



2019 Vol -1

# American Police Bulletin

Official Publication of the Retired & Disabled Police of America

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## **OK, OK, We Heard You!**

In the last issue of the American Police Bulletin (APB) we informed everyone that we would no longer mail the APB to our members. Instead it would only be available on-line via of our website. We obviously didn't take into consideration the fact that many of our members have not taken advantage of the World Wide Web and therefore would lose the benefit of receiving their copy of the APB. So, we have reversed our decision and will continue mailing the APB to all members.

After fielding a number of phone calls about our APB decision I came to realized more vividly just how many of our members are in their 80's and 90's. Although our database is quite informational, we aren't able to download ages. Having said that, it would be interesting to find out just how many of you have reached the age of 90. That's an invitation for you to let us know.

## **Many of our members are on Social Security. Beware of this Scam.**

The Acting Inspector General of Social Security, Gale Stallworth Stone, has issued a warning about an ongoing phone scam from thieves pretending to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA)

As part of the con, scammers try to convince you to give up personal information, like Social Security numbers and bank account numbers, over the phone. In another case, a caller claims to be from "SSA headquarters" and asks you to confirm personal information, such as an SSN, "new" Medicare number, address, and date of birth.

Many of these calls are "robocalls" or automated calls. In one robocall version of the scam, an automated recording declares that your Social Security number (SSN) "has been suspended for suspicion of illegal activity," and advises to contact a specific phone number immediately. The robocall or caller may also warn that if you don't call back, your assets or benefits will be frozen until your alleged issue is resolved.

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Robocalls from scammers pretending to be from government agencies, like the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), continue to be problematic. They are cheap and easy and allows thieves to reach the largest number of victims possible.

You may recall that a "Robocall Strike Force" was established in 2016 to develop solutions to prevent, detect, and filter unwanted robocalls. The task force was made up of communications companies including cell and landline service providers, phone manufacturers, operating system (OS) developers and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Members included such communications leaders as Apple, Bandwidth, Comcast, Google, Microsoft, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. However, two years later, there doesn't seem to be any real progress made to stop robocalls.

According to an FCC spokesperson, "This industry-led effort produced two detailed reports to the Commission and which were instrumental in laying the groundwork for both on-going FCC policy-making efforts and industry technological work. FCC work that used the Strike Force's recommendations includes work to reduce robocalls to reassigned numbers, the new FCC rules allowing phone companies to proactively block calls that are likely to be fraudulent, and FCC work to encourage implementation of call authentication. The Commission continues to consult with a wide variety of stakeholders though there are no current plans to formally reconvene this group. Rather, the Strike Force's reports served their purpose by spurring and framing on-going Commission and industry action to help consumer avoid illegal robocalls."

The FCC has issued some tips for dealing with robocalls. They include:

- If you answer the phone and the caller - or a recording - asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.
- Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with "Yes."
- Talk to your phone company about call blocking tools they may have and check into apps that you can download to your mobile device to block unwanted calls.
- If you use robocall-blocking technology already, it often helps to let that company know which numbers are producing unwanted calls so they can help block those calls for you and others.

To block telemarketing calls, register your number on the [Do Not Call List](#).

**Preliminary 2018 Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities**

**January 1 through December 31, 2018 vs. January 1 through December 31, 2017**

	2018	2017	% Change
Total Fatalities	145	225	+12%
Firearms Related	53	46	+15%
Traffic Related	50	48	+9%
Other Causes	42	37	+14%

**2018 Fatalities by State**

California	11	Alabama	2
Florida	11	Arizona	2
New York	11	Connecticut	2
Texas	11	Maryland	2
North Carolina	8	Massachusetts	2
Georgia	6	Minnesota	2
Indiana	5	Oklahoma	2
South Carolina	5	Utah	2
Illinois	4	Washington	2
Kentucky	4	Wisconsin	2
Louisiana	4	Hawaii	1
Mississippi	4	Idaho	1
Ohio	4	Maine	1
Colorado	3	Nevada	1
Kansas	3	Oregon	1
Michigan	3	Tennessee	1
Missouri	3	Virginia	1
New Jersey	3	Federal Agencies	10
Pennsylvania	3	U.S. Territories	2

*NOTE: All data are preliminary and are subject to change.*

## End of Watch



John J. Alesich, Jr	New Orleans (LA) PD	12/01/2018
Ferdinand Boell, Jr.	New Orleans (LA) PD	10/17/2018
Samuel M. Britton	Berkeley Township PD	11/03/2018
Charles Farkouh	NY/NJ Transit Police	12/24/2018
Oakland B. McCaa	Monroe (LA) PD	10/29/2018
Robert H. McCann	Chicago (IL) PD	09/05/2018
Rodney M. Miller	Pennsylvania State Police	11/23/2018



## We Need Your Help

I'm sure some of our members have written short stories about their time on the job. If you would, we'd like to have you share them with us so we can share them with our members in our newsletter, the APB. Or, if you haven't already put your experiences on paper, maybe you'd like to jot something down and share one or two of your most memorable experiences with us. Sometimes it would only take a line or two. So, I'll go first.

*I had been appointed as a commissioner on California's Board of Prison, Department of Corrections. I had just completed my last parole consideration hearing (it was approaching 4:00 pm) when I received a call from the governor's office informing me that I had been reappointed and that I had to be sworn in prior to 5:00 pm or I would no longer have the authority to conduct hearings. The swearing in required the assistance of a judge or a notary public. I was at a prison in the middle of nowhere. Where am I going to find a judge or a notary at this late hour? My deputy commissioner came to my rescue. He knew the librarian in the prison library. She was a notary. So, I would up being sworn in by the prison librarian in the prison library with a number of inmates observing the ceremony (all of whom applauded when I said "I do"). A parole commissioner taking the oath of office in a prison library had not been done before and probably won't be done again in the future.*

## RDPOA Membership Coordinators

<b>Region 1</b>	Pacific Alaska Region (AK-ID-OR-WA)	<b>hil Colcord</b>
<b>Region 2</b>	Pacific Region (AZ-CA-HI-NV)	<b>Jerry Morrow</b>
<b>Region 3</b>	Rocky Mountain Region (CO-MT-NM-ND-SD-UT-WY)	<b>Mike Rossi</b>
<b>Region 4</b>	Southwest Region (AR-LA-OK-TX)	<b>Sam Fields - Roy Miles</b>
<b>Region 5</b>	Central Plains Region (IA-KS-MO-NE)	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Region 6</b>	Southeast Region (AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-NC-SC-TN)	<b>Tom Allyn - Ron Conklin Ted Tittmann</b>
<b>Region 7</b>	Great Lakes Region (IL-IN-MI-MN-OH-WI)	<b>Charles Sweetman - Vic Rini</b>
<b>Region 8</b>	Mid Atlantic Region (DE-MD-NJ-PA-VA-WV)	<b>Tony Covello</b>