



# W.N.Y. C.O.P.S.



P.O. Box 681  
Buffalo, NY 14225

April 20, 2009

Dear Chief,

The Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) organization began in 1984 with 110 members. Today COPS membership is over 15,000 families. In 1998 the Western New York chapter of COPS was opened. Over the last decade several WNY families of police officers that have been killed in the line of duty have received emotional and financial support from WNY COPS. This includes WNY families whose loved ones relocated and were killed in the line of duty while working for police departments out of the area.

The needs of the families do not end after the funeral. National Police Week ceremonies are held each May in Washington, DC. In Washington, the families attend a Candlelight Vigil and a Memorial Service where officers killed during the previous calendar year are honored. The families also have the opportunity to attend grief workshops where they can talk with people who understand what they are going through – other survivors from around the country. Many survivors return to Washington to attend the ceremonies/workshops and to support the new families. In addition to assisting families at National Police Week, COPS hosts retreats in the fall of each year. The retreats are for spouses, children, parents, adult children, in-laws and fiancés/significant others.

Needless to say there are expenses associated with National Police Week, the retreats and other COPS functions. The families of our fallen officers need our support – not only immediately following the line of duty death but for years after the death. Who better to support the families of fallen officers than police officers themselves? The next family that is in need of the support could be yours or mine. For this reason we are starting a new program with Western New York COPS. It's called the LEAS program – Law Enforcement Assisting Survivors.

Twice a year we are asking **all** law enforcement officers in Western New York to donate **one** dollar to Western New York COPS. The times to donate will be:

- a) during the first two weeks of May – right before National Police Week as a reminder that we must never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice or their families.
- b) during the first two weeks of November – right before the Thanksgiving Holiday as a reminder that we all have much to be thankful for.

This can be accomplished very easily if every headquarters, station, detail, unit, department, precinct, correctional facility, etc. hangs an envelope for the first two weeks of May and November explaining the program and assign someone to forward all the money collected to:

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Again, it's only **one** dollar twice a year and unlike other organizations that solicit money, I guarantee **all** of the money will go to programs that support our surviving families with zero going to a marketing agency. Most of the money will go to Western New York COPS and a portion will go to National COPS to help support some national programs such as National Police Week and the retreats that our local survivors have and will benefit from.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated participation in this program.

Donald P. Gleason

Vice President,  
Western New York COPS