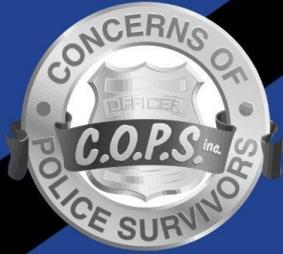


# MONTANA C.O.P.S.



## Montana Concerns of Police Survivors

135 Rimrock Ct. Kalispell, MT 59901

[www.montanacops.org](http://www.montanacops.org)

[info@montanacops.org](mailto:info@montanacops.org)

406-285-1267



### Undersheriff Pat Pyette, EOW 12/14/11

Undersheriff Pat Pyette was struck and killed by a vehicle while directing traffic around the scene of a disabled truck on U.S. Highway 2, between Harlem and Chinook. An oncoming vehicle that was passing the scene struck Undersheriff Pyette, causing him to suffer fatal injuries. He was transported to a hospital in Great Falls where he succumbed to his injuries. The distracted driver, Mary Louise Stewart, 61, has been charged with negligent homicide.



Undersheriff Pyette had served with the agency for 10 years and had previously served with the United States Air Force. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter-in-law, & two grandchildren.

Montana COPS members attended Pat's service handing out blue ribbons to all the attendees. Pat's widow and son were not able to attend Police Week 2012 but hope to go in 2013.

### HIKE FOR HEROES 2012



Fallen but NOT Forgotten

*PLEASE SUPPORT Hike for Heroes Fundraisers for Montana COPS  
Sponsors, donations, and registrations: [www.hike-for-heroes.org](http://www.hike-for-heroes.org)*

Whitefish Mountain  
Resort

July 14, 2012

08:00 to Noon

Contact Lacy Schneider  
871-5705

Bozeman Beach Park

July 7, 2012

08:00 to Noon

Contact Dennis or Nancy  
DeLaitre  
581-3209 285-3669

### Board of Directors

Jerril Ren, President, Son of MHP Patrolman Michael Ren, EOW 4/8/78, [president@montanacops.org](mailto:president@montanacops.org)

Genny Graham, President Elect, Widow of MHP Trooper David Graham, EOW 10/9/07

Joyce Kramer, Secretary, Mother of West Yellowstone PO Patrick Kramer, EOW 10/22/06

Lee Sturdevant, Treasurer, Step father of MHP Trooper Evan Schneider, EOW 8/26/08

Becky Sturdevant, Past President, Mother of MHP Trooper Evan Schneider, EOW 8/26/08

## Montana C.O.P.S. Chapter Annual Meeting

Montana Law Enforcement Academy Helena, MT, September 17, 2011

Thank you to MLEA for hosting our meeting. The children enjoyed a tour of the facilities.

Thank you to Chris Thompson for arranging donations for lunch!

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance through the end of 08/11 \$2463.61

**Financial policy committee** will be established with implementation of new bylaws.

No debit cards are allowed – the current ones will be destroyed. Checking account with checks will be used.

\$198.70 to National COPS as tithed Fiscal year ends 03/31 IRS 990 completed and filed \$15.00 fee

**Prioritization for spending policy:** new survivors will be prioritized according to funds in account.

**Hands on Program** reimbursement will be distributed in relation to expenses and funds in account.

**LOD Death policy accepted.** Discussion about coordination with other chapters for adjacent states without chapter

**Bylaws revision:** Add past president to the MT COPS board.

**ELECTIONS:** Jerril Ren holds office of President of MT COPS (2 years)

- Lee Sturdevant elected Treasurer to fill Linda Pope's term [moving to SC] (1 year)
- Becky Sturdevant will hold position on board as Past President (2 years)
- Jenny Graham elected as President Elect (2 years)
- Joyce Kramer continues as secretary (1 more year)

**Montana Law Enforcement Museum Board position:** Joyce Kramer accepted position.

Attendees suggested the annual MT Law Enforcement date be moved 7-10 days or 2 weeks prior to National Law Enforcement date so that current year survivors can attend both events.

**Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention Seminar:**

Sheriff L Dutton is working with Dr. R Douglas to schedule the one day seminar spring 2012. \$1000 WalMart grant has been received for the seminar. \$100 donation from MT COPS approved for support of seminar.

**Traumas of Law Enforcement:**

Sheriff L Dutton is coordinating this hands on program to be held in 2013, possible Billings site. Billings would afford ease of flights with neighboring states to have access to the program.

**Field of Honor: Butte and Billings**

Nancy Delaittre and Joyce Kramer will coordinate with local services for these events.

**Blue Ribbons and Blue Lights:**

Three Forks will honor Fallen MHP David DeLaittre on December 01, 2012. All MT Fallen Law Enforcement Officers will be included. A Blue tree will be lit with blue candles available to light. All proceeds will benefit MT COPS.

Kalispell and Billings will continue with annual Blue Light ceremony. Dates to be announced.

**Fundraising Ideas:**

- Hike for Heroes will be held July 14, 2012 in Kalispell. The Delaittre family plans to challenge the Kalispell event with a Hike for Heroes in the Bozeman area.
- Jerril will coordinate payroll deductions, donations on line and charitable giving (United Way, etc.)
- License Plate Designation will be coordinated with Colonel Tooley, DMV Director and D. Kramer.
- Merchandise is available for purchase. Window Clings are available for \$3. Tri-folds are available.
- Motorcycle Poker Run has been proposed in the Libby area. Joyce K will contact the MT Blue Knights to possibly work with this proposal.
- Becky Hillier, spouse of BPD officer, presented several options for fundraising. Each location will consider the possibility of fundraising events. Montana presents challenges due to geographical distances.
- Becky S will work with the web site, Facebook, and newsletter. \$200 cost to change over web site maintenance.
- Fund set-up fee of \$125.00 for MT COPS logo to use on clothing and other merchandise.

### Suicide Prevention Seminar

April 4, 2012 — Dr. Douglas is a dynamic speaker with important information to prevent law enforcement officers from committing suicide. Every LEO should attend this training!

Montana COPS donated \$100.

Lee and Becky Sturdevant & Chaplain Chris Thompson represented Montana COPS

Montana COPS display and handouts were available for attendees.

### Other Law Enforcement Contacts

Application submitted for Montana state employee charitable giving campaign

Reserved vendor tables for Montana Association of Chiefs of Police & Montana Police Protective Association Convention June 11-13 and Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer Association Convention June 12-15 [both in Great Falls.]

Connect with MLEM for Memorial planning.

## Montana C.O.P.S Members in Action



**December 1, 2011 Three Forks** — Trooper David DeLaitre was honored by family, friends, and public safety officers from all over Montana on the first anniversary of David's death. His sisters, Rebecca and Hannah decorated the memorial tree with an ornament for every Montana officer who has fallen in the line of duty. A large cross with blue lights shone in the sunset. Law enforcement vehicles, fire engines, ambulances, and helicopters filled the park and flew over the road where David fell. The David DeLaitre Memorial Park was dedicated July 7, 2011 next to the David J DeLaitre Memorial Highway.

[Photos by Rebecca DeLaitre]



[Photo and story by Katy Harris, KAJ News]

**December 15, 2011 KALISPELL**—A ceremony to honor and remember all of Montana's fallen law enforcement was held outside the Flathead County Courthouse Thursday night. Reporter Katy Harris was at the second annual Project Blue Light ceremony where family, friends and law enforcement gathered to remember their heroes. "We just want to honor all of the officers that have been lost and we want to honor all of the officers that are still protecting us, that thin blue line between us and chaos and we're just grateful for every one of them," mother of fallen MHP Trooper Evan Schneider Becky Sturdevant said.

"Since their deaths the families, friends and co-workers and the public have grieved and prayed and asked ourselves 'why does this stuff have to happen?' Each of us has tried to make sense of how will we carry on? How will we live with the emptiness their deaths leaves in our lives?," MHP Lieutenant Colonel Butch Huseby stated during the ceremony.

"It's very, very important that we do honor and remember our fallen officers and that we take, especially during this holiday season, a moment to think about the sacrifices that not just they have made but their families have made," added Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry.



**April-May 2012 Billings**— Yellowstone Valley Woman featured Montana COPS treasurer, Joyce Kramer. Joyce describes the horror of hearing the news of her son's death. She explains the role of Montana Concerns of Police Survivors in supporting families of officers fallen in the line of duty. To see the story please go to [www.yellowstonevalleywoman.com](http://www.yellowstonevalleywoman.com)



**May 15, 2012 Helena** — A tradition of honoring fallen Montana peace officers continued as law enforcement officers from across Montana gathered in Helena. They marched to honor their brothers and sisters who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Police, sheriffs, and Montana Highway Patrol troopers held flags and wore blue ribbons in honor of their comrades. A prayer vigil was held by the memorial on the Capitol lawn to honor those whose lives were lost in the line of duty. Photo & story from KXLH.com

Montana COPS members marched in the parade and manned a COPS display at the Civic Center



TROOPER JERRIL REN, son of the late Montana Highway Patrolman Michael Ren, shares a moment with Chynna Graham, 11, daughter of the late Montana Highway Patrol Trooper David Graham, before the start of the Peace Officers Memorial Day event.

Photo & caption Brenda Ahern Daily Interlake

**May 15, 2012 Kalispell** — Montana C.O.P.S. members from the Flathead were joined by officers from the Kalispell Police Department, Montana Highway Patrol and California, and our newest member, Kari Brown and her daughter Chloe. Kari is the daughter of Trooper Steve Frink of the Washington State Patrol EOW 1993.