



# Erie County Deputy Sheriffs Badge & Shield Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 81 • Niagara Square Station • Buffalo, New York 14201-0081

## DECEMBER, 2022:

Our November meeting has been rescheduled! The new date is **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at **J' White Elephant** located at **1404 Abbott Road in Lackawanna, NY**. This meeting is for **members and guests**. We will also have the swearing in of our Officers for 2023 (hopefully, by Sheriff Garcia). Please contact Debbie **as soon as possible** at 716-816-5368 (text or call) or email at [Nortond8991@gmail.com](mailto:Nortond8991@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Reminder: Meetings are \$20 per person. All meetings begin at 6:30pm.

### *A Message from our President, Chris Clark:*

"The Sheriff answered the Call" – Once again, I am reaching into the history of the Sheriff's Office (established 1821) and reflecting on Erie County's chief law enforcement officer's response to crisis. Here are some examples of the Sheriff's leadership... During WWII with concerns about Nazi sabotage and spying – Erie County Sheriff deputies were assigned to patrol local airports. After Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, a similar process was put into place by the Sheriff to have deputies checking the 11 local private airports, on days of Bills home games.

In 1972, work began to build a stadium in Orchard Park, with parking lots to hold an estimated 15,000 vehicles. The Buffalo Bills' first game at Rich Stadium was held on August 17, 1973, to a sold-out crowd. The Erie County Sheriff was the only department in the area capable enough to take command at the new stadium with a 100 + "stadium detail" to manage pedestrian and vehicular traffic. That responsibility is still in place today, plus an additional 100 + deputies inside the stadium for security purposes.

In 1988, when the County budget process strangled the Sheriff's ability to staff, train, and buy supplies for his deputies, then Sheriff Thomas Higgins along with business executives, formed the Erie County Sheriff's Foundation to supplement the needs of the Sheriff's Office. Recognizing a similar need for local police agencies, the name of the organization was later changed to the Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. and is still very active in providing services to police across WNY and Canada today.

### 2022 Officers:

#### President

Christopher Clark

#### 1st Vice President

Robert Koch

#### 2nd Vice President

Michael Sullivan

#### Recording Secretary

Karen Morgan

#### Treasurer

Ken Napora

#### Corresponding Secretary

Debra Norton

(716) 816-5368

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Thomas Vaughan

After our recent Annual Awards and Retirement Dinner, the Buffalo News printed an editorial praising the lifesaving actions of our Erie County Sheriff deputies and commended the Badge & Shield Club for recognizing the heroism and bravery of our officers. These are just six examples of the authority, responsibility, and leadership of the Sheriff's Office. I welcome more examples by you, our Club members, to share with me for future newsletters."

Great news: Rich Walczak is out of the hospital and as of November 11<sup>th</sup>, is at Elderwood on Como Park in Lancaster for rehab. Hours are 9am-7pm if you would like to visit.

Our sincere condolences go out to the families of Donald Allen (retired Reserve Deputy); Retired Deputy Frank Ricotta; Court Officer Erich Nikischer; and John Roche (father of Deputy Sheriff Reserve Jamie Roche and Medical Aide Judith Feller).

Please contact Debbie if you hear of someone having health issues or an individual who has passed so that we can include them in our newsletter for our support and prayers.

Please continue to pray for those who have lost a loved one or experiencing health issues.

See you at J's White Elephant!

Chris Clark  
President

Debbie Norton  
Corresponding Secretary

Anyone interested in purchasing Badge & Shield apparel should visit their website at [www.c-shoredesign.com](http://www.c-shoredesign.com) to see the products they offer. You can email your order to [cshoreorders@gmail.com](mailto:cshoreorders@gmail.com) or call (585) 937-4127