
Mike Hettich, National Lodge Trustee
Martin Scott, Immediate Past President

GAINES

Named to Fifth Term as Kentucky Sheriffs' Association President

Jerry "Peanuts" Gaines has served the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association for each of the 28 years he has been Warren County sheriff, but said he still considers being named to a fifth term as KSA president a great honor.

"The sheriff is elected by the people and belongs to the people," Gaines said. "That is why [KSA] is an important organization."

Gaines first served as president in 1980 and will be sworn in once again on Jan. 1. Over the years, he said he has seen a lot of change among Kentucky sheriffs' departments.

"We went from the old sleepy bailiff in the courtroom to a complete, new modernized courthouse with the best bailiff system in the state of Kentucky," Gaines said of his agency's changes. "We went from furnishing our own cars to [being provided] a new fleet of cars that the county takes care of. When I came in, I had eight deputies and they furnished their cars.

"Now I have 32 field deputies and they are furnished cars and everything," he continued. "All of them are trained now. Back in the day, you hired a man, gave him a gun and put him on the road.

"Our tax base [in Warren County] has

more than doubled and, like I said, the facilities are better, the cars are better, the training is better and we've got the most elaborate tax collection system here in the state," he said.

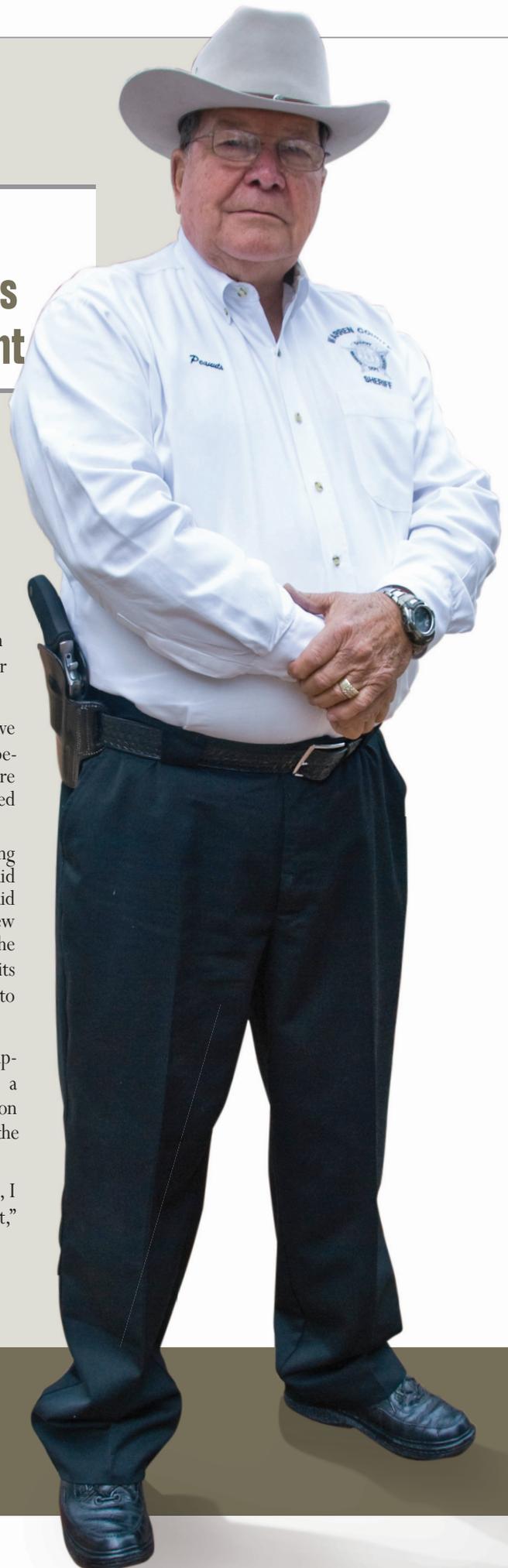
Gaines also has served as president of the National Sheriffs' Association and is the only Kentucky sheriff ever to do so.

"That was the greatest honor I've ever had," he said. "It is a big honor because I look back and I know there are some things I have done that have helped the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association."

The KSA is responsible for lobbying for Kentucky's sheriffs, a job Gaines said is not always easy. Each year, Gaines said the association tries to introduce new bills that will be beneficial to both the people and sheriffs' departments but its most important role is "holding on to what we've got."

Gaines has other goals for the upcoming year, including meeting on a more regular basis, having a convention in Bowling Green and possibly one in the eastern part of the state.

"I don't want to change everything, I just want to make it more efficient," Gaines said. 🍷



Kentucky Sheriff's Association

Jerry Wagner, Executive Director
Jerry Gaines, President
Bruce Hampton, 1st Vice President
Steve Sparrow, 2nd Vice President

Ed Brady, 3rd Vice President
Chuck Korzenborn, Secretary/Treasurer
Chris Eaton, Sergeant-at-Arms

STEWART

Named President of Kentucky Peace Officers' Association

The mission of the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association is to further the education and professionalism of law enforcement in Kentucky. Lexington Police Officer Paul Stewart said he is proud to help pursue that mission by serving as the organization's newest president.

Stewart, who has served as a patrol officer for the Lexington Division of Police since 2004, moved to Kentucky from upstate New York to attend Lexington's police academy. He quickly got involved with KPOA and said the other officers he has met through the organization have become valuable, life-long contacts.

"It really means a lot to me [to serve as KPOA's president]," Stewart said. "Obviously KPOA is a statewide organization, and just getting to travel around and meet people in different agencies, to get to see how other officers in the state do things, that network has been really valuable to me."

KPOA is responsible for fundraising, giving annual scholarships, offering training programs and disseminating information about opportunities for training around the state and sometimes nationally, Stewart said.

"Really for a \$25 membership fee, it is valuable to any officer of any rank in Ken-

tucky," Stewart said.

With a membership base of about 600, Stewart also is looking to increase participation this year, particularly in northern, southern and western Kentucky.

But beyond its regular functions, Stewart said the organization is focused on lobbying together with the Kentucky League of Cities and Kentucky Association of Counties to pass legislation qualifying retired officers for their license to carry a concealed weapon.

"Every year we have a firearms championship that we hold regionally and compete around Kentucky," Stewart said. Through that event, KPOA hopes to pass legislation stating that if both active and retired officers, "come and compete in the firearms competition, it will count toward their yearly qualification for their license."

Stewart anticipates that serving as president of KPOA will be a challenge because he is a young officer working with others who "have so many more years of experience than I do," he said.

"So far, I have really worked with some great people all around Kentucky — chiefs, sheriffs and people who have been really helpful and really have played a pretty huge role in furthering the organization," he said. 🇺🇸



Kentucky Peace Officer's Association

Paul Stewart, President

Jeff Sharpe, 1st Vice President

Steve Newell, 2nd Vice President

Jackie Richardson, Secretary

Alan Martin, Treasurer

Barry Cecil, Sergeant-at-Arms

Jerry Huffman, Chaplain

Ricky Lynn, Photographer

O’PELL Named President of Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network



Members of the Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network have a lot of work ahead of them as they prepare to host the International Association of Women Police conference in 2011, but new KWLEN President Angel O’Pell said she is excited about the opportunity.

O’Pell, an eight-and-a-half-year veteran patrol officer of the Ashland Police Department, recently was given the organization’s top honor. O’Pell began her career in law enforcement with the Maysville Police Department and served there for a year and a half before joining the Ashland force.

“The women I have met in KWLEN are an amazing group of women – all different and unique yet sharing similar career goals,” she said. “I am honored they have chosen me as their leader and think it is going to be an excellent opportunity.”

The IAWP conference will be conducted in Lexington and KWLEN is responsible for doing all the background work to prepare for it, O’Pell said. The conference this year was conducted in Seattle and hosted more than 500 delegates from 39 countries, the IAWP Web site states.

“When I accepted the responsibility [of being president], I set two goals for myself,”

O’Pell said. “I would like to double the enrollment of the group and at least double our balance of the bank account. The bank account goes back again to the international conference. We need more money to host that and one way of doing that obviously is going to be reaching out to more women and getting more women involved in the organization. They kind of go hand in hand.”

In addition to preparing for the international conference, O’Pell said she is excited about the work KWLEN has done to make changes in the POPS physical agility standards.

“Hopefully that will give an opportunity to more female officers throughout the state,” O’Pell said of the changes.

O’Pell has been a KWLEN member since her early days as an officer and cherishes the purpose and camaraderie the group provides.

“When KWLEN was formed and had their first conference in 2000, I was a rookie fresh out of the academy,” she said. “That KWLEN conference, to me, opened my eyes and made me realize that there is still a minority in law enforcement. The women Kentucky does have serving are strong and empowering.”

Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network

Angel O’Pell, President
Tia Chilton, 1st Vice President
Amy Hawkins, 2nd Vice President
Melanie Watts, Secretary

Bella Wells, Treasurer
Donitka Kay, Historian
Samantha Lynn, Chaplain

REEVES

Named President of Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police

As a young, Georgetown police officer, Greg Reeves watched the work his then-chief Craig Birdwhistell accomplished for Kentucky's police chiefs in his service as Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police president.

Not knowing then that someday he, too, would serve as chief of the Georgetown Police Department, Reeves said he knew then the service to KACP was a big honor. Being named the 2010 KACP president is something of which he is very proud.

"Once I had the opportunity to become chief and get involved more with the association, I knew I wanted to work my way toward that goal [of becoming president] and having an impact on law enforcement," Reeves said. "When you are the president ... you have a great opportunity yourself to be involved in steering young law enforcement officers in the direction for the future that we feel like is needed, to kind of mentor them and make sure that they are ready to be the leaders of tomorrow."

Reeves has served the Georgetown Police Department for 26 years, starting in patrol then working as a detective in investigations, narcotics and "pretty much everything else," he said. In 2000, Reeves became assistant chief, where he served for four years before becoming chief of the central Kentucky agency.

If for no other reason than the lobbying KACP does for law enforcement, Reeves

said the association is an asset to Kentucky. But it also plays an important role in the different boards on which KACP members sit, including the Special Olympics, the Governor's Highway Executive Board, Kentucky League of Cities board, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council and others.

"Those are all things KACP is instrumental in, not only in law enforcement, but in the future of public safety in general," he said. "I think that is the reason it is so important for this association to be recognized."

Reeves does not see many challenges for the association because the men and women who have come before him have left a well-structured association, he said.

"I'm not reinventing the wheel," he said. "If there are challenges, they will probably be legislative, something that is a common goal with other public safety organizations. If there are challenges, they are not challenges I will fight alone, the executive board will assist me with them."

In the upcoming year, Reeves said he plans to look at ways to handle funding issues to overcome the challenges law enforcement around the state have in the economy.

"I'd like to get law enforcement back in the direction that it used to be in," Reeves said. "... Each law enforcement agency, I believe, has been somewhat challenged and has taken a hit just to make sure the primary role of protecting the community is not jeopardized." 🇺🇸



Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police

Michael Bischoff, Executive Director

Greg Reeves, President

James Pendergraff, 1st Vice President

Robert Ratliff, 2nd Vice President

Bill Crider, 3rd Vice President

Danny Smith, Treasurer

Stephanie Bastin, Sergeant-at-Arms

Mike Ward, Immediate Past President