



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



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Peace Officer Training Commission
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Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
Thursday, November 9, 2017
held at the
Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
1650 State Route 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140

Minutes

I. Opening

Call to Order

Chair Vernon Stanforth called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
Chief Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Donna Long called the Roll Call.

Commission members present

Chair, Sheriff Vernon P. Stanforth
Chief Clayton Harris
Chief Kimberley Jacobs
Dr. Reginald Wilkinson
Colonel Paul Pride
Mr. Stephen Schumaker
Sheriff Michael Heldman
SAC Stephen Anthony

Commission members absent

Dr. Emily Passias

Guests and Staff

Attorney General's Office

Mr. Lou Agosta
Ms. Brittany Brashears
Ms. Julia Brinksneider
Mr. James Burke
Ms. Mary Davis
Ms. Courtney DeLong
Ms. Toni DiSalvo
Ms. Arienne Fauber
Ms. David Henry
Mr. Justin Hykes
Ms. Donna Long
Mr. Richard Meadows
Mr. Tony Ortiz

OPOTA Deputy Director
OPOTC Staff
Attorney General's Office
OPOTA Director Advanced Training
OPOTC Executive Director
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff
Interim Deputy Director
OPOTC Deputy Director
OPOTC Staff/OPOTC Secretary
Interim Deputy Director
OPOTC/AGO Staff

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION

Ms. Sarah Pierce
Ms. Lori Wachtel

Attorney General's Office
OPOTC Staff

Guests

Mr. Elijah K. Baisden III
Mr. Richard Clausen
Mr. James Copeland
Mr. Bob Meader
Ms. Sharon Montgomery
Ms. Lisa Murray
Ms. Amber Rose
Mr. Lawrence Roseboro
Mr. Tim Sansburg
Mr. Jerry Snay
Mr. Perry Tabak
Lt. J.S. Wickman
Mr. David Wiseman
Ms. Tammy Yates

Cuyahoga Community College
Kent State University Police Academy
Tri-C Community College
Columbus Division of Police
Ohio State University
Columbus Division of Police
Columbus Division of Police
Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Columbus Division of Police
Stark State Community College
Cuyahoga Falls Police Department
Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Delaware County Sheriff's Office
Columbus Division of Police

II. Chair Report

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chair**

Chair Stanforth welcomed the guests and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and then moved for approval of the minutes.

MOTION

Sheriff Heldman moved that the minutes of the September 14, 2017, meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Colonel Pride. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8 / No-0

There was nothing to report at this time, concluding the Chair report.

III. Curriculum Committee

**Chief Kimberley Jacobs
Committee Chair**

Chief Jacobs advised there was nothing to report at this time. That concluded the Curriculum report.

IV. Legislative Committee

**Chief Clayton Harris
Committee Chair**

Chief Harris advised there was nothing to report at this time. That concluded the Legislative Committee report.

V. House Committee

**Colonel Paul Pride
Committee Chair**

Committee Chair Pride stated the committee met this morning at 9:30 a.m. There were two items to discuss with the commission. The first item was the recommendation of the 2018 Chairperson for the commission.

MOTION:

Committee Chair Pride and the House Committee made the recommendation of Sheriff Vernon Stanforth as the 2018 OPOTC Commission Chairperson. Dr. Wilkinson seconded the motion. Colonel Pride asked if there was any discussion on the nomination of the chair? With no discussion forthcoming, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes – 7 / No – 0, Chair Stanforth abstained from the vote.

The second issue discussed was the need to create a vice-chair position for the commission. The House Committee felt the commission should have a vice-chair in place in the event of a critical incident in the county of the chair, or if the Chair was unable to attend a scheduled meeting or event such as the Memorial Ceremony or the Law Enforcement Conference. This position would alleviate the discussion and time involved to nominate a commissioner to run the meeting, vote, and then allow the commissioner to be updated on items to be discussed.

MOTION:

Committee Chair Pride and the House Committee made the recommendation for a vice-chair position to be created for the commission. The motion was seconded by Chief Harris. With no discussion forthcoming, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes – 8 / No – 0

At this time Committee Chair Pride turned the remaining House Committee report over to Mr. Schumaker.

MOTION:

Mr. Schumaker stated after discussion in the House Committee meeting, he moves to nominate Colonel Paul Pride as the Vice-Chair for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. The motion was seconded by Chief Jacobs. With no discussion forthcoming, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes – 7 / No – 0, Colonel Pride abstained from the vote.

Committee Chair Pride had nothing further to report concluding the House Committee report.

VI. Continuing Professional Training Committee

**Sheriff Michael Heldman
Committee Chair**

Committee Chair Heldman stated CPT for 2018 is zero hours. Everyone should have received the email sent out on October 6, 2017. However, the recommendation is for agencies to continue to train towards the 40 hour annual goal. We don't know how many agencies will comply with it, but we are hoping they will continue with training; doing more than nothing. At the last meeting Ms. Pierce was going to look into some information for us and give a report.



Ms. Pierce stated the question at the September 14th meeting was because there is no required training in 2018, whether reimbursement funds from prior years could be used by agencies in different ways for different trainings. Ms. Pierce looked at the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) language and the Administrative Code language for the Commission.

Ms. Pierce ran through the issue and then presented a couple options to the commission. As you probably know the ORC requires the commission to set a minimum number of training hours, if there are no monies, there are no hours. But, it also encourages agencies to exceed the minimum hours the Commission recommends. The issues are in the Administrative Code where the Commission defines the term “Continuing Professional Training” (CPT) as training prescribed by the Commission. In looking at the language, Ms. Pierce believes there is enough play that the Commission can make the decision that the reimbursement funds can be used for CPT training that is recommended by the Commission as well as required. That would allow agencies to use reimbursement funds this year even if there’s no required training, just recommended training. However, it is the appointing agencies’ responsibility to spend their money appropriately.

Her recommendation would be to send another email out to the appointing agencies saying, “It’s the Commission’s position that reimbursement funds may be used this year for recommended CPT training.” That would be training that meets all of the Commission’s minimum requirements for CPT training.

However, we can point out to the agencies that they may want to seek legal advice from their own lawyers about what the agency language means; because if this ever made it to court, the court would give a lot of deference to the commission’s interpretation of its own rules. But, it could decide differently. Ms. Pierce believes the Commission saying we interpret our rules to say that reimbursement funds can be used for continuing professional training this year serves your overall goals of keeping the momentum going for CPT training, and encouraging agencies to continue to provide CPT training to their officers.

Another option, if the Commission wanted to bulletproof this opinion would be to alter the definition of CPT to include recommended training. But, her recommendation is to point this issue out to the agencies, and say it is the Commission’s position that the reimbursement funds can be used for training this year even though there’s no required training, and to seek legal advice if they feel it is necessary.



Question: Chief Jacobs reconfirmed the “Commission” can change the definition of “CPT”? What about the law?

Answer: Ms. Pierce stated there is no definition in the law. The Commission has a rule that defines it. The rule says CPT training is training prescribed by the Commission. That is not the same language that is in the law. Ms. Pierce believes the difference in that word gives enough coverage for the commission to say, CPT training includes training the Commission recommends, and meets the Commission’s minimum requirements for training.



Question: Dr. Wilkinson asked if that could happen without going through JCARR?

Answer: Ms. Pierce responded it would be the commission’s interpretation of the rules. But, like Ms. Pierce stated earlier the courts will give a lot of deference to how you interpret your own rules. But, a court could decide differently, it could say they don’t agree and think prescribed training is training required by the Commission. Ms. Pierce feels it’s important to point this out to agencies, because it’s their obligation to make sure they are spending that money correctly. So, if they want to go get further advice from their own lawyer; they can do that. But, we are saying that as the Commission this meets our goals, this meets our objectives and we think our rules mean

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this. We can also point out to agencies that they may want to reserve those funds for next year in case there's mandated training; if they use it this year, they won't have it available for following years. It gives the agencies the ability to make their own decision.

Discussion: Mr. Hykes stated if the Commission was to change the definition it would require an Administrative Code change and would need to go through JCARR. Ms. Pierce responded exactly. But, we want to do that carefully because we want to make sure the definition doesn't change anything else in the code section. Chief Jacobs asked if there was money left over, was that why this was being discussed, has money been dedicated to CPT? Ms. Pierce responded the agencies have reimbursement funds they received in 2017. Ms. Davis added many agencies will be getting their 2017 CPT reimbursements early in 2018. The question was proposed since there's no 2018 CPT mandated training agencies can spend that money on, could they spend it on the recommended training. Chair Stanforth commented we are talking about the local funds once it goes into those local accounts; rather than the Attorney General's pot of money. Ms. Davis stated yes, we're talking about agency money they have received as reimbursement.

Chair Stanforth stated that the law established local funds which had specific guidelines as to how monies in those funds could be used. The protection was there so that the local legislative body couldn't come in and raid the agency funds. But that restriction is what we are seeing now as maybe too tight. Ms. Pierce stated all the law says is that local agencies have to set aside reimbursement funds and only use it for CPT. So, what we would be saying as a "Commission" is we think CPT includes the training required by law, but also the training which the Commission recommends as well. They couldn't use the money for parties or other things they want, it is only for CPT.

Chief Jacobs stated she was confused, their agency has always used their reimbursement money for training other than what had been mandated, to send officers to Canine schools, or whatever else. This is the money that came to us for last years mandated CPT training; which we are allowed to buy equipment, allowed to pay for training, and all those sort of things. They have always done that and Chief Jacobs is seeking clarity if this was something different. Chief Jacobs stated everything goes through their legal department.

Ms. Pierce stated the question was can reimbursement monies only be used for required hours or can they be used for other things; historically there are some agencies who have taken a pretty broad position as to what those can be used for. Ms. Pierce stated it is up to each agency how they are going to spend their money. We are speaking about what the Commission's position is on that. She believes the language of the rules are broad enough to say you can spend this money on required hours and on hours the Commission recommends you have. She is not sure about using it to purchase equipment.

Chair Stanforth stated we don't need to change the rule necessarily; we need to establish a broad position that would accomplish all these uses. If an auditor was to come in and look at records and say this money could only be used for this; there's got to be something that backs the agency up, showing funds were used for advanced training or continued professional training for their staff.

Chair Stanforth is more concerned about how an auditor would interpret the CPT statutes than how a court would. Agencies having a letter from the Commission with an interpretation on how reimbursement monies could be spent would hopefully satisfy an auditor and help with possible audits in the future.

The question to the Commission would be do we change the rule to reflect that position or do we define our position to the agency administrators by letter. Ms. Pierce stated those are the two options, she would recommend doing a follow-up letter. The letter will give the agencies guidance and that backup saying this is how the OPOTC interprets this. Chief Jacobs asked if the letter could be prepared by someone on staff and then the commission members give the opportunity to review the letter prior to it going out to the agencies.

Chief Jacobs stated she was a training commander the year CPT started, and they pored over how the funds could be used; she believes they have been using their reimbursement money in accordance with the law. Chief Jacobs wants to be sure the letter doesn't upset the apple cart. Ms. Pierce and Chair Stanforth agreed they don't want to go too narrow or too broad.

MOTION:

Dr. Wilkinson moved a letter be done pending review from the OPOTC Members before sending it out. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Heldman. The motion was opened for discussion. After the discussion recorded below a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes – 8 / No – 0

DISCUSSION: Chief Harris asked if the decision was on 2018? Chair Stanforth responded the letter will give guidance on the proper disbursement of the funds placed in a local CPT account from here on out. Colonel Pride stated next year there will not be any disbursements. Chair Stanforth stated there could presumably be money in local funds that could be utilized, and we don't want them utilized for inappropriate things.

Ms. Davis stated she would draft the letter and send it to the commissioners for review. Chair Stanforth asked if any feedback had been received from the commanders or administrators in regards to the letter send out not as a mandate for training, but as a recommendation for training. Ms. Davis responded at the direction of the Commission, the actual notice states the Commission does recommend each agency continue to build towards the forty hours of annual advanced training for each of its officers and focus on the specific topics as recommended in the report issued by the Attorney General's Advisory Group of Law Enforcement Training. Ms. Davis included a bullet list of topics in that notice. Chair Stanforth asked if any feedback has been received on those? Ms. Davis responded no feedback has been received.

Chief Jacobs asked if one of those was Companion Animal Encounters? Ms. Davis stated no, the Companion Animal Encounters was the 2015 Legislative mandate required for all officers. Chief Jacobs wanted to make sure the recommended topics weren't ones that have been mandated already. Legal Updates needs to be done every year. Chair Stanforth questioned if companion animals topic was mandated by 2019? Ms. Davis responded yes. She also advised that anyone who has questions on legislative mandates should know that officers can now fulfill all of those on eOPOTA. There is an eOPOTA category called Statutory Mandates and they can all be completed on-line.

With no other comments, that concluded the Continuing Professional Training Committee report.

Staff Reports

VII. Commission And Academy Updates

Mary Davis
Executive Director

Ms. Davis expressed a thank you to all the commissioners for their participation with the Law Enforcement Conference Award Ceremony. It means a lot to all the award winners, their families, and the agencies they represent.

Ms. Davis also gave a public thank you to the staff at OPOTA/C who brings the conference together each year. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the workshop topics, on the speakers, and we are in the process of drafting a survey to go out to the attendees within the next few weeks. Our attendance was just above 700. There is a core group of six and then a couple dozen others that come in at the end to help pull it all together.

Ms. Davis reported earlier this year we had applied with Washington State University of Spokane for an NIJ Grant on Implicit Bias training. Dr. Lois James, Washington State University, had come up a simulator program called Counter Bias Training Simulator (CBTSims), and wants to do research on its effectiveness. It takes the Implicit Bias training a level above awareness and information; identifying possible implicit bias in our decision making and allows for countering those biases. We were fortunate to get to work with Dr. James in her training research and the Cleveland Police Department will be the organization used as research subjects. We were awarded the grant, and will start working in January 2018 on the two year project.

Dr. Wilkinson was interested in more information on Dr. James and the grant; asking to be a part of the process. Ms. Davis replied she would forward Dr. Wilkinson the email with all the information. Our involvement will be we will have a couple of our training officers trained by the CBTSims developers to then put training on to 300 of Cleveland's officers. There will be 4 groups of officers, the first group of 100 will get classroom training on implicit bias, the second group of 100 will only get simulator training on implicit bias, and the third group of 100 will get both. The fourth group will be the control group; they will not get any additional training. Once the training is delivered they will measure and do comparisons of the groups. This is for patrol level officers participants only. It will be a doubleblind study, with total anonymity.

Chief Jacobs asked if they provide any type of implicit bias training in the academy that officers would have received? It could be something that could throw things off if they had recently received training in the academy as compared to a 10 year vet who has never been trained in it. Ms. Davis responded it is dependent upon when those chosen went through the academy. If they are more than a 3-4 year veteran, they probably didn't get much training. Dr. Wilkinson followed up with asking didn't we recently require everyone to go through the training? Ms. Davis stated it was an option for 2016 CPT if they wanted to be eligible for reimbursement. But, it was not they only option for that critical subject.

The last item was the resignation of the Deputy Director of the OPOTA Richfield campus and announcing the Interim Deputy Director, Richard Meadows. Mr. Meadows is a LETO at the London campus, teaching courses involving crime scene investigation, evidence and property room management training, among others. Mr. Meadows spoke about working with the auditor's office to create an Attorney General/Auditor's Office Best Practices.

Chair Stanforth stated his agency has two officers who worked with the auditor's office in the design of the process, which the auditor's office signed off on. Mr. Meadows asked if the chair would email him a copy of their policy. Both agreed there are some horror stories out there, and that is what they hope to avoid.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any other discussion. Hearing none, that concluded the Executive Director's report.

VIII. Old Business

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chair**

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any other old business, with none forthcoming, that concluded the old business report.

IX. New Business

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chair**



Chair Stanforth asked Mr. Hykes to discuss the Permanent/Non-expiring instructor certifications.

Mr. Hykes stated a few months back with the approval of the Commission, all commanders, (with the exception of private security) who had non-expiring certificates were changed to a five year review cycle. This was done as part of the advisory group's recommendation.

As the staff went through the process of changing the commanders' review cycle, they started internally talking about the permanent instructors. Prior to 1988, if someone was already an instructor in peace officer basic training, they could renew their certificate twice, and then ask for a permanent certificate. A permanent certificate meant they would never have to renew again. So, to keep up the certificate, if there was a subject control update or instructor skills update they'd have to go through the training to keep their certification current; other than that we never heard from them again.

From 1988-1999 anyone who became an instructor couldn't get the permanent instructor certificate. Anyone who was already an instructor prior to 1988 could still get that permanent certificate. In 1999 the permanent instructor was entirely removed from the administrative code. There has been no mention of permanent instructors since 1999.

In researching the permanent instructors, we have found there are 1500 (24%) non-expiring instructors in our database. Mr. Hykes wanted to bring this to the attention of the commission for their thoughts on notifying those who hold the permanent instructor certificates and requiring them to renew their certification. This would not even require an Administrative Code change, because permanent instructor certifications haven't been included in the Administrative Code for almost two decades now. It would be notifying those instructors that they are now no longer permanent instructors and they will be required to begin renewing their certification. We would not automatically remove their certification, but we would notify them advising them they now have an expiration date and would be required to renew every three years.

We don't know how many of the 1500 are still instructing. Chief Heldman questioned that they should be on the roster if they were instructing in an academy. Mr. Hykes responded, they would be on the roster, but that wouldn't be reflected in our database. We would have to go through each school file to pull out if they had instructed recently. Some we know because they

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have updated their certificate or gone through an instructor course. But there are a lot that haven't updated their certification. Dr. Wilkinson asked Mr. Hykes if he was recommending the three year renewal process.



Chair Stanforth asked what the 3 year requirement is to update or renew a certification? Mr. Hykes responded for peace officer basic training, instructors have to teach in an academy for 24 hours and take 24 hours of continuing educational training. Corrections instructors have to teach for 12 hours and take 12 hours of training. Jailer instructors have to take 8 hours of training and teach for 8 hours. There are about 400 permanent correction and jailer basic training instructors.

Ms. Davis stated those would be the requirements for unit instructors within those programs. The teaching and training hours are less in those programs compared to the instructors who are special topic instructors; which means they have a smaller amount of topics. Chair Stanforth asked if a fee was associated with the renewal, Mr. Hykes responded, no there is not. This is basically verifying those who have the permanent instructor certificates are still teaching. If a permanent instructor is still instructing it really won't affect the instructor other than showing documentation of the teaching. If they aren't teaching, it helps us clean out our records.

Ms. Davis gave the example; she currently holds a non-expiring peace officer basic instructor certificate. This means she wouldn't have to teach in any academy, but would always be certified; because there is no expiration date on the certification. If the commission decided to say you have a three year renewal, I could make the complaint that OPOTA issued the certificate to her as non-expiring. Why would she have to meet these qualifications now? You can't renege on your non-expiring offer. That is a valid complaint that we most likely would receive. But, it's no different than the same complaint we heard when we made the changes in the commander certification and put an expiration date on all the commanders. Dr. Wilkinson stated then there is precedence? Chief Harris commented this is a much smaller group. Ms. Davis agreed, they had 300 plus commanders and we are speaking about 1500 instructors.

Chief Jacobs stated no one has received this certification since 1999 and we don't know if they've be instructing. Mr. Hykes responded there are probably instructors who are non-expiring who shouldn't be. But, without going deeper into our data, 1500 is what we show right now. Chief Harris asked if the normal appeal process would be followed for anyone who wanted to complain about their status? Ms. Pierce stated that would be the first step, in code and in Chapter 119 it says that if there is any change in status that it would go through the 119 process.

Mr. Hykes said they would most likely assign the instructors an expiration date in the system. We send the letter out in January 2018 stating their expiration date is 2021 or like with the commanders we could take the instructors approval month and day and go three years from that beginning in 2018. So if approval was April 24, 1988 in January their letter would show an expiration date of April 24, 2021. We would want to stagger the dates so all 1500 weren't coming in at the same time. Chief Jacobs asked if we did a letter explaining the new process and asking if they were currently teaching, we could take the 1500 down to a low number and wouldn't have to wait three years for the answer. Ms. Davis replied the letter could give them the option to call in and relinquish their certificate, instead of us waiting three years to remove them due to them not renewing. This would help get our records cleaned up earlier.

Chair Stanforth asked if a motion was required, Mr. Hykes stated there would be no code changes required, but it would be good to have a motion on the record supporting the direction staff is taking.

MOTION:

Sheriff Heldman made the motion to move forward with a letter to all permanent/non-expiring instructors notifying them that their permanent/non-expiring certificate was being replaced with an expiring certificate, which will have to be renewed every three years. The letter would include the necessary requirements to maintain their instructor certification. Chief Harris 2nd the motion. The motion was opened to a lengthy discussion and then a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes - 8 / No - 0

DISCUSSION:



SAC Anthony responded there is a strong argument with public interest, no cost, we are being very generous with the grace period and it's hard to argue with the professional standards standpoint why this isn't in the interest of the Commission. There will be people who complain, but again there is no cost and we are giving them several years do what we are asking them to do now to retain their certification; if they don't, then they loss the certification. This is trying to maintain it.

It was discussed why permanent/non-expiring were issued, and there is not much, if anything in the minutes to help us understand it. At that time it wasn't as easy to get things gathered up, and mailed in. Chair Stanforth stated also at that time oversight of academies were very minimal, there was no staffing there to do the oversight, we were lucky to have a commander and instructor to call upon to do these things. Mr. Schumaker verified the commission has the power to do this? Ms. Pierce responded yes, as it stands now the permanent/non-expiring certificates aren't in compliance with our current code. It appears to be more a policy that got grandfathered in at some point and fell off the radar. Ms. Pierce could see a situation where people would be mad about this, and try to bring a claim, but it's the Commission's responsibility and they have the power to change it.

Chair Stanforth asked how many instructors would there be teaching consistently and complying with our current standard? Those instructors who are teaching and complying with the current standard wouldn't be impacted by this; they are willing to do what needs done. There are some who don't want to teach, but want that certificate on the wall saying they are permanent.

Dr. Wilkinson asked if there was anyone else present who had a non-expiring certificate? There are probably very few people out there. Mr. Snay, Stark State, stated he has probably 5 non-expiring instructors on his roster, a couple of them have been retired and they may just stop teaching if they have to go through extra training, and he states that would be an extreme loss for him. Chair Stanforth stated if they are teaching labs from 1988 verses 2018, the question is how valuable they can be if they aren't current. That was the goal behind the continuing training; to be sure the instructors are current with what they are teaching the student. Chief Jacobs stated which is mandated regardless.

Mr. Copeland, Cuyahoga Community College, stated the permanent certificate doesn't give an instructor the initiative they need to have to continue vocational training, and it's not fair for

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those who have to renew every three years. They either renew like everyone else every 3 years or stop instructing.

Chair Stanforth stated he had a commander approach him at the conference with some concerns regarding the commanders' conference. Ms. Davis responded a commander conference had been set for November 6th in Richfield and on November 13th in London. Shortly before the Law Enforcement Conference, a cancellation was sent out postponing until spring/early summer of 2018. Chair Stanforth said it was about the \$50 fee associated to attend the commanders' conference. Ms. Davis explained it is a 4 hour class and it is an OPOTA course; the standardized tuition fee is \$100 a day, which would be \$50 for the half day course. Chair Stanforth questioned the fee is for attending a course, not attending the conference? Ms. Davis stated the conference is our advanced training course. Chair Stanforth said the individual portrayed this because he has to pay \$50 to attend a meeting to maintain his commander's certificate, which is what he is upset about. Ms. Davis responded, yes, that would be accurate. Chief Jacobs responded its mandatory and he has to pay \$50. Ms. Davis stated yes, similar to the 24 hours of continuing training that they would have to take to redo their certificates. They might have to pay for that training.

Chair Stanforth's response was they are being paid to be a commander, someone is paying you to be a commander; it's not gratis. Dr. Wilkinson asked if the Chair was suggesting that the commanders shouldn't have to pay? The Chair responded we have had discussions in the past regarding different fees associated with certifications and testing, etc. He didn't want to start a discussion without looking into it a little more thoroughly before it was discussed.

Ms. Davis responded, historically when there have been commanders' conferences, which the last one was in 2012, and prior to that 2011 was the first one in years. In 2011, we started the basic curriculum revisions, and for a couple years there were conferences provided for free. When this conference was setup, she took counsel from many staff members; Justin being one of them advising against setting our standardized tuition for the conference because historically they have been offered for free. The position Ms. Davis took was this is an advanced training course, it is professional development, and it cost us money to provide that training. She didn't see a good justification for not staying with OPOTA's standardized tuition cost.

Chair Stanforth responded we create cottage industry, where commanders can go out and market themselves and we have seen that, we aren't asking them to do something they aren't doing in charging their students. Mr. Hykes explained traditionally the commanders' conferences were just updates on what we were doing and that is done more through email now. The way we are transitioning the commanders' conference to be, especially now with the commander renewal requirements, it would be an actual day of training. There would be someone from our H.R. department speaking on generational issues. This training is more a developmental training and will help them actually renew your certificate in more ways than one. Chair Stanforth agreed with what was said, it gave a better light to the topic for the purpose of argument. Dr. Wilkinson stated he wasn't recommending the fee, but he thinks that sometimes when you have some skin in the game, you tend to appreciate what you have gotten a little bit differently. If the commanders do market the certificate to anywhere else weather it has anything to do with OPOTA or not, that is worth something to them. He feels the discussion should continue on the matter. Chief Harris also replied when the discussion continues; remember that all situations aren't on the individual, sometimes it's on the organization that will be supporting that individual. The thoughts shouldn't always be on the person. Chair Stanforth asked if there was any other discussion from the commission members and with nothing further to discuss that concluded the New Business report.

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X. Guest Forum

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chair**

The Chair asked if any guest had any concerns they'd like to bring before the commission.

Mr. Perry Tabak, Cuyahoga Falls Police Department asked to go back to the CPT discussion. Their views are very similar to Columbus; they use their CPT reimbursement funds for advanced training. They don't necessarily use for what OPOTA says is the recommended training; they do that training, but they may not use the funds they get in their accounts for that training. They may use it for a canine, canine training, or if they want to send an officer to an advanced rifle course. In line with that, he would like to see the wording defining the use for the CPT funds kept to be able to continue using the funds as mentioned above and in support of it. He would also like to see it include the Governor's collaborative items added as well do to the cost associated with it.

Mr. Elijah Baisden, III of Cuyahoga Community College spoke on the Blue Courage part of the basic academy. There is a recommendation for two instructors, he spoke with Ms. Jocelyn Little at Blue Courage, and the two instructor recommendation is just that a recommendation; not a mandate. He is asking for consideration to be given for the use of one instructor; the two instructor mandate places a hardship. He believes in the Blue Courage Training, it's been needed for some time. He has taught it a number of times, and the response has been great; the students and cadets love it. But, the biggest thing is the person teaching it has to care about the Blue Courage philosophy; that's the biggest thing. Again, he asks for consideration of allowing one instructor instead of the mandated two instructors to teach this course.

Ms. Davis stated the ratio for our program is a mandate that they have two instructors. What Mr. Baisden is saying is that the Blue Courage Program they recommend two, but they don't require two instructors. The way the Commission's curriculum is set up where two are required. Chair Stanforth asked about it creating a hardship. Mr. Baisden stated sometimes it is difficult to get two instructors to teach simultaneously. He has taught it several times, and the course work is so put together that one instructor teaching it is fine; you have the Blue Courage philosophy as a guide, you have the booklets, the lesson, and the PowerPoint. If the instructor believes in the Blue Courage mission, he or she will accomplish the task of getting Blue Courage across to those students. Chair Stanforth asked when he has taught the course did he teach it alone or with a partner? Mr. Baisden replied he taught it alone, with great success. He taught an hour for the CPT and also in the classroom before it was a requirement from OPOTC. He has not experienced it with a partner. Chair Stanforth asked if anyone in the room has experienced Blue Courage with two instructors. Mr. Tabak stated they put their whole department through Blue Courage and they used two instructors at all times in the class. He stated it puts a burden on the agency financially due to paying a second instructor. You can have one instructor pretty much sitting there; it depends of the number of students. They could have used one instructor; they weren't running 20-30 people at one time. Mr. Copeland believed students get more out of one instructor than that instructor handing it off to another instructor who may not be as passionate as the other. He feels one instructor is all that is needed.

Ms. Davis responded Blue Courage takes effect on July 1, 2018 in academies, so academies are trying to building up there instructor base. We can go back and look at that requirement, have our master trainers reach out to Mr. Baisden, and Mr. Tabak, getting their thoughts and relook at the curriculum which would be taking effect in July 2018 and bring a recommendation back to the commission regarding the number of instructors needed. Chair Stanforth assigned the task to

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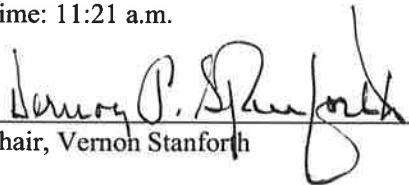
the curriculum committee for direction in January meeting. Mr. Baisden will forward an email of Ms. Little's response to Ms. Davis.

Chair Stanforth thanked everyone for their comments. The Chair asked if there was any other business to be brought before the Commission, hearing none, the chair entertained the motion to adjourn.

MOTION

Chief Harris moved to adjourn the meeting. SAC Anthony seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Y-8 / N-0

Time: 11:21 a.m.


Chair, Vernon Stanforth

These transcripts are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon request.