



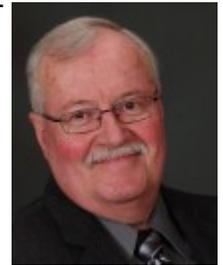
International Conference of Police Chaplains Regional Training

by Grant Kistler, 2C12

As chaplains we understand the importance of continued training and education in our discipline. In addition to monthly meetings, we have opportunities to go to seminars and training offered by the ICPC and the Federation of Firefighters. I recently attended the annual ICPC Regional Training at Cannon Beach, OR. It was a full, four days with classes starting at 6:30 am. There were over 100 chaplains there representing 8 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. The classes offered were:

- Equipping Leaders
- Law Enforcement Family
- Substance Abuse
- Sensitivity/Diversity
- Ceremonies & Events
- Suicide
- Training Certificates/Accreditation
- The Web
- Stronger First Responder Families

Some of the classes I particularly enjoyed were Equipping Leaders, Stronger First-Responder Families and Ceremonies and Events.



Equipping Leaders

This session was taught by Robert (Bob) Vernon who retired from the LAPD after 38 years. The son of a 20-year LAPD officer, Bob rose through the ranks from rookie street cop to second in command. He teaches principle-based leadership seminars that focus on the importance of ethics and the true heart of powerful leadership: an individual's character.

A good leader:

- Is a good listener
- keeps commitments
- is consistent
- has good judgment
- is fair
- gives recognition
- removes work barriers
- equips followers
- emphasizes principles

A leader's character includes:

- *Integrity* – actions match stated beliefs
- *Courage* – overcoming fear
- *Discipline* – maintaining self control
- *Loyalty* – submission to authority
- *Diligence* – hard work, persistence
- *Humility* – concern for others' interests
- *Optimism* – expecting a good outcome
- *Conviction* – confidence, certainty, passion

We followed along in a workbook, and Bob had some great stories of his experiences. One thing he emphasized was that a goal without a timeline is not a goal.



Chaplain Wilson Parrish, Sherwood, OR Police Dept., Jim Crowley, region 2 ICPC director, and Keoki Awai, ICPC president at the ICPC regional training



Stronger First-Responder Families

This program is designed to improve couple relationships and strengthen marriages. It really peels back the layers to understand the basic differences in how men and women think and what each consider important in a marriage. It is taught on an ongoing basis at Joint Base Lewis/McChord with 15 couples per session and has been very effective.

The program offers an 8-hour facilitator session every quarter in Seattle. Lewis County Chaplaincy is investigating the possibility of offering this program to our departments and agencies. With police and firefighter divorce rates above 60% (70-80% in larger departments) this may be a service chaplains could offer.

Ceremonies & Events

This training session covered various ceremonies and events focusing primarily on line-of-duty death (LODD) and the need for chaplains to be prepared and have a plan even if they may not be involved themselves. We should make ourselves available in whatever capacity is needed. Emphasis was that the family and their wishes come first. The class included:

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- Knowing and understanding the nature of different ceremonies and events
- Understanding how to create a plan and use resources and personnel with experience
- What resources and tools are available
- Nature of public prayers
- Developing a planning committee
- Flag protocols

Chaplains attending the training session received 2 CEU. After completing the remaining classes next year, attendees will receive the ICPC Basic Accreditation Level.

District 5 Participates in Walk-N-Knock

The District 5 fire department participated in the biggest food drive outreach of the year on Saturday, December 3. Department members and volunteers went door-to-door seeking donations and picking up grocery sacks filled with food and left on front porches by the community. Over 4000 lb. of food was collected.

Walk-N-Knock is a crucial way of refilling the pantries of food banks throughout the area.



Lt. Laura Hanson of District 5 sorting food donations



Chaplain Grant Kistler and some of the high school volunteers

