

MN Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA)



“Greater Love No Man Hath Than He Lay Down His Life For Others”

2018 Annual Report

LEMA Purpose Statement

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) exists to: 1) Provide assistance to the law enforcement community and others and to surviving family members of peace officers who have given their lives in the line of duty; 2) Perpetuate the memory of all peace officers who have sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of all Minnesota citizens; 3) Meet the greater needs of Minnesota law enforcement through continued global support and partnerships with those that support and recognize the daily sacrifices of those who have or currently serve and protect our communities.

Line Of Duty Deaths



**Corrections Officer Joseph Brian Gomm
-Minnesota Department of Corrections-
E.O.W. – Wednesday, July 18, 2018**



**Corrections Officer Joseph Parise
-Minnesota Department of Corrections-
E.O.W. – Monday, September 24, 2018**

Minnesota Department of Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm was beaten to death by an inmate at Minnesota Correctional Facility–Stillwater on Wednesday, July 18, 2018. He was supervising inmates in the prison's industry building when he was attacked by one inmate with a hammer. Officer Gomm was transported to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, where he succumbed to his injuries. Officer Gomm had served with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for 16 years. He is survived by his mother, three brothers, and two sisters.

Minnesota Department of Corrections Officer Joseph Parise suffered a heart attack after responding to an incident in which an inmate assaulted another officer at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights on Monday, September 24, 2018. The inmate injured two additional officers before being subdued. Officer Parise returned to his post after the incident but collapsed a short time later. He was transported to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, where he later passed away. Officer Parise had served with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for four years. He is survived by his expectant wife and daughter.

The visitation for Officer Gomm took place on July 25 at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills. The funeral took place July 26 at North Heights Lutheran Church, with a full procession and gravesite ceremony following at Roselawn Cemetery in Roseville. An estimated 5,800 people attended the funeral events.

The funeral for Officer Parise took place October 2 at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, with a full procession and gravesite ceremony following at Fairview Cemetery in Stillwater. An estimated 1,200 people attended the funeral events.

MN LEMA provided leadership and assistance to the Minnesota Department of Corrections with providing full honors funeral services for Officers Gomm and Parise. The feedback from all parties involved was that the events were very well organized and managed and LEMA successfully fulfilled its mission of honoring the officers, their families, their agencies, and their communities through our services.



President's Message

Jeff Beahen, President – MN LEMA
Director of Security, Minnesota Twins
Chief of Police (ret.), Rogers Police Department

LEMA has continued its mission to provide assistance to agencies and families following a line of duty death and continues to provide that support to protect the memories of those who have fallen. We continue to add previously missed officers to our roll of fallen heroes, and strive to recognize not just the newly added officers and their families, but all of the families who have been left behind.

There is no greater honor than to be part of LEMA, and to work beside the dedicated men and women of the board and our honor guard team. These men and women respond within mere hours of being notified of a line of duty death (LODD), to begin the process of assisting the agency and the family in preparation for the pending funeral. Our experience and our connectivity to those who assist us has brought about an almost seamless process to the high-service level we provide. It is unfortunate that we have to be prepared for this need, but based on the experiences I have had working with our commanders and team, I know it provides a level of comfort not just at the time of the funeral, but to those agencies and families out there who are aware of the services we provide, and hopefully find solace in knowing that should a need arise personally for them, LEMA is there to honorably serve.

We met two new challenges this year, when two back to back LODD deaths occurred within the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). DOC had never experienced a LODD and LEMA had previously only worked on LODD associated with local or county jurisdictions.

MN LEMA Honor Guard Deputy Commander Mark Koderick works for the DOC Fugitive Apprehension Unit, and he was placed into action both with his LEMA hat on, and with his DOC hat on as well. He rose to the occasion and guided and directed the incident and funeral planning processes to a group who had never experienced this need.

It goes without saying that all of us within LEMA have such a new, profound respect for the DOC command staff who took part in these two funeral planning details. I am saddened that you had to experience this process, but your staff was highly prepared and capable based on your own training and background, which made the transfer of leadership much easier for all as the days went by.

More importantly, those of us who are "peace officers" don't often get a chance to work beside many of the DOC staff. What a remarkably dedicated and professional group of public safety officers. Each one of them deserving of our respect and admiration for the conditions they endure, the challenges of the work environment, and interacting with those they are empowered to not only incarcerate, but keep safe as well. You will never be looked at any differently than as fellow "peace officers" here in Minnesota, regardless of how you are defined by statute. We are all in this together. Thanks for your service and God Bless the lives and legacies of DOC Officers Gomm and Parise.

This will be a year of change for me. You may have noticed in the header of my article this year, that after 38½ years in law enforcement, I have had the honor of being hired as the Director of Security with the Minnesota Twins and have retired from active law enforcement.

I have served on the LEMA Board since 1995, many of those years as the Vice President or President. I have made a decision to step down from the role of President this year, but hope to remain on the board as an active board member. I am still as passionate about LEMA and want to remain engaged as a valued member of the board. With the intensive summer schedule here at the Twins, coupled with no longer being my own boss, it is far more difficult to afford the time needed to be fully engaged in the role of President. This is a role that, although the by-laws do not require it, is best suited for a serving peace officer. For those ceremonial functions and other public events, I personally have always felt that a uniformed presence opens doors and creates relationships that might be more challenging for someone who is not in that role. But, bear in mind, that is simply my opinion and not a requirement, but an opinion based on the experiences and the success generated by LEMA over the past twenty years.

To those I have served beside over the past 24+ years, thank you for your support, your passion and your belief in LEMA and our mission in serving all of those we are honored to memorialize. No leader is successful without the support of so many who help provide all the work behind the scenes. The work and dedication makes LEMA look good. I am indebted to everyone within, and outside of LEMA who have helped during the darkest hours, and gave their all so others could grieve in the ways they are entitled to.

In all of my years of law enforcement experience, there simply has been no greater honor than to have served in my capacity as the LEMA President. As I step down from this position, I am confident that replacements have been mentored and are ready to assume new roles. LEMA will continue to run seamless and even better than before, as new ideas and processes are brought forward. This is a sad day for me, but a bright day in terms of the future success of LEMA.

Thanks to my wife and family for their understanding of the needs associated with being part of LEMA. It was their support and equal passion for what I was responsible for that really allowed me to stay on as long as I have. I am very lucky and blessed to have had their support.

Stay safe and in 2019 and beyond.

“All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine.” —*Jim Rohn*

MN LEMA 2018 Board of Directors

Jeff Beahen – President (Rogers PD)	Brian Hubbard – Vice-President (Crystal PD)
Jennifer Johnson – Secretary (Hennepin County SO)	Jim Felt – Treasurer (Willmar PD)
Jeff Beck (Rogers PD)	David Carlson (Tegrete Corp., Civilian)
Jim Crawford (LEMA Founder, Retired)	Lynn Cronquist (Minneapolis PD, Retired)
Kristi Hanson (Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Civilian)	Joe Neuberger (St. Paul PD, Retired)
Scott Rose (Dodge County SO)	Brant Standridge (Dayton PD)
Kevin Torgerson (Olmsted County SO)	Nirvana Wallace (Hennepin County, Civilian)
Mike Wortman (St. Paul PD, Retired)	
Erich Mische (LEMA Business Admin. – Ex-Officio)	Pastor Jill Olmstead (LEMA Chaplain – Ex-Officio)
Dave Holmquist (LEMA HG Commander – Ex-Officio)	Mark Koderick (LEMA HG Dep. Comm. – Ex-Officio)

LEMA Events

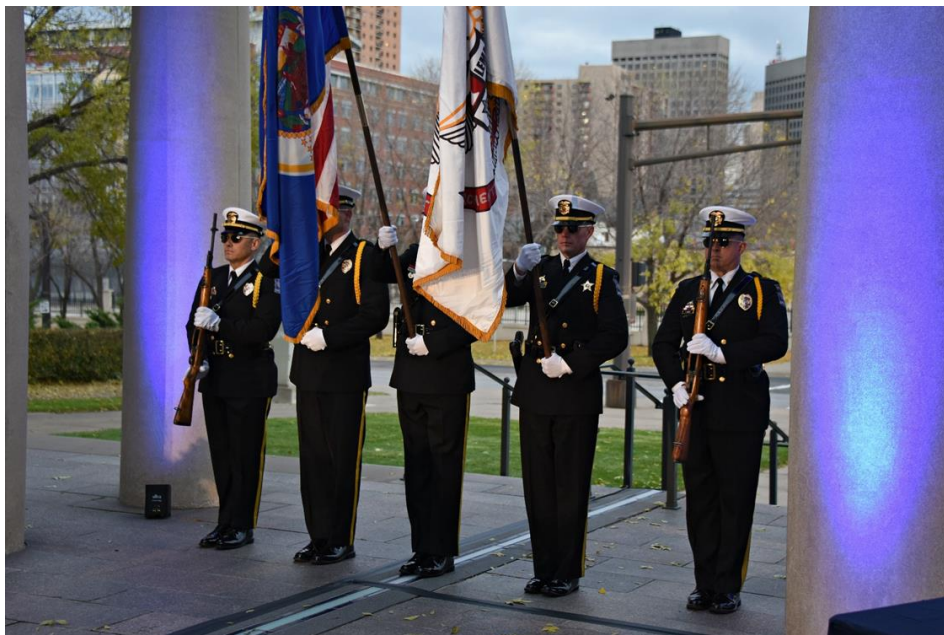
Law Enforcement Memorial Day Activities – May 15. On this important day of national holiday, LEMA coordinated the annual Standing of the Guard at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul. Officers from all over the state stood guard over the Memorial for a 24-hour period, which included the reading of all Minnesota officers who have died in the line of duty.

During the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Candlelight Service, LEMA paid tribute to the 283 fallen officers here in Minnesota, including a special tribute to DNR Game Warden Olaf Peterson, who lost his life in the line of duty on January 4, 1936. Warden Peterson's death had been missed on our role of honor and LEMA was honored to have family and members of the DNR present as the sacrifice of Warden Peterson was formalized and his sacrifice was recalled as his name and legacy will be forever memorialized by LEMA and remembered by those we serve.

It has become a tradition for LEMA to help keep alive the memories of those who have fallen and those line of duty deaths which are not fresh in our minds. Special tributes were given to the family of St. Paul Officer John Sackett who was shot and killed by a sniper on May 22, 1970, while responding to a birth of a baby call on Hauge Avenue in St. Paul. He left behind his wife Jeanette and four children. Officer Sackett was shot and killed twenty days after he returned to work after the birth of his youngest son, Jerel.

Also recognized was Minneapolis Police Officer Clayton J. Seawell, who was killed while operating his police motorcycle on May 4th, 1929. His death and the impact it had on his family based on pension laws at the time created eventual change that benefitted survivors here in Minnesota. His son, Tom, advocated for death benefit reform as part of the Pension Board. His granddaughter is married to retired Minneapolis Police Sergeant E.T. Nelson and his great-granddaughter, Jen Smith is a U.S. Deputy Marshall.

Music during the night of remembrance was performed by "Monroe Crossing", an internationally acclaimed blue-grass band. Attendees enjoyed food and beverage and social time sponsored by M.P.P.O.A. following the event at a reception across the street at the National Guard Armory.



Wayzata Free Church Serve 5K – June 23. Wayzata Free Church in Plymouth was the location of the funeral services for the Line of Duty Death of Wayzata Police Officer William Mathews in September, 2017. The Wayzata Free Church were amazing hosts during this time and showed wonderful heart and compassion for the Mathews family, the Wayzata Police Department, and the community as a whole. After the funeral, the church heard this funeral was an expensive one for LEMA due to the size and logistical issues of the site. The church was so overwhelmed with appreciation and respect for the work of LEMA, they desired to “pay it forward” to help other communities that would unfortunately experience the loss of one of their officers in the future. So, as a part of their broader season of service, they organized a 5k and Kid’s Fun Run with the goal of honoring law enforcement and raising funds for LEMA.

The event was an extraordinary success! Over 300 people were a part of the event and nine law enforcement agencies were present to be honored and interact with participants. One of the highlights of the event was about ten officers participating in the Fun Run around the church with wide-eyed kids. In addition, the organizers surpassed their goal and provided LEMA with a donation of \$26,058!!

LEMA is very appreciative to Wayzata Free Church, especially event organizers Tina Hoversten and Pastor George Kenworthy Jr., for their outstanding commitment to law enforcement and to LEMA. The church has indicated a desire to make this an annual event and they hope 2019 will be an even larger and more successful event!



Honor Guard Training Camp – September 16-20. The LEMA Honor Guard held its 22nd annual Honor Guard Training Camp at Camp Ripley. The camp hosted 72 peace and correctional officers from 20 agencies from four different states. Many of the officers are or will be members of their department's honor guards and were taught basic and advanced military drill and ceremony. The attendees start out by learning or reviewing basic drill and put on several miles of marching to achieve proficiency. Attendees then learn the basics of rifle drill, which concludes with a "Top Gun" competition. The Top Gun competition is a rifle drill that encompasses all of the rifle movements and is slowly whittled down to the one officer that can complete the drill with precision under immense stress. The week continues with specialized training in casket movement, flag fold, colors movement, colors posting and retrieval, ceremonial rifle volleys, and ceremonial guard duties. Attendees are also given classes on funeral preparation and planning and they participate in a parade of colors. The week concludes with a mock funeral at the Camp Ripley Chapel where the attendees are assigned specific duties that were learned during the week. Honor Guard Camp is designed to prepare Honor Guards for honoring the fallen and their families in a dignified manner that is deserving of our profession and this great nation.



Survivor/Family Holiday Event – Disney On Ice Live! –

December 18. Again this year, MN LEMA, along with the Minnesota Chapter of Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) hosted surviving family members and their extended families to a special Holiday event at the Xcel Center. Children of all ages enjoyed the spectacular Disney on Ice "100 years of Magic". Over 450 participants were treated to a day of Santa, gifts, food and Disney- and it simply is one of the highlights of the year for LEMA and COPS. It is a wonderful gift to be able to bring joy to the hearts of those who have been impacted by the tragic loss of a law enforcement family member. We hope this fun gathering of family and friends helps, albeit only for an afternoon, to create a detachment from their grief during a time when the holidays are approaching and their spirits can be low. Based on the smiles and excitement before, during, and after the show-it was a job well done by all those who helped make this event "magical."

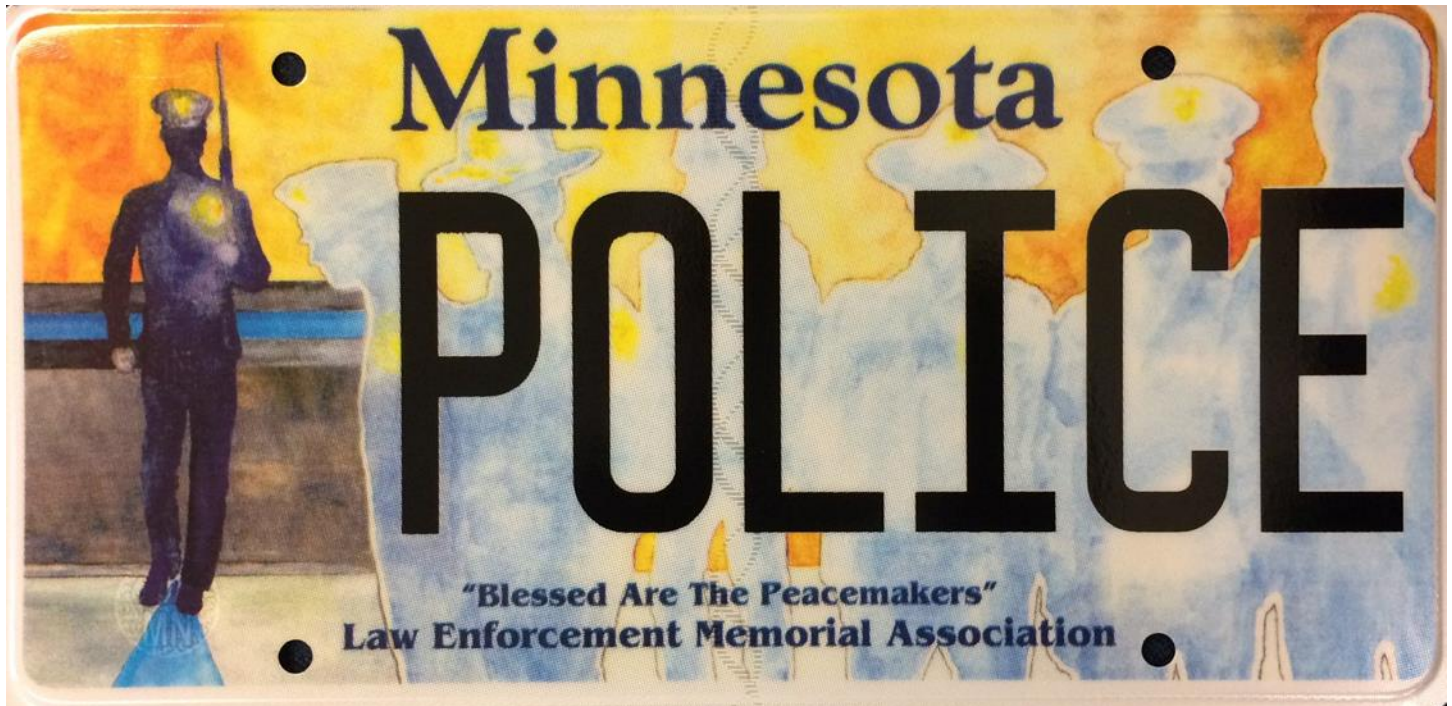
Holiday Gifts for Survivor Children – Every year at Christmas, LEMA goes shopping with the young children of fallen Minnesota peace officers. Target Corporation supplies gift cards and LEMA invites officers from the fallen officers' department to participate to remind the children that they and their families have not been forgotten during Christmas and all year round. This year, 12 children were given a shopping outing to honor them at this difficult time of year.



Law Enforcement Memorial License Plates – After a number of years of lobbying by many individuals, the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation in 2018 to create a license plate to honor fallen Law Enforcement Officers and to provide funds to LEMA to assist in our mission of assisting the survivors of these fallen officers. The license plates were developed with LEMA’s assistance and the first year of sales for these plates was a great success. In 2018, 1890 memorial license plates were issued to passenger vehicles and 3 issued to disabled passenger vehicles, generating \$47,325 for LEMA. These initial license plates will also generate recurring revenue of \$9,465 for LEMA in each subsequent year.

In 2019, LEMA is lobbying the Legislature for a few minor changes to the wording of the bill. We would like the state to provide an opportunity for survivors to honor their fallen family members with badge numbers and/or department initials. In addition, we are pursuing a change in wording regarding the distribution of funds. The Department of Vehicle Services advised that based on the legislation, the distribution of funds would be available for funeral expenses only and with the approval of the state for invoices. This was not the intent of the original bill and a wording change has been proposed to require all funds be distributed to LEMA annually with LEMA reporting an itemized list of expenses annually as well. This would eliminate the pre-approval for fund allocation and would allow LEMA to use funds to further the mission of LEMA to assist families and agencies of the fallen through all of our various programs and services.

We hope to further promote these license plates to the public in the years to come as a way for citizens to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve in our communities across the state and to provide for a long-term source of stable resources for the work of LEMA.



Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Repairs - After many years of lobbying the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Legislature in 2018 allocated funding to provide for much needed repairs to the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial on the grounds of the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. Representatives of LEMA have been meeting regularly with state engineers to help plan for these repairs.

The current plan is that construction on the Memorial will begin on May 16, 2019 (after the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Candlelight Service) and will be completed by mid-October. The repairs will include removal of trees around the Memorial and replacement with trees that won't grow as tall and interfere with the Memorial, restoration of the fountain which has been dry for many years, and replacement of broken and uneven pavers and subflooring. Lastly, there has been significant research and discussion regarding the replacement of the thin blue line at the memorial. The replacement will look similar to the past with the blue light illuminated from dusk to dawn to be visible from the street. In addition, there will be blue tiles on either side of the blue line for day time appearance of a blue line. To conserve the life of the new blue line, it will have variable brightness that can be brightened during programs like Memorial Day and the COPS Blue Light ceremony.



LEMA Honor Guard

The MN LEMA Honor Guard is the most active and most visible part of the LEMA organization. This highly trained, highly dedicated group of officers participates in various activities throughout the year to bring honor to Officers, the broader law enforcement community, and communities throughout Minnesota. The MN LEMA Honor Guard serves as a nation-wide model of excellence and professionalism.

Honor Guard Leadership Team –

Commander Dave Holmquist (Kandiyohi Co SO)
Administrative Lt. Mike Bonn (Washington Co SO)
Casket Lt. Jason Piehn (Columbia Heights PD)
Rifles Lt. Chad Loeffler (Lakeville PD)
Casket Sgt. Kim Potter (Brooklyn Center PD)
Rifles Sgt. Ted Berg (Blaine PD)

Deputy Commander Mark Koderick (MN DOC)
Caisson Lt. Lora Hanks (Minneapolis PD)
Colors Lt. Jennifer Johnson (Hennepin Co SO)
Caisson Sgt. Craig Lindberg (Duluth PD)
Colors Sgt. Bert Otto (Rochester PD)

New Honor Guard Members –

Joey Geiszler - Colors Team (Fergus Falls PD)
Robert LeClaire - Colors Team (Duluth PD)
Dylan Schultz - Colors Team (Richfield PD)

Dave Kliszczy - Colors Team (Deephaven PD)
Mark Mendoza - Colors Team (Rochester PD)

Current Honor Guard Members-

Dennie Bloch (MN State Patrol)
Amber Englund (Minneapolis PD)
Joseph Haider (Brooklyn Park PD)
Ariel Huddleson (Coon Rapids PD)
Dave Kliszczy (Deephaven PD)
Ted Layton (New Brighton PD)
Craig Lindberg (Duluth PD)
Mark Mendoz (Richfield PD)
Shannon Odegaard (Minnetonka PD)
Josh Pirkola (Coon Rapids PD)
Dylan Schultz (Richfield PD)
Dustie Speldrich (MN DNR)
Dean Thompson (Olmsted County SO)
Jacob Walters (Sartell PD)

Patrick Chelmo (Hennepin County SO)
Joey Geiszler (Fergus Falls PD)
Tom Handwerk (St. Paul PD)
Rachel Johnson (St. Cloud PD)
Danielle Krinke (Minneapolis PD)
Robert LeClaire (Duluth PD)
Ryan Manguson (Rochester PD)
Jennifer Mink (St. Paul PD)
Nick Pedersen (Edina PD)
Sam Schaeffbauer (Willmar PD)
Mike Smith (Bloomington PD)
Andrew Struffert (Stearns County SO)
Tim Wallace (Willmar PD)

Retiring Honor Guard Members –

Aaron Evenson - Rifle Team (Mille Lacs County SO) – 4 years of service
Chuck Everson - Casket Team (Aitkin County SO) – 2 years of service
Nicolai Lyfoung - Casket Team (St. Paul PD) – 3 years of service

Honor Guard Activities –

Annual Police Week Airport Send-Off

Minnesota Peace Officer Day Standing Of The Guard/Wreath Ceremonies/Candlelight Service

Minnesota Department of Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm Review, Funeral, Procession, Gravesite Service Coordination

LEMA Honor Guard Camp – Fort Ripley

Minnesota Department of Corrections Officers Joseph Parise Review, Funeral, Procession, Gravesite Service Coordination

Funeral Assistance – Chief Reed Schmidt (Atwater PD), Steve Nanney (Blaine PD),

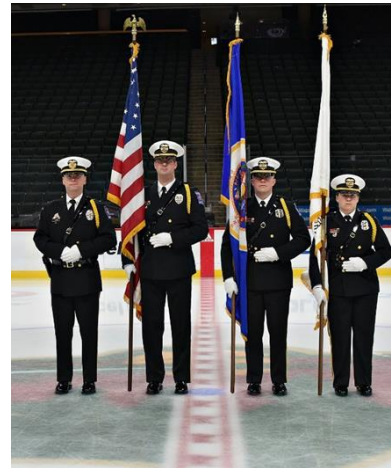
Jack Erkshire (Roseville PD), Jason Volkerstrom (Stearns County SO),

Kyle Quittsreiber (MN DNR), Bruce Ponath (Sibley County SO), Richard Eckberg (Clinton PD),

Chelsie Grundhauser (MN DNR)

Presentation of Colors – Minnesota Horse Council Annual Meeting, MN Special Operations Training Association Conference Opening Ceremony, Minnesota Chief's Of Police Association State Convention, Backing The Blue Line Ball, Special Olympics MN Summer Games, Emerald Society National Conference, Concerns Of Police Survivors Blue Light Service

Events – Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Parade, Minnesota Horse Expo, Officer Scott Patrick Memorial Dedication, Minnesota Twins Game, Minnesota Vikings Preseason Game, 9/11 Tribute, Law Enforcement Appreciation Event, Minnesota Wild Law Enforcement Appreciation Night



2018 LEMA Finances

2013 Year-End Fund Balance =	\$ 19,152.44
2014 Year-End Fund Balance =	\$ 37,861.43
2015 Year-End Fund Balance =	\$ 75,590.50
2016 Year-End Fund Balance =	\$ 87,078.72
2017 Year-End Fund Balance =	\$129,483.27

**Included \$100,000 Estate Gift*

2018

Revenues =	\$137,554.64
Expenses =	<u>197,733.33</u>
NET =	(\$ 60,178.69)

2018 Year-End Fund Balance =

\$ 69,304.58

