

May We Award You?

By Phil Bailey

As committee chairman of the awards committee, I would like to remind the members that NASRO is the nation's largest association of school based law enforcement officers and school administrators working with SROs. We, as an association, like to reward our members for the outstanding job that they do every day.

Due to the popular response of last year's award luncheon, it will return at this year's conference. Please make plans to attend and recognize those fellow officers, administrators and model agency winners. To have winners we must have nominees; therefore please ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you work with or know of a fellow SRO that goes beyond what is required, one that makes the time to be there for the school, students, faculty, and staff?
- Do you know an officer who has gone the extra mile; the officer that has worked because he or she enjoys making the school community something to be proud of?
- Have they been instrumental in stopping violent acts or saved lives in the performance of their duty?
- Have they been there for the students that may not have role models at home?
- Do you work with an administrator that supports you and the School Resource Officer program as an equal member of the administrative staff, one that works for the safety of all the school members?
- Does he or she include you in the day-to-day concerns of the school community?
- Do you think your agency has made an overt effort to strive to be one of the best agencies in the country?
- Does your department, city or county government, school board, community and civic groups all work together for the school community?
- Does your agency use the NASRO Triad, of Law enforcement, teacher, and counselor for its SROs?
- Do your SROs work with after school and summer programs?
- Do they stay abreast of new trends in the youth of today?

In this conference issue you will find the forms to nominate. Please take time to nominate an officer, administrator, team, or your agency. Nominees will be evaluated by an independent panel of officers, educators, and community leaders. Winners

P.E.A.C.E. Officer Police and Educators Active in Children's Education

One of NASRO's newest members is truly a *Peace Officer*. PEACE stands for *Police and Educators Active in Children's Education*. Officer Tim Durkin fills the role of PEACE officer and SRO at Maplewood Middle School located in Maplewood Township, New Jersey. He started in October 2002 by introducing himself and his role at assemblies. He also met with parents, faculty, business owners and neighbors of the school. Durkin completed the NASRO Basic Course in March 2003 at the Essex Co. Police Academy, New Jersey.

His work assignments are a hybrid of the traditional SRO. He works four days a week, ten-hour days and starts at 11:00 a.m. most days. After school, twice a week, Durkin hosts an open gymnasium program. He has chaperoned school dances, makes home visits and patrols the village-shopping district on Friday nights, where youth congregate.

His principal expressed the impact Durkin is having by teaching respect towards others and personal responsibility. Durkin has a unique way of staying in touch with his students' feelings. A photo of himself in eighth grade attending the same middle school hangs on his office wall.

PEACE was created through a collaborative effort between the South Orange/Maplewood Board of Education, school administrators, teachers, school social workers, parent teacher associations, business associations, neighborhood associations and the police department.

Sergeant John Perna wrote this innovative grant funding the PEACE program. The grant is from the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, www.ncjrs.org/html/bja/edbyrne. The awards are for use by states and local government to improve the criminal justice system, with emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders. Maplewood obtained it through *New Jersey's Safe Schools and Communities Grant Program* to reduce youth violence and delinquency, which are negatively impacting communities and schools. ☞

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Awards continue

will be notified in time to make preparations to attend the conference luncheon. ☞

If you have any questions please forward them to me at 205-379-3125 or coachdare@yahoo.com or Lisa Piculell at lpiculell@ci.bellevue.wa.us or lpiculell@PACNORWEST.USCG.MIL.
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