



# Suncoaster – June, 2006

## Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

### Suncoast Chapter – Tampa Bay, Florida

#### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The June Chapter Meeting (Tuesday, June 20, 2006), concludes the term of the current officers. It was a challenge and pleasure to serve and presented me an opportunity to interact with Chapter members. I appreciate the efforts of Quentin M. Vaughan, Vice Chairman; Lane M. Bonner, Jr., Treasurer; Brian R. Kensel, & Dennis Hughes, Secretaries; who were instrumental in making the past year a success.



The Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of nominees and will also accept additional names from the floor. Membership will then elect the officers for the September 2006 thru June 2007 year.

#### Chairman Ondrula and Daniel Ruth

No Chapter meetings will be held during July & August. Our first meeting after the summer respite will be Tuesday, September 19, 2006.

A GREAT SUMMER TO ALL.

Joseph Ondrula



**SA Kurt Huertas Distributes Credentials**



**A Thorn and Two Roses  
Daniel Saunders, Barbara Madden and  
Joy Wilson**



### **Full House at the May Luncheon**

#### **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

We had an extraordinary turnout with over 65 members and guests at our May meeting, thanks to Daniel Ruth and SA Kurt Huertas with the newly minted retired credentials. Remember the pictures are available at [www.dennishughes.org/](http://www.dennishughes.org/). Send Dennis a message if you want a high resolution picture emailed to you. [dvhughes@mindspring.com](mailto:dvhughes@mindspring.com)



**Ruth receiving a picture of his dog**

The June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature former sportscaster/announcer, JIM KARVELLAS, formerly with Washington Bullets and has done Colts (Baltimore) and Orioles games. Jim will give a picture of what really go on behind the scenes and answer questions from the audience. Remember to call Land Bonner with reservations 813 719-1039 or send him a message at [lbo9687886@aol.com](mailto:lbo9687886@aol.com).

Remember the invitation from SAC Whitehead to tour the new Tampa Division on Friday, June 23, 2006 10:00 AM. This open house is for xAgents and their families. Phone Al Scudieri at 813 286-4100 or send Al a message at [ascudieri@jameshoyer.com](mailto:ascudieri@jameshoyer.com).

#### **Brian Kensel Updates the Status of HR 218**

House Resolution 218, the law signed by President Bush in July 2004, permits retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed weapon nationwide IF they meet certain requirements:

1. They have in their possession a photo identification issued by the department from which they retired, stating the employee retired "in good standing", that is, not for medical

disabilities, not under the cloud of suspicion from an internal investigation, etc. For former Bureau SAs, this requirement is met only by the credit card sized plastic ID card currently being issued to retirees. The credentials mounted in your wall plaque, or the new retired creds, do not satisfy this element of the law, as they are issued to ALL retirees who request them, without consideration of the law's requirement for separation "in good standing."

2. They have in their possession proof issued by the state of their residence, confirming qualification with the type of weapon carried (revolver or semiauto pistol), within the past 12 calendar months. Qualification is to the standards of current law enforcement officers in their state. For us, that means shooting a minimum of 32 hits on the new 40 round handgun qualification course adopted by Florida last year, which goes into effect July 1 of this year.

Florida has mandated that the course may be shot on any public, private or law enforcement range facility, but that it may only be conducted by instructors certified by the Florida Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission. CJSTC does not recognize the certifications of FBI, NRA, or military firearms instructors. Florida permits CJSTC instructors to charge any fee they deem appropriate (what the market will bear...) to conduct these qualifications course for retirees.

Most Florida agencies (at the state, county & municipal levels) have established policies to offer qualification to their own retirees. As most of you are aware, the U.S. Attorney General has prohibited all DOJ components from assisting DOJ retirees in any manner to meet the qualification requirements of their states. This means the FBI will not provide a site, ammunition, instruction etc. to meet this element of HR 218.

The Suncoast chapter is working on an arrangement to offer a range day to our members and other local FBI retirees, where they may shoot the Florida qualification course, and, when successful, receive a card satisfying the second prong of the HR 218 requirements. As more of the ID cards arrive in the Tampa Division for issue to retired SAs, we will lock down arrangements for range opportunities, and keep you advised. Retirees will have to supply all ammunition they need to pass the course. Once you have your ID card, and have a card demonstrating your Florida qualification within the past year, you can carry a concealed handgun nationwide (subject to some limitations mentioned below). To continue using 218, you must requalify every 12 months.

If you want to carry both a semiauto pistol and a revolver at various times under HR 218, you will have to qualify twice (once with each type of weapon), and carry both cards. If you have several revolvers, or multiple semiautos from which you choose your carry gun, you only have to qualify with one of them, that is, if you qualify with a semi auto, you can carry any semiauto you have. Similarly, if you qualify with a revolver, you are covered to carry any revolver you own.

The federal law gives us the authority to carry concealed in any of the 50 states, but we are still subject to limitations imposed by each state. Some states prohibit carrying concealed firearms in bars, sporting events, school grounds, courthouses, etc.; HR 218 does not supersede those rules, nor does it permit us to fly armed, or carry anywhere else firearms are banned (Federal courthouses, U.S. Capitol, etc.).

As an alternative for those who do not want to utilize HR 218 as their authority to carry a concealed firearm, you still have the option of obtaining a Florida Concealed Weapons Permit, which is good for five years, and is recognized through reciprocal agreements with 27 other states. You do not have to qualify (either initially nor annually), although you must attend a firearms safety course, or provide proof of similar training (like Bureau firearms training). The total cost of a Florida CCW is about \$120, for fingerprinting, processing, etc. For more information on this option, check the website of the Florida Department of Agriculture licensing division, which is the organization that issues, and oversees, Florida CCW permits. You can find that site via [myFlorida.com](http://myFlorida.com).

If you have questions not addressed above, please let me know and I'll get back to you.

Brian Kensel  
[bkensel1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bkensel1@tampabay.rr.com)

### **Ed Fleck Reminds**

NARFE is the nation's oldest and largest federal employee/retiree organization with a National membership of nearly 350,000. The Florida Federation has 11 Districts with 77 Chapters and over 20,000 members representing over 166,000 retired federal civil service annuitants, survivor annuitants and several hundred current employees, along with many present and former dependents of these members. More information about NARFE in Florida is available from [www.narfeffl.net](http://www.narfeffl.net).