

CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

NUMBER 87

FEBRUARY 2018

New Board Member Introductions

Constable Craig D. Westover has been an Act 49 certified constable since 1996 and previously served on the Constables' Education and Training Board from 2000 to 2003. Constable Westover is currently a certified Act 49 instructor for Penn State-Fayette and a self-defense instructor contracted by the University of Pittsburgh (NOTE: As a Board member, he will not receive pay for instructing). Constable Westover brings a wealth of constable experience and knowledge to the Board.

Constable Francis C. Peitz, Jr. has been an Act 49 certified constable since 1997 and has proudly served as constable for O'Hara Township for over 30 years. Constable Peitz retired after 41 years of service as a field engineer for a telephone company, where he also served as Unit President for the Communications Workers of America. He devotes his time to the Shriner's "Roadrunners" Program, which transports disabled children for medical appointments to various Shriner's Hospitals across the state.

Judge Thomas S. Brletic has served for nearly 40 years in various capacities in the criminal justice, system in the Commonwealth. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Judge Brletic began his career as a police officer for the City of McKeesport Police Department before being promoted to Police Chief. He was elected Magisterial District Judge for the City of McKeesport, holding that post for 16 years before being appointed as a supervisor for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Bureau of Investigations, Pittsburgh Office. After nine years with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Judge Brletic retired from state service and was appointed as a Senior Magisterial District Judge by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Judge Brletic has extensive training experience and was an Act 49 Master Instructor and Curriculum Development Specialist for Penn State-Fayette Campus.

Please join Program Staff in welcoming Constables Westover and Peitz and Judge Brletic to the Board.

**Constables' Education and
Training Board Members:**

**Board Chair – Thomas S. Brletic
Vice Chair - Craig D. Westover**

**Francis C. Peitz, Jr.
Rodney D. Ruddock
Major William P. White**



**Charles H. Ramsey
Chairman, PCCD**

**Derin Myers
Acting Executive Director,
PCCD**

**John Pfau
Manager,
Bureau of Training Services**

South West Training Class Changes

The following classes have been moved from the South Connellsville Range to the Fayette County Range: SW01AF18 (April 20-22, 2018) and SW04AF18 (June 1-3, 2018).

SW01SF18 has been moved to the Westmoreland County Community College Public Safety Center and the dates have been changed to August 24, 25 and 26, 2018.

Please contact PSU-Fayette Constables' Training Coordinator, Rob Harford, at 724-430-4114, with any questions regarding these changes.

Act 235 Waiver Applications

The Constable's Education and Training Board will not sign off on the Act 235 training waivers. The Board and PCCD are the training and certification entity only, not an "employing" agency.

Weapon 2 Clarifications

If a constable obtains a successful qualification with Weapon 1 and the constable does not have opportunity to attempt to qualify with Weapon 2, that constable cannot attend another firearms training class to attempt to qualify with Weapon 2. They must wait until the next Training Year to attempt to qualify with Weapon 2, **subject to time constraints and range conditions.**

If a constable obtains a successful qualification with Weapon 1 and the constable fails to qualify with Weapon 2, that constable cannot attend another firearms training class in the same training year to attempt to qualify with Weapon 2.

A constable who has a documented malfunction of either Weapon 1 or Weapon 2 may attend another firearms training class in the same training year in coordination with the training delivery contractor and Program Staff.

Fitness and Firearm Reminders

It is important to be fit on the firearms range, both physically and mentally. If you are feeling under the weather due to a cold or flu or recent/ongoing medical condition and have an upcoming firearms training class scheduled, you may want to reschedule to another class later in the year. If you currently wear glasses or contacts, you may want to have your eyes checked before attending your scheduled firearms training class. This will help to alleviate any potential firearms safety issues that may arise on the range due to these conditions.

It is also important to practice the Constables' Qualification Course of Fire prior to attending any firearms training class. The Course of Fire is published annually in the Training Schedule and is also located on the web at: <http://www.pccd.pa.gov/training/Documents/Constable%20Education%20and%20Training/Constable%20Forms/Constables'%20Qualification%20Course%20of%20Fire.pdf>.

Minimum Class Enrollments

Constables' training classes that are not meeting the minimum enrollment numbers may be combined and/or cancelled. If you have not done so, make sure to enroll in your 2018 Constables' training classes as soon as possible! The following are the minimum enrollments for Constables' Training Classes: Basic Training – 14; Basic Firearms – 9; Continuing Education – 16; Annual Firearms – 16; Advanced Firearms – 10 and the maximum is 14; and Optional – 6. If classes are consolidated, this will happen approximately 90 days prior to the class start date. If the classes are not meeting the minimum enrollment, they may be cancelled or your enrollment could be moved to another date and/or location. It is not cost-effective for the Program to hold training classes that have not met the minimum enrollment.

Electronics Usage

There have been several complaints from constables and deputy constables concerning other constables and deputy constables using cell phones, iPads, or other electronic devices during the Constables Training Classes.

Please be reminded that per the PA Constables' Classroom Code of Conduct, Section III. Unprofessional Conduct, subparagraph A states:

Unprofessional Conduct is defined as conduct that reflects poorly upon the image of the Constables' Education and Training Board (Board) and the Constables of the Commonwealth. Examples include, but are not limited to: disruptive talking in the classroom, disrespect to instructors, sleeping, eating or smoking in class, disrupting other activities occurring on the training site; false fire alarm, vandalism, illegal parking, lying to training delivery or Board staff or any other person; refusal to cooperate with staff investigations; and other criminal offenses committed at the training site. Cell phone usage during training classes would be deemed disruptive and disrespectful to instructors. Utilizing any other electronic device could also be disruptive and disrespectful to the class environment.

In addition, it has been reported that photographs and videotaping has been attempted by constables and deputy constables during Constables Training Classes. This would also be considered a violation of the PA Constables' Classroom Code of Conduct and could be a potential firearms safety issue when on the firearms range. The training delivery contractors have rules and regulations governing the use of photographs or videotaping taken during classes at their schools.

Please do not use electronic devices or take photographs or videos during the Constables' Training Classes.

Solicitations at Constable's Training Classes

Please be advised that no solicitations of any kind are to be offered, initiated or conducted during the Program's constable training classes. Constable training classes shall not be utilized to solicit either verbally or in writing.

Training Delivery Contractor Contact Information

Eastern Region: Temple University, Dee Beiter – (267) 468-8331; Email – deidre.sherman@temple.edu

Central Region: Indiana University of PA, Michael Marcantino – (724) 549-1929; Email – mjmarcan@iup.edu

Western Region: Penn State-Fayette Campus, Rob Harford – (724) 430-4114; Email – constabletraining@psu.edu

New Training Class Costs for 2018

At the November 16, 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved the following increases to the amounts charged to attend Constables' Training Classes for the 2018 Training Year. These charges have not been increased since February 2010. The charges would be assessed on constables and deputy constables who have failed a training class or have failed to attend or provide timely notification to the training delivery contractor of their non-attendance for a Basic Training, Basic Firearms, Continuing Education, Annual Firearms, or Optional Training Class.

Basic Training – \$890.00

Basic Firearms – \$725.00

Continuing Education – \$225.00 (\$11.25 per module-hour)

Annual Firearms – \$410.00

Optional Training – \$170.00

These numbers are based on an average of the actual invoiced costs of providing the training in State Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

2018 CETB Meeting Schedule

The Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB) meetings will be held at PCCD's Offices, 3101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The 2018 meeting dates are as follows:

May 10, 2018
August 9, 2018
November 15, 2018

All CETB meetings are open to the public and constables are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Contact Information at PCCD

If you have questions regarding certification, insurance, or where to send your election certificate or appointment order, please contact the appropriate staff person below.

**THESE ARE NOT CONTACTS FOR CLASS ENROLLMENTS,
CANCELLATIONS OR TRANSFERS.**

WESTERN PA: Armstrong, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, McKean, Somerset, Venango, Washington, Warren, and Westmoreland Counties

Your contact person is: Wayne Hower, (717) 265-8551, whower@pa.gov

CENTRAL PA: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Tioga, Union, and York Counties

Your contact person is: Tracy Clouser, (717) 265-8552, tracclouse@pa.gov

EASTERN PA: Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties

Your contact person is: Sherry Leffler, (717) 265-8554, sleffler@pa.gov