



Suncoaster

Suncoast Chapter

Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Tampa Bay, Florida – January, 2008



Suncoast Chapter Tampa Bay, FL

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Chairman's Message



Dear Chapter Members and Friends:

It's hard to believe, but 2007 has come to an end, and we are already embarking on a Brand New Year! On behalf of the officers of the Suncoast Chapter, we wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous 2008.

Our activities year ended with a wonderful Christmas party, again held at Maggianos, and attended by 90 members and guests. Our special guests were Tampa SAC Steve Ibison and his lovely wife Beverly, and Tampa Office Chapter Liaison Charlene Buccione and her husband Tom. Beverly assisted with the drawings for the door prizes and centerpieces, and was gracious and warm in this capacity. Our sincere thanks go out to Gary Luker, who took many fine photos, and in judging by the feedback received, a great time was had by one and all!

We have a fine program in store for our regular chapter luncheon on January 15, 2008. Our keynote speaker will be Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee, and our honored guests will be Tampa SAC Steve Ibison, and Dr. Richard Reichard, Hillsborough Community College (HCC), Criminal Education Division, Ybor Campus. Dr. Reichard will be presented with a 2008 J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2500, to be used by deserving students who are in the HCC Criminal Justice Program. This presentation was arranged by Gary Luker, and the award was made possible by new chapter member Jim Weller. Our thanks are extended to Jim and Gary for affording the Suncoast Chapter this honor. Let's insure that we have a great turnout for these distinguished guests and this memorable event!

At our luncheon in November, the chapter unanimously approved a \$100 donation to the Lin DeVecchio defense fund. Lin responded with a note to the chapter, thanking us for our support and contribution, and indicating that both were very much appreciated. The Suncoast Chapter has been invited to a luncheon meeting of the Gulf Coast Chapter that

Coming Events

January 15th - Luncheon Meeting - Crabby Bill's Restaurant at the Radisson Hotel

February 12th - Valentine's Day Luncheon (second Tuesday of the month)

March 17th - Baseball Day at the Yankees ball park (date to be confirmed)

April 15th - Luncheon Meeting

April 22nd - Day at the Races - Tampa Bay Downs

will feature a presentation by Lin, wherein he will give an accounting of his case and its final dismissal. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 18, 2008, beginning at 11:30AM, at the Marina Jack Restaurant. The restaurant is located on Route 41 (Tamiami Trail) at the Sarasota Bay Front. The cost is \$16.00 a person, and checks to make a reservation should be sent to Gulf Coast Treasurer Ray Angle, 6972 Country Lakes Circle, Sarasota, FL 34243.

As indicated in the last message, the Suncoast Chapter prepared a Certificate of Appreciation for retiring Grapevine editor Don Witham, which was signed by those chapter members attending the November luncheon. This certificate was forwarded to Society Executive Director Scott Erskine for presentation to Don. Scott telephoned me in early December and extended his sincere thanks to the chapter for this kind gesture, which he stated was sincerely appreciated by Don.

It has come to the chapter's attention that member Richard MacClary is experiencing some rather serious health issues, and needs the support and prayers of each of us. Richard and Lee reside at 2400 Feather Sound Drive, Apartment 718, Clearwater, Florida 33762, and I am confident that cards with prayerful wishes for the family would be very much appreciated.

The chapter was saddened to learn that longtime chapter member Sheldon Cooper has passed away. Chapter member Jack O'Flaherty has advised that a memorial service will be held for Sheldon at 1:00PM on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at Incarnation Catholic Church. The church is located on Hillsborough Avenue, just west of the Town & Country shopping area and adjacent to Webb Road in Tampa. A good turnout by the chapter will certainly be appreciated by Sheldon's family.

The next six months will be active ones for the chapter. Please note that our February luncheon will be held on February 12, 2007, which is the second Tuesday, as opposed to the usual third Tuesday of the month. The reason for this one-time change is to hold our Valentines luncheon in close proximity to Valentines Day. Please mark your calendars, and bring your favorite Valentine to this very special event.

In March, we will attend a Yankees baseball game in lieu of our usual Tuesday luncheon. Chapter member Phil McNiff has been contacted, and has agreed to check into the possibility of getting us a block of seats for the Yankees-Red Sox game on Monday, March 17, 2007 (Saint Patty's Day, by coincidence!). If seating is not available

for this game, we will try for another suitable date. I will keep everyone advised of all future developments in this regard. Thanks, Phil, for your assistance in this matter!

Chapter member Tom Connelly has arranged a Day at the Races at Tampa Bay Downs on Tuesday, April 22, 2007. We had a great turnout for this event last year, and a wonderful time was had by one and all! Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us this year. We will hold our regular chapter luncheon on the preceding Tuesday, April 15, 2007, in addition to this event. Thanks, Tom, for setting up this event for us!

Chapter dues were payable last fall. Chapter Treasurer Bob Ulmer has indicated that some dues payments remain outstanding. If you have not yet had an opportunity to pay your chapter dues, please send Bob a check for \$25 payable to SFSAFBI Suncoast Chapter, or give it to him at the January luncheon. Bob's mailing address is 17031 Dolphin Drive, North Redington Beach, FL 33708.

Finally, the Suncoast Chapter wishes to thank everyone for your fine attendance at luncheons and your participation in chapter events. If you have not been active in the chapter in the past, a good New Year's resolution would be to become an active participant and join in the fellowship and good times that we enjoy so much each month. We value each other's friendship and camaraderie, and the good times are even better when our activities are well attended!

Sincerest best wishes to one and all!

Doug deWolfe

Florida Regional VP Report - December 2007

by Al Robinson

As we approach the holiday season and new year, I hope that everyone is enjoying good health and will have the opportunity to be with family and friends during this wonderful time of year. Below are highlights of current issues and activities of the Society. If you have any questions, please call me at 727-421-1057.

Membership: The society currently has approximately 7,600 members, about the same number as last year.

FBI 100th Anniversary Activities: A major event including the President is being planned in Washington in June 2008. Plans have not been finalized.

Picnic at Quantico: A picnic at Quantico is being planned and may include tours of the facility. This event is envisioned to accommodate a significant influx of Society members.

Medallion for FBIHQ Courtyard/Coins: Noting that the Society provided the 3 foot medallion now mounted in the courtyard, the Society is planning to commission a similar medallion for the 100th anniversary. Using the design of the medallion, the Society is also considering making available to Society members a commemorative coin.

Commemorative Guns: The Society is currently considering having a commemorative weapon issued, possibly in coordination with the FBIAA, which has selected a commemorative automatic. A final decision has not been regarding a revolver versus an automatic. Cost is estimated to be in the range of \$700 to \$900.

Postage Stamp: Society is also attempting to get support for a postage stamp in recognition of the 100 Anniversary.

Foundation Activities: During the year, the Foundation continues to provide scholarships and assist families in need. Most notably, financial assistance has been provided to several Society members that sustained damage from the fires in California

September 2008 Annual Convention in Hawaii: If you have wanted to go to Hawaii this is the opportunity to do it inexpensively. The room rates were negotiated right after 9/11 and are below currently market rates. For the trip of a lifetime, and see some old friends too, check the Grapevine for details and sign up soon.

Al

News from Managing Director Becky Vance

We can purchase a CD version of the Society Directory for \$25. Contact Society HQ if you want a CD Directory. The CD contains a searchable pdf file that is a duplicate of the printed directory.

Widows of Agents are eligible for a free Grapevine subscription. Contact SFSAFBI Headquarters at 800 527--7372.

Chapter News

Bob Ulmer advises that we have also received a tentative offer from Jim Zloto, former Secret Service Agent and

current local head of TSA - Federal Air Marshals Service, to speak at one of our future luncheons. Thanks, Bob, for this consideration.

Sheldon Cooper Services

Sheldon Cooper, age 85, passed away on December 22, 2007, at the Harrodsburg Health Care facility in Harrodsburg, Kentucky (KY). Sheldon is survived by his wife, Mary, and their 6 children, Stephen, Michael, Marilyn, James Bradley, Christine and Patrick along with 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Sheldon served in the Bureau as a Special Agent from 1954 to 1960 and had been active in the Former Agents Society Suncoast Chapter in Tampa, FL. A Memorial service will be held for Sheldon at 1:00PM, January 19, 2008 at Incarnation Catholic Church, Tampa, Florida, in which area Sheldon and Mary resided for 35 years. Interment will be at Sylvan Abbey, Clearwater, FL. Mary is now residing at the home of her son, Patrick, at 3516 Webster Rd. Danville, KY 40422.2008 Chapter Dues

Chapter Dues are Due

Get your \$25 dues in to Bob Ulmer. Be sure and fill out the bio form updating your address, telephone, email address, etc.

Joe Trimbach

Book may now be ordered on AMAZON. To those of you who ordered the book directly from me, the book will be mailed to you ASAP, probably in about three weeks. Thank you for your patience. Best wishes to all for a Merry and blessed Christmas. Joe Trimbach '56-79 joetrimbach@comcast.net

Do Not Call List

The Do Not Call list expiration date has been extended indefinitely.. this means you do not have to renew your entries. Find out more at <http://www.donotcall.gov>

Our New Photo Spot on the Web

Photos from our chapter's events can be found at <http://SuncoastChapter.SmugMug.com>. There is no www in this URL. You can download the full sized image or a smaller version. You can also buy the images from SnugMug. In a months time we should have the images from the past events loaded on our SnugMug web site. Any questions, call Dennis Hughes.



Photography courtesy of Gary Luker & Associates

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

