



The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society Museum

"Preserving the history of law enforcement in the Greater Cincinnati area"



Message from the President

Greetings!

Here we are again, a new year. The past one flew by so fast, and that's mostly due to it being a very busy year of major accomplishments:

- We finally moved into our own home, and it looks darn good (thanks to the volunteers for that.)
- We unpacked all the boxes and got all the displays and records into good shape (again, thanks to our volunteers.)
- We added several committed people to our board, and they're making great strides in membership, fundraising and sales.
- Finally, we brought closure to the families of several local law enforcement personnel who were killed in the line of duty.

I want to thank each of you for your kind words, support, and hard work throughout 2015, and I invite you to join us as we move into the new year. Please feel free to forward this email so we can widen our reach, and let me know if there is anything you'd like to see us report on in future issues. You can email me [here](#).

Beat the winter blues at our "Fun"draiser!

Now that a certain football team is out of the playoffs, what do you have to look forward to this February except more cold and snow?

Beat the winter blues at our **February Fundraiser**.

When: Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Where: Jim & Jacks, 3456 River Rd. Cincinnati OH 45204

What: Food, fun, Mr. Entertainer Mike Davis and WAIF DJ and MC Tom Winkler, split the pot and raffle prizes and more

Cost: \$20 per person at the door includes food starting at 1:30 and a cash bar

VIP tables are available for \$300 for 12, \$250 for 10 and \$150 for 6. You can also guarantee your seat by getting reserved tables for \$160 for 8 or \$120 for 6 **ADVANCED PURCHASE ONLY**.

For reservations, contact Mary Beth Ray at 513.315.0423 or gcpevents@gmail.com.

All proceeds benefit the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum and the Delhi Police Historical Association.

Meet Your GCPHS!

Starting this month, we're introducing you to the people who work to keep the traditions and history of law enforcement alive in Greater Cincinnati.



This month's profile is Registrar **Phil Lind**.

Phil started his career as a bus operator in 1973 with Cincinnati Transit (Metro's predecessor) assigned to the Brighton Division

He worked in progressively more responsible jobs until 2004, when he was Promoted to Division Director and assigned to Bond Hill. He retired in 2006 as Director of Security.

He started volunteering with the police museum in 2002. In that time, he has served as board member, secretary, treasurer and registration officer of artifacts/donations. In selecting Phil for the job, the Museum Director considered the job of Registrar to be the most

Snapshot: a view from the past

In this new feature, we'll take a closer look at an artifact or story featured at the police museum. In this issue, we introduce you to the call box.

In today's digital age, it's hard to imagine not having immediate access to the world right in our pockets. But for nearly a century, the call box was a critical part of every police officers' day.

Prior to the call box, urgent information was passed from station house to station house by runners or messengers. Just after the Civil War in 1866, the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) adopted a telegraph system that connected police stations and other public locations such as businesses and hospitals. These police telegraphs were housed in large cast iron boxes often mounted on pedestals or poles. Each telegraph had a dial with spaces for every letter of the alphabet and the ten numerals. Messages were sent by turning the dial to one letter, tapping the key, then to the next letter, and so on, until the message was sent. This way, patrolmen could send messages from the field to their stations without knowing Morse code. A system of bells alerted station house sergeants to incoming messages.

This laborious method was complicated and slow. Within a year, the dial system was simplified. Codes, or signals, using numbers to represent phrases, were instituted. Manuals for the use of the police telegraphs were issued to every station house lieutenant. Interestingly, the signal for calling the station was number 1. Thus, the phrase we still sometimes use today for calling the station, "Signal 1," is nearly 150 years old!

In 1879, the CPD replaced the telegraph with the telephone. The CPD is recognized as one of the first police departments in the US to use this new technology. It was said at the time that replacing the telegraph with the telephone doubled the efficiency of the police department.

By 1890, 167 call boxes in Cincinnati connected the eight patrol houses to various locations in the city. Patrolmen were required to use the call box to report in to their stations every hour. Each call was marked into a logbook. Every morning, a superintendent of police inspected the log; patrolmen who were late in calling were reprimanded.

The CPD hired five men whose sole duty was to handle calls into and out of the station houses. They worked two, twelve-hour reliefs, just as many of our E911 operators and dispatchers work today. Three worked day shift and two worked nights. The operators tracked the workload by logging every call. In 1888, there were 10,605 calls for patrol wagons; 372,445 general messages; and 130,305 calls by officers on beats. A total of 513,355 calls were handled by these five men.

Your Greater Cincinnati Police Museum has several call boxes on display.

Find out more fascinating facts and examine three rooms of artifacts at the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum, open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thanks to Vice President Dic Gross for providing this month's fascinating fact.

In Memoriam

This regular monthly feature lists those in local law enforcement who have passed away. Please send recent news to director@gcphs.com. And as always, keep these individuals, their families and friends forever in your prayers.

important position in a museum where integrity of donations is paramount.

He's involved with the police museum because: "I have had an interest in the police for many years. My father was a Police Officer as well as other family, and presently my two sons are Police Officers."

Buy now to support GCPHS!

Don't forget to support GCPHS every time you shop at Kroger or online through Amazon! Here's how:

Kroger Community Rewards:

Register online [here](#). Have your Kroger Plus card handy and be sure to set up your card for a Kroger Rewards Account. When prompted to enter the name of the organization to receive awards, enter "Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society" or our NP number "82383."

Amazon Smile:

When you shop on Amazon, a portion of your purchase can now help support the work of GCPHS. Shop for the same products [here](#) and designate "Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society Inc." as your charity. Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of each purchase price back to GCPHS.

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- [Detective Norbert Barnes](#) (1937-2015)
- [Patrolman Wilbur Baumann](#) (1921-2016)
- [Edgar Buelsing](#) (2015)
- [Police Officer Jackie Caudill](#) (1947-2015)
- [Sergeant W. Dale Curtis](#) (1941-2016)
- [Lieutenant Charles "Chuck" Evans](#) (1950-2015)
- [Donald Hardin Esq.](#) (1934-2015)
- [Police Chief James Manning](#) (1928-2016)
- [Police Officer Steven Means](#) (1954-2015)
- [Police Officer Robert Muchmore](#) (1931-2015)
- [Keneeta Jean Northern](#) (1954-2015)
- [Police Officer Thomas Otten](#) (1940-2016)
- [Police Officer Jack Sommer](#) (1941-2016)
- [Police Officer Virgil "Tub" Sorrell](#) (1930-2016)
- [Police Specialist David Sturm](#) (1927-2015)
- [Chief John E. Williams Jr.](#) (1946-2015)
- [Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Wolterman](#) (1987-2015)