



NATIONAL PAL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES LEAGUES, INC.

Winter 2019 Newsletter

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Kids, Cops & Community





A Trip to New Zealand Brings about a Global Alliance

This fall, National PAL's CEO, Jeff Hood was invited to be a keynote speaker on behalf of National PAL at the 2019 Blue Light International Youth Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand. Representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and the United Kingdom attended the International Youth Conference to network, listen and learn from presentations on strategies being utilized to successfully achieve youth crime prevention and safer communities.

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Hood's initial message informed the attendees on National PAL's mission, successes to date and very rich history by mentioning many of our organization's illustrious alumni. In addition to National PAL's history, Hood outlined our Youth Mentoring Programmatic Initiative, Annual National Conference and Youth Mentoring Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. In closing, Hood used statistical data, relative to the impact of National PAL, to highlight the reduction of juvenile crime within areas of PAL engagement, as well as, how our 250+ Chapters nationwide are dispelling the Us (law enforcement) versus Them (community youth) mentality and constantly proving that youth and law enforcement can co-exist and thrive within communities across our country.



Jeff Hood, Dominic Teakle and Rod Bell form the National PAL Global Youth Alliance Advisory Council.

With Hood's participation in the International Youth Conference and engagement with many international attendees, he developed the idea and concept of starting the "National PAL Global Youth Alliance." The goal of the Global Youth Alliance is to solicit, engage and learn via the formalization of like-minded youth-related organizations that infuse the daily engagement and participation of law enforcement officers, while establishing a very sincere and intentional focus toward eradicating the myth that youth and law enforcement cannot co-exist. The Global Youth Alliance will also aim to build upon opportunities for youth

and law enforcement to communicate, learn about each other and make for better, tension-free growth within our communities.

Upon returning to the states, Hood presented the plan and opportunity to the National PAL Board of Directors, who then enthusiastically approved the enactment of a new initiative. Additionally, Hood presented the Global Youth Alliance proposal to established youth-serving programs in Sydney, Australia and Auckland, New Zealand, whom both have decided to be initial members of the Alliance. With Dominic Teakle, CEO of PCYC NSW in Sydney, Australia and Rod Bell, CEO of Blue Light in Auckland, New Zealand, joining Hood in the Global Youth Alliance, the three have agreed to serve on the initial National PAL Global Youth Alliance Advisory Council.

National PAL and USA Boxing Host Last Chance Qualifier

National PAL and USA Boxing held the 2019 Last Chance Qualifier in Oxnard, CA in conjunction with the 2019 National PAL Championships on November 2-9, 2019.

"It's a big deal to be able to have this partnership reestablished," said National PAL CEO Jeff Hood. "There is a rich history of boxers that have come from both organizations that have done great and major work - from Muhammad Ali to George Foreman and on and on. They got their start, right here in PAL. It makes sense for National PAL and USA Boxing to come together again as we bring about this Last Chance Olympic Qualifier."

"It's a great partnership," said USA Boxing Executive Director Mike McAtee. "We're looking forward to going to Oxnard to be a part of that community that has supported boxing for a long time."

The Last Chance Qualifier was the fourth tournament in the USA Boxing Olympic Qualifying Series and the last opportunity for elite boxers to punch their ticket to the 2020 Olympic Trials for Boxing in December.



Boxers take a moment with National PAL and USA Boxing staff before gearing up for their last chance qualifying fights.



Mentoring Spotlight: Sheriff PAL



One of Sheriff PAL's mentoring groups takes a break from physical activity and enjoys the weather during an outdoor mentoring session.

Since the establishment of their mentoring program in 2016, Sheriff PAL in Pontiac, MI has witnessed tremendous growth in the number of youth participating in mentoring programs. Every Saturday, the Chapter provides programming for approximately 100 kids at a local school where they use classrooms and the gymnasium to conduct group mentoring sessions.

Through implementing the McGruff Club and Innovation 4.0 programs, Eisha Branner, Director of Mentoring and Community Engagement, also incorporates education and entrepreneurship into the mentoring sessions as a way to enhance the curriculum lessons. As a business owner herself, Branner finds value added opportunities with incorporating the business model into

some of the existing programs, as she believes that they share similar principles that help youth develop strategies for matching their talents and interests to potential careers. The use of eleven peer mentors throughout Sheriff PAL's mentoring program also enhances programming, as the mentors offer ideas and experiences to the mentees.

Branner acknowledges that dedicated recruiting efforts have contributed in large part to the successful community involvement with Sheriff PAL's mentoring program.

When recruiting mentees, Branner does a majority of her community outreach in local schools, and has established a strong rapport with teachers who spread the word and provide opportunities for students to sign-up directly in the classroom to participate in the NPAL Mentoring program.

In terms of recruiting mentors, Branner relies heavily on social media and word of mouth and has realized that as more people hear about the mentoring program, the more willing people are to volunteer and serve as mentors. Word of mouth has been extremely beneficial as Sheriff PAL now has local businesses and contract specialists come in every other Saturday to speak to and elaborate on lessons that the mentees learned in the previous week. Having additional involvement from local businesses and members of the community, Sheriff PAL is excited to provide additional opportunities to mentees that are outside of their existing interests, and will undoubtedly continue to grow the mentoring program and allow for additional mentees and mentors involved.



Sheriff PAL mentoring groups read supplemental materials as a way of enhancing lessons learned in the programs they are implementing.

New Chapter Highlight: PAL of Massena

As National PAL continues to move toward being “The World’s Foremost Leader in Engaging Kids, Cops, and Community,” we are excited to welcome one of our newest Chapters to the NPAL family – PAL of Massena, in Massena, New York.



PAL of Massena members volunteered for the Back the Pack Program, where they packed over 1,200 snack bags for members of the community. This is just one of many programs they hope to continue as they become a PAL Chapter.

PAL of Massena is undergoing positive changes and experiencing new opportunities within their organization and is eager to begin working with National PAL and its affiliate Chapters. The town of Massena has an existing community policing initiative and is part of the Massena Drug Free Community Coalition, so PAL of Massena’s Executive Director, Zachary Monroe, and Massena Police Department’s Chief of Police, Adam Love, saw no better time to incorporate the resources and opportunities that National PAL offers with their own current programming, which focuses on leadership, academic success and healthy lifestyles through participation in sports.

In addition to becoming a National PAL Chapter, PAL of Massena is looking to leverage this transition to build new relationships with organizations in their community. Being just 20 minutes from the Canadian border, PAL of Massena will seek police involvement from the Border Patrol along with local and state police departments in order to include police officers in their programming and to work with the youth on a regular basis. Recently, PAL of Massena has been collaborating with Alcoa and The State University of New York - Canton to build an E-Sports arena at their site, and is hoping that the three entities can incorporate NPAL programming to combine traditional sports and e-sports. Ultimately, this will convey to the youth the importance of finding a balance between technology use and physical activity.

“ Jeff Hood and his staff at National PAL have been extremely helpful during our transition. Thanks to them, we plan to re-open our Chapter in December. ”

- Zachary Monroe, Executive Director, PAL of Massena

With a solid foundation already in place, Monroe and PAL of Massena are looking forward to hitting the ground running. They plan to have a grand re-opening of their Chapter in December, and they are looking forward to the resources and experiences that National PAL will provide in curricula, funding opportunities and the National Youth Leadership Summit hosted in Washington, D.C. each year.

Youth and Law Enforcement Inspirational Awardees

AUGUST 2019:

YOUTH OF THE MONTH

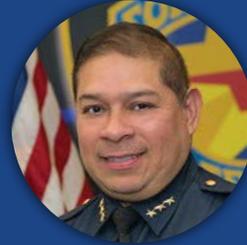


Lostrez Vasquez

*Putnam County PAL
East Palatka, FL*

Lostrez Vasquez has earned numerous rankings in the Putnam Sheriff's Explorers and JROTC including the rank of Lt. Colonel. Academically, Lostrez has gained success through Putnam County PAL, National Honor Society, dual enrollment at St. John State College obtaining a 3.7 GPA and 24 college credits. She has become a valued junior counselor, translator and mentor within her Chapter. She has also passionately performed over 400 hours of community service.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE MONTH



**Assistant Chief
Charles Ramirez**

*FWPD PAL
Fort Worth, TX*

Over the last 28 years, Assistant Chief Charles Ramirez of the Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) has been an essential aid to FWPD PAL. Assistant Chief Ramirez has served in leadership roles, established bonds between youth and officers, and instituted numerous sports programs at FWPD PAL. The addition of these programs has increased Chapter membership to more than 500 PAL kids. Most recently, Ramirez was instrumental in helping the FWPAL Boxing program secure a state-of-the-art city-owned gymnasium.

SEPTEMBER 2019:

YOUTH OF THE MONTH



Morgan Price

*Howell PAL
Howell, NJ*

Morgan Price has been a consistent source of support and dedication to Howell PAL. Price has eagerly performed hundreds of community service hours and led most Chapter service incentives, including senior citizen community clean-ups and feeding the homeless. She has also gained great success in National Honor Society while balancing her duties on Leadership Council and extracurricular activities. Her kindness, passion, and positive perspective has truly set her apart as an encouraging light in challenging circumstances.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE MONTH



**Officer Bridget
Allen**

*Jacksonville PAL
Jacksonville, FL*

Officer Bridget Allen has served as an active mentor by providing familial support, PAL event transportation and direction to emotional support services. Allen has also gone above and beyond her call of duty by allotting summer camp scholarships, allowing youth to partake in activities at no cost. Allen's consistent support has resulted in the development of several empowerment leaders within Jacksonville PAL's teen leadership programs. Youth under her guidance improved their grades, assumed leadership duties and become teen mentors for other young ladies.

OCTOBER 2019:

YOUTH OF THE MONTH



Michael Harris

*Selma PAL
Selma, AL*

Michael B. Harris is an exemplary 12-year Selma Police Activities League member who serves as a prime example of a youth leader. Not only does Michael encourage other youth to become mentors, but he also encourages fellow youth to participate in community projects including "Clean It Up Selma," a community littering project, and the ATAP CDC Kickstart, a youth program food delivery service. During the holidays, Michael packs food for the unemployed and gathers gifts for his local nursing home to spread holiday cheer. He is an honor roll student with a 3.6 GPA and will graduate with a High School and Associates Degree by May of 2020.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Lieutenant Damon Ballard

*Cobb County PAL
Marietta, GA*

Lieutenant Damon Ballard has demonstrated great growth and dedication to shaping Cobb County PAL youth. Inspired by his PAL mentors, Lieutenant Ballard sought a career in Law Enforcement and has served as a police officer for over 20 years. Since initially volunteering in the Chapter's midnight basketball program three years ago, he has taken on the initiative to create a year-round martial arts program where he serves as an instructor. He also volunteers within the Chapter's boxing program and assists in the coordination of Cobb County's 2019 "Smoke 'n' Guns" Police versus Firefighter Charity Boxing event.

NOVEMBER 2019:

YOUTH OF THE MONTH



Jaylyn Moore

*Palatka PAL
Palatka, FL*

Jaylyn Moore is a devoted Palatka Police Athletic League member who strives to lead by example in every aspect of her life. Moore has shown herself to be an exemplary role model for fellow youth by challenging herself in her academics as well as her extracurricular activities. Not only does she maintain a 4.0 GPA, stellar attendance records and zero discipline referrals, she has also been chosen to be a 10th grade representative at her high school. In her free time, she enjoys participating in her competitive cheerleading team, BETA Club and volleyball team. Moore has also received numerous awards including A/B Honor Roll, Top Knight Award and the Kathleen B. Greene Top 50 Scholars Award.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Officer Aaron Lucas

*Seattle PAL
Seattle, WA*

Officer Lucas of the Seattle Police Department has shown himself to be a vital resource as a School Emphasis Officer at South Shore K-8. He has actively combated the school's high crime rates, drug activity, and violence by mentoring youth at the school. He personally mentors youth and builds lasting relationships with youth and their families by spending quality time together. Recently, he provided a displaced family with mattresses and helped set up the beds in the family's home. Additionally, several times per year, Officer Lucas will bring his barber skills to PAL events and host a barbershop mentorship event, where he cuts hair at no cost. Wherever he notices a need not being met, he finds a way to be a helping hand.

Save the Date: National PAL 76th Annual Conference

The 2020 National Conference is set to take the stage in New Orleans, LA from **April 13-17, 2020**. Celebrating 76 years, the Conference brings together PAL Chapter mentors and staff from all over the country for an unparalleled series of workshops, training and development.

Chapters will gain fresh perspective and inspiration from the energy of their colleagues and others who will present the workshops over the course of four days led by the industry's brightest and most innovative people.

Returning this year is National PAL's community service initiative, benefitting New Orleans' homeless and low-income community; foot baths, clean socks, and new shoes will be offered by our National organization volunteers, to those in the community who need it most.

Also returning this year is National PAL's presentation of the 2020 Inspirational Award honorees. The annual honorees are selected from the monthly list of Youth, Law Enforcement, Alumni and Volunteers recognized, culminating with the overall annual announcement of those who are considered to be the most vivid example of the mission and vision of the PAL Network.

Registration is open now on the National PAL website. Click the "**Annual Conference Tab**" to make your reservation and receive the special conference rate of **\$465 for NPAL members** and **\$565 for non-NPAL members**. Rates increase on March 13.



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