



MASSACHUSETTS CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION
In Unity There is Strength

A BRIEF HISTORY

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To place the history of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA) in perspective, we should first trace briefly the background of the police service from its inception. The first historical mention of a guard service to protect a community is found in ancient Rome when Augustus, the First Roman Emperor, assigned 7500 of his legions to keep the peace. Each hundred members of that select military guard were placed under a leader called a Centurion to patrol their assigned area. This was the beginning of the European concept of law enforcement, which placed it under the direction and control of the military.

It is in England, some centuries later, in the year 1252, that we find the first development of a civilian responsibility for community protection when the Watch and Ward was first organized in London. Every male citizen, over the age of sixteen, was required to serve on night watch duty, without pay, when called upon. By 1800, in addition to the Watch and Ward. London also had special paid guards assigned to the docks and to private business establishments. There was also an organization called the "Bow Street Runners" who served warrants for the city courts. These "runners", also called "thief takers", were primarily involved in the investigation of crime and the apprehension of criminal offenders, and they were the beginning of our present day criminal investigation units.

During the Industrial Revolution, crime grew alarmingly in England and it became apparent that the Watch and Ward had become inadequate. This realization marked a great turning point in the history of law enforcement.

In 1829, the British Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, organized the Metropolitan Police of London, the very first police department, with paid officers for day and night duty, and the police service, as we know it was born.

From 12,000 candidates he selected 1,000 officers and to ensure that they would not be identified as part of the military they were dressed in distinctive uniforms with long blue coats, wide leather belts and top hats. By 1830, the force had increased to 3,300 officers, divided into 17 divisions.

The headquarters for this new police department was located in a building adjacent to the site of a palace used at one time by the Scottish Kings; and was commonly known as "Scotland Yard". This became the popular name for police headquarters and that name "Scotland Yard" is still used today by the Criminal Investigations Branch of the Metropolitan Police of London and is very well known to every reader of detective stories.

Sir Robert Peel was a man far ahead of his time and his civilian police force varies considerably from the police organizations of continental Europe which operated under the direct control of the military and were militaristic in their operations. The British officers, called "Bobbies" after Sir Robert, received wide acceptance with the English public and still do to this day.

To locate the roots of our own police service we must go back to 1630 when the First English Colonists arrived in this country to their new settlement that they called Boston. They brought with them the British Watch and ward system and the English Common Law. On February 27, 1636 a citizen Watch and Ward was formally organized in Boston under a Chief Constable. These duties proved to be very unpopular. Many of the Colonists rebelled against this compulsory watch duty and those who could afford to do so, hired substitutes.

The Watchmen were instructed "to walk their rounds slowly and now and then stop and listen". Their principal concern was not the suppression of crime but the protection of property against fire, as all the early buildings were made of

wood, including the chimneys, and fire was a constant hazard. The night watch went on duty from sunset to sunrise and this system continued for the next 200 years.

In 1838, as a result of the success of Sir Robert Peel in London, the Massachusetts Legislature, by Chapter 123 of the Acts of 1838, authorized the newly incorporated City of Boston to appoint a Day Police Force, under the direction of a City Marshal, thus becoming the first organized police force in the United States. New York City followed in 1844 and soon police forces were organized in all the major cities. In 1854, the Boston Night Watch and the Day Police Force were combined into the Boston Police Department under a Chief of Police.

As Massachusetts communities expanded beyond the City of Boston they followed a similar pattern for providing community protection and service. As settlements grew from villages to towns they also found that part-time watchmen were ineffective, requiring the appointments of full-time police officers. So we see that the police service here in Massachusetts is a direct product of its historical roots in the British civilian police tradition. No community was considered too small to have its own police department under the direction of a Chief of Police.

On a Saturday afternoon, November 5, 1887, a group of local police chiefs met at Young's Hotel, which at that time was located on Court Street in downtown Boston. It was on that day that they voted to organize the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the first organization of its kind in this country. The following Chiefs were present and become the Charter Members of the MCOPA: Chief Cloyes of Cambridge, Chief Parkhurst of Somerville, Chief Sibley of Chelsea, Chief Washburn of Worcester, Chief Bailey of Brockton, Chief Hart of Salem, Chief Neil of Lynn, Chief O'Sullivan of Lawrence, Chief Burleigh of Waltham, Chief Wood of Lowell, Chief Hammond of Newton, Chief Richards of Malden, Chief Dow of Taunton, Chief Douglas of Gloucester, Chief Hammond of Haverhill and Chief Hecker of Newburyport. Also present that day was Superintendent Benjamin P. Eldridge of the Boston Police

Department who, six years later, in 1893, became one of the founders of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and served as the second President of the IACP from 1895-1897.

The declared purpose of the MCOPA was mutual support. They adopted by-laws and a constitution and they elected Chief Cloyes of Cambridge as their first President. They agreed to meet monthly to discuss mutual problems and they selected for their motto *"In Unity There is Strength"*. They stated that it would be their objective to aid and assist their fellow members in the discharge of their duties, to give counsel and advice on all important questions involving law enforcement and to assist each other in all matters relating to the welfare of the Association and its individual members.

The police service in those early days was an uncomplicated operation. Police departments were organized and staffed to maintain the peace and good order in what was a relatively orderly society. But as the problems of modern living became increasingly more complex, the problems facing the police have multiplied. Changing times – changing social values – and changing public attitudes have placed demands on the police service – and upon police chiefs – that were unheard of a few generations ago.

Those early police chiefs never envisioned the changes that were to take place over the next one hundred years that have revolutionized the police service and the administration of police department:

- the advent of the automobile and the creation of a more transient society which made police work much more difficult;
- from the horse-drawn patrol wagon to the radio and computer equipped patrol car;
- from the street call-box to the cellular phones;
- from handwritten reports to the word processor;
- from manual record keeping to the utilization of computer technology with its unlimited capacity and instantaneous retrieval of information;
- from fingerprint identification to the use of DNA;

- from what was an almost unknown drug problem to the insidious drug culture that has greatly exacerbated the crime problem; and
- from the traditional neighborhood foot patrols to an almost total dependence on patrol cars for rapid response and now back again to community policing bringing police officers back to the neighborhoods in closer contact with the public.

Those police chiefs who organized the MCOPA so many years ago could never have foreseen that the police service would have to face the lawless prohibition era of the 1920's with the growth of organized crime; the great economic depression of the 1930's with its restricted police budgets, the social turmoil of the 1960's with the civil rights street demonstrations and the student protests against the Vietnam War; and the need for better qualified, better trained and better motivated police officers for every police department, large or small.

Little is known of what the MCOPA accomplished during the first half of its existence, as the history of its early years is lost to antiquity. It is believed that in the early days the MCOPA President conducted the Association's affairs out of his own police station. The President served two, three or more years and whatever records he kept went with him when he left office. So the institutional memory of the MCOPA goes back only sixty years to the advent of our legendary Secretary-Treasurer, Chief Hector J. Pelletier of Cohasset.

Hector Pelletier was a young State Trooper in the very early years of that organization and his patrol area included the town of Cohasset. In 1927, at the age of 24, the townspeople asked him to become their Chief of Police and he served in that capacity, with honor and distinction, for the next 40 years, a record that is still unsurpassed in this state.

Chief Pelletier became the President of the MCOPA in 1940 and shortly thereafter became its first Secretary-Treasurer, a position he held until the day of his death. Almost single-handedly, he reorganized the Association into what it is today. He opened up the first Association office in Cushing Plaza in Cohasset. Under his guidance the Association was incorporated on May 2, 1949. The following Chiefs are listed as incorporators in the Office of the Secretary of State:

George H. Smith, President, Hector J. Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer, John R. King, John F. Flaherty, John F. Healy, Charles H. McCauley, Edward C. McMahon and Carroll F. Morse, Directors.

Under Chief Pelletier, the MCOPA, for the first time, became a political action force in the State Legislature advocating and supporting legislation important to the field of law enforcement and to those who serve in it. In the State House, Chief Pelletier became affectionately known as "Mr. Police Chief".

Chief Pelletier retired from the Cohasset Police Department on May 29, 1967 and died on April 22, 1976. During his long illness, prior to his death, Chief J. Merritt Wenzel of Wakefield, who was MCOPA President in 1966, served as Acting Secretary-Treasurer and he held the Association together during that period.

To replace Chief Pelletier, Chief John J. Hanlon of the Worcester Police Department was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. His experience as the administrator of a large city police department was most valuable to the MCOPA at that time, especially during the early years of the Municipal Police Institute, (the MPI), which became the planning, training and research resource for the Association and its members.

In 1981, Chief Hanlon was succeeded by Chief Paul L. Doherty of the State Capitol Police and his title was changed to Executive Director to be consistent with Police Chiefs' Associations in other states. Chief Doherty began his police career as a patrol officer in the Woburn Police Department and transferred to the Capitol Police in 1950 where he moved up from the ranks to the position of Chief in 1961 and became President of the MCOPA in 1970. During his years in the State House, he acquired an intimate knowledge of state government, especially the State Legislature and for years he chaired the Legislative Committee of the MCOPA. This special knowledge proved to be invaluable when the Association sponsored legislation beneficial to the Association, to its members and to law enforcement in general.

As Chief Doherty was a Past President, he was always available to provide advice and guidance to each new President of the Association as they

took office. Chief Doherty also organized the Annual MCOPA Scholarship Fund for deserving students who were related to an active or retired member of the Association. This program has assisted many young students, a large percentage of whom have gone on to a career in some branch of law enforcement. At Chief Doherty's suggestion, the Scholarship Fund was named in honor of the late Chief Hector J. Pelletier.

In 1982, with the support of then President John D. Coyle, Jr., Chief of the North Attleboro Police Department, Chief Doherty organized the Sustaining Membership Program. This program provided the MCOPA with the financial capability to expand its membership services, particularly its legal services, which were greatly favored by the members. Annual seminars were also conducted which were well attended by the Chiefs.

As Executive Director, Chief Doherty served the MCOPA faithfully for sixteen years until his retirement in 1997. At this time a Search Committee was appointed to seek a well-qualified replace for Chief Doherty. During the interim, General Counsel John M. Collins served very capably as Acting Executive Director.

From a number of candidates, Chief George J. DiBlasi (Ret.) of the Norwood Police Department was selected as the next Executive Director. Chief DiBlasi was well known as a progressive police administrator. He was an early proponent of Community Policing and his introduction of this policy of resolving neighborhood problems at the neighborhood level was most successful in the Town of Norwood.

On taking office as Executive Director, Chief DiBlasi stated that it would be his fundamental purpose to develop a course of action that would successfully shape the future of the MCOPA into the next century. His energy and enthusiasm infused the Association with a new sense of purpose and direction. Chief DiBlasi envisioned a unified, mutually supportive organization that would effectively represent the best interests of the Association and all of its members.

The following are some of the accomplishments, over the past fifty years, that the MCOPA and its members can point to with pride.

A. The Jimmy Fund

The Jimmy Fund is the primary fund raising effort of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a world leader in cancer research and treatment for children, founded in 1947 by Dr. Sidney Farber at the Children's Hospital in Boston.

The Variety Club of New England, composed of people in the entertainment field, became Dr. Farber's first financial supporter. In 1948, they were able to have Ralph Edwards, the host of a very popular radio show at that time call "Truth or Consequences", to come to Boston for one of his weekly performances. It was held at the bedside of a 12-year old cancer patient being treated by Dr. Farber at the Children's Hospital. Dr. Farber called the boy "Jimmy", although that was not his real name, to represent all children stricken with cancer.

The Variety Club also enlisted the owners of the Boston Braves Baseball Team to become involved and a group of their star players were also at the bedside that night.

The program had great national appeal and a total of \$230,000, a lot of money in those days, came pouring in to Dr. Farber for his cause and the Jimmy Fund was officially launched.

In 1953, the Boston Braves moved to Milwaukee and Thomas A. Yawkey, the owner of the Boston Red Sox, more than replaced the Braves in his support of the Jimmy Fund. His greatest star player, Ted Williams, became especially devoted to the Jimmy Fund and he made personal appearances on behalf of the Jimmy Fund for many years.

That same year, 1953, the MCOPA, through Chief Hector Pelletier, joined with the Variety Club and the Red Sox, by adopting the Jimmy Fund as its officially designated charity and it remains so to this day.

Chief Pelletier dedicated himself to his fight against cancer among children. One day, in making one of his regular visits to the children at the Jimmy Fund Clinic, he was introduced to a young cancer patient named Tommy as the Cohasset Police Chief. Hector was not in uniform that day and the skeptical boy asked for proof that he was, indeed, a Chief of Police. "Are you really and truly a

chief" asked Tommy. "Do you have a badge?" Hector was disappointed that he did not, but he promised Tommy that he would be back. True to his word, he returned in full uniform with a Cohasset police badge engraved with Tommy's name. This incident led to the creation of the "Hall of Badges" which contains the badges of many Police Chiefs from across the state. It is still very prominently displayed in the Ted Williams Gallery in the new Jimmy Fund Clinic Building in Boston.

In 1953 when the MCOPA first became involved with the Jimmy Fund, the first volunteer to step forward to join Chief Pelletier in this endeavor was Chief George O'Neil of the Worcester Police Department. Under Chief O'Neil's direction, the MCOPA canister program was organized. These were small, coin receptacles for donations to the Jimmy Fund. Chief O'Neil enlisted police chiefs across the state to place these canisters in stores, shops, banks and other business establishments in their cities and towns. This program was an immediate success and continues to this day. Other fundraisers were developed such as raffles, golf tournaments and the Worcester Police Departments softball program organized by Chief O'Neil, all of which contributed to the Jimmy Fund cause.

In 1983, Chief Robert Johnson of Auburn organized what became the annual "Chiefs Run for Jimmy". Chiefs from across the state volunteered to run, relay style, starting in the Town of Hancock at the New York State line and ending at the Jimmy Fund Clinic in Boston, to raise donations for the Jimmy Fund. The Chiefs ran, progressively, through more than thirty cities and towns from one end of the state to the other. Residents and business people were encouraged to sponsor their own chief of police by sending a check to the Jimmy Fund in care of the MCOPA. Chief (Ret.) Joseph Zoito of Williamstown, who was involved in the "Run" from the beginning, became the traditional starter of the "Run" from the Town of Hancock.

Since 1994, the "Run for Jimmy" has been renamed the "Chief Mortell Run for Jimmy" in honor of Chief Robert Mortell of Paxton who died tragically in the line of duty. The "Run" is now combined with the "Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund

Walk” where chiefs walk with patients and their families from the Jimmy Fund Clinic to Copley Square in Boston to encourage donations to the fund.

Each year since 1979, the Jimmy Fund has presented the Yawkey Memorial Award “to an organization, or to a person, who has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the life-saving mission of the Dana Farber Institute and to the Jimmy Fund”. In 1980 this prestigious award was given to the MCOPA. In 1982 it was awarded to the Worcester Police Department Softball Program which had been organized and directed for years by the late Chief George O’Neil and in 1997 to Chief Paul L. Doherty.

Upon the announcement of his retirement as Executive Director of the MCOPA, arrangements were made by the Jimmy Fund for Chief Doherty to be called out to the middle of the field at Fenway Park, before thousands of spectators attending a Red Sox night game, to receive his Yawkey Memorial Award.

Beginning in 1987, the Jimmy Fund has annually presented the Chief Hector J. Pelletier Award to the Police Chief who best exemplifies Chief Pelletier’s commitment to the Jimmy Fund. The first chief so honored was Chief Donald N. Maia of Amherst. The Pelletier Award has been presented, year by year, as follows:

- 1987 – Chief Donald N. Maia, Amherst
- 1988 – Chief Robert F. Johnson, Auburn
- 1989 – Chief David L. Young, Pepperell
- 1990 – Chief Robert G. Redfern, Easthampton
- 1991 – Chief Donald F. Brooker, Hull
- 1992 – Chief Peter L. Carnes, Wenham
- 1993 – Chief Ronald W. Ramos, Manchester by the Sea
- 1994 – Chief Thomas J. O’Loughlin, Wellesley
- 1995 – Chief Russell L. Messier, Grafton
- 1996 – Chief Gerald Galvin, Wayland
- 1997 – Chief Peter King, Raynham
- 1998 – Chief John E. Creighton, Uxbridge

1999 – Chief John L. Herbert, Sutton

2000 – Chief (Ret.) Francis R. Roddy, Fitchburg and Chief Peter F.
Roddy, Leominster (father and son)

In 1996, a special award was given to Chief Donald N. Maia of Amherst. It was the “Jimmy Fund Lifetime Commitment Award” presented to Chief Maia as an “Outstanding Volunteer” and a “dedicated and ardent supporter of the Jimmy Fund and its mission”. For many years Chief Maia had been in the forefront as a devoted advocate for the Jimmy Fund, especially throughout Western Massachusetts, where he organized and directed many successful fund raising events for the Jimmy Fund.

The names of all of the above-named award recipients are permanently memorialized in the Ted Williams Gallery at the Jimmy Fund Clinic in Boston

B. The Municipal Police Training Council

During the turbulent 1960's, the police chiefs of that generation recognized the necessity for improving and standardizing the indoctrination and training of all police officers, to enable them to perform their duties and responsibilities effectively in those rapidly changing times. It was their purpose to ensure that every police officer in every city and town across the state would receive the same quality and uniformity of training.

As a result of the efforts of the MCOPA, the Municipal Police Training Council, as it was then called, was created by statute in 1964. The original council was composed of eight members with a chairman, the state attorney general, designated by the Governor.

Ten years later, the police chiefs lost control of what was their training program – they had conceived it – they had developed it – and they had successfully guided it through the legislature. In 1974, the Council was restructured, renamed the Criminal Justice Training Council, and expanded to 23 members. This brought into the Council people from outside the field of law

enforcement, some of whom, despite their qualifications in their own field, had little knowledge of and even less interest in police training.

At the present time there is legislation proposed that will return this state-wide program of police training back to the police service where it rightfully belongs. This legislation is strongly supported by the MCOPA.

C. The Babson Command Training Program

Although this program of specialized police management training, located until recently on the campus of Babson College in Wellesley (now at Babson Park) was, and still is, sponsored by the New England Association of Chiefs of Police (NEACOP), it has had the strong support of the MCOPA from the beginning and most of its graduates have been from Massachusetts police departments.

This program of police command training was the vision of Special Agent Thomas F. McLaughlin who, at that time, was the training officer of the Boston office of the FBI and was well known to police chiefs throughout New England. It was the 1960's and the civil disturbances created by the civil rights demonstrations and protests against the Vietnam war were adding a new dimension to the duties of the police. Tom McLaughlin recognized that in those rapidly changing times much more attention would have to be given to preparing officers for command and supervisory positions in every police department, large or small. The traditional "school of experience" was no longer adequate.

He developed the concept of police executive training that he called "Police Command Training." He wanted it to be a unique program that would apply the proven principles of modern management to the police service. He obtained a federal grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) and then sought an academic setting for the new program. This was not an easy task at that time because the student anti-war movement and their opposition to the military draft was at its height. Police officers were often called to maintain order and police officers, and their blue uniforms, were not a welcome sight on college campuses.

However, President Henry Kreibel, of what was then called Babson Institute, was very supportive and at his direction a home was provided for the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management (NEILEM) on their Wellesley campus. The doors opened for the first class, Session #1, on November 27, 1967 and it proved to be an immediate success. It resulted in scores of applicants and a waiting list had to be established.

With the strong support at its inception and during its early years, of the Executive Director of the NEACOP Chief W. Joseph Shea of Natick, and since 1986, the continued support of his successor Chief John D. Coyle, Jr., of North Attleboro, the program has provided college-level professional police training for thousands of police chiefs and command officers not only from New England but from many other states and even from foreign countries. The program has lived up to its motto: "Serving the police leaders of today – while preparing the police leaders of tomorrow."

The following directors have guided the Babson Program successfully for the past thirty-four years:

Bruno W. Wilson, Special Agent (Ret.) FBI (1967) who died suddenly during Session #3.

Arthur T. Kehas Deputy Chief, Manchester N.H.P.D. (1968) who volunteered to complete that academic year.

John T. Howland, Superintendent (Ret.) Boston P.D. (1968-1978).

Charles V. Barry, Deputy Superintendent, (Ret.), Boston P.D. (1978-1983).

John F. Kreckler, Superintendent (Ret.), Boston P.D. (1983-1995).

Gerald F. Burke, Major (Ret.), Mass. State Police (1995 to present).

D. The Greater Boston Police Council

On September 6, 1967, during the civil disturbances of the 1960's which stretched police resources to the limit, at the invitation of Boston Police Commissioner Edmund L. McNamara, a group of Greater Boston Police Chiefs met at Boston Police Headquarters with representatives of the FBI, the

Massachusetts State Police and the Metropolitan District Commission Police. On that day the Greater Boston Police Council was organized.

It had for its original purpose the coordination of mutual aid between police departments when necessary and to resolve the problem of the lack of effective radio communications capability, between one police department and another, in emergency situations.

The Council had the full support of the MCOPA and it is still in existence today under the direction of Chief William F. Quinn (Ret.) of Newton. Over the years the Council has expanded its services to include the bulk buying of police vehicles and other police equipment for the benefit of its members.

E. The Pay Ratio Legislation

With the advent of strong police unions, in the 1960's, Chiefs of Police who had nobody to represent them, were being left behind on salaries and other benefits. Despite strong opposition from Selectmen and Town Managers, the MCOPA, in a unified effort, was able to secure the passage of this legislation which bases the salary of police chiefs on any salary increases obtained by their patrol officers.

This legislation has put the chiefs on the road to the salaries they receive today.

F. The Municipal Police Institute

The era of the 1960's was a time of great social turmoil with political assassinations, anti-vietnam war protests, civil rights marches, escalating crime statistics and an increasing disrespect for the law and for those who enforce it. As a result, the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) was created under the Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. This government agency awarded federal grants to individual states on their application. To administer and allocate these funds here in Massachusetts, the Governor's Committee on Criminal Justice (MCCJ) was established and it was their decision

that the funds available for the police would be limited to Boston and to the six other largest cities.

Joseph P. Shannon was a staff member of the MCCJ and he recognized that the smaller police departments were also greatly in need of technical assistance. In 1972, he drafted a proposal to create the Massachusetts Police Institute (MPI), a program to assist the smaller departments.

With the strong support of Chief Hector Pelletier and MCOPA President Joseph B. O'Kane of Weymouth, the proposal was accepted by the Executive Board and it was agreed that Executive Board of the MCOPA would also be the Board of Directors of the MPI. With the nomination by Chief Pelletier, Joseph B. Shannon was appointed Executive Director of the MPI.

After a start-up grant was obtained, Joe Shannon opened an office in the Town of Berlin on August 3, 1973, and recruited a team of bright, young lawyers to provide legal services. (The first hired was our present General Counsel of the MCOPA, John M. Collins.)

Joe Shannon then brought on board four retired Chiefs of Police to provide a balance of practical police experience for the program – Chief W. Joseph Shea of Natick; Chief J. Merritt Wenzel of Wakefield; Chief Thomas J. O'Connor of Holyoke; and Superintendent-in-Chief William J. Taylor of Boston. They were then sent out across the state to meet with individual chiefs to discuss their immediate needs and concerns.

As a result of these meetings it was determined that the MPI would first focus on the following:

Rules and Regulations – these manuals of reasonable standards of conduct and behavior for the direction and guidance of all officers were prepared individually for 250 police departments.

Policies and Procedures – forty written directives were prepared to assist police officers in the field in carrying out their duties in the most sensitive and complex areas of police responsibilities where official guidance was most necessary. These policies and procedures accompanied the rules and regulations.

Standardizing Records Systems – modern records and reporting systems, with new forms and procedures, were developed and installed in 100 police departments.

Legal Assistance – this was provided to individual chiefs, at their request, and timely information on changes in the law and recent court decisions pertaining to the police were distributed to all police departments.

Later a monthly magazine was published containing articles of interest to police chiefs; a statewide crime watch program was established in more than 250 police departments; and a criminal investigation manual was developed, as a joint police-district attorney project, and distributed to all police departments.

During the 1970's, standards and goals for law enforcement agencies were being written by presidential commissions and by the American Bar Association. The first written by and for the police were developed by MPI. A standards and goals committee, chaired by Chief Joseph R. Connell of Westford, met monthly for more than a year and developed a clear set of priorities for the administration of a progressive police department which were unanimously approved and accepted at a monthly meeting of the MCOPA on January 26, 1978.

On May 14, 1976, the MPI was incorporated as the Municipal Police Institute with Henry F. Maiolini as president, William J. Taylor as Treasurer and Joseph P. Shannon as clerk. The LEAA Inspection Team, from the Department of Justice in Washington that monitored the program, declared it to be a national model for providing professional assistance to local police departments and they recommended that the MPI program be extended to 60 police departments in Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine.

In 1981, however, when federal and then state funding came to an end the MPI was forced to close its doors and its staff was let go on July 31, 1981. Chief Paul L. Doherty (in connection with Attorney Jack Collins) maintained the corporate structure and tax-exempt status to preserve this valuable resource. He was able to secure state grants to provide legal services, conduct training, produce monthly articles and prepare training manuals. When state funding

ceased in the late 1980's, many of these services were continued with funds from the Association's Sustaining Membership program.

Due to the efforts of Executive Director George J. DiBlasi, in 1999 the MPI was revived under a contract with the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council. Its first objective was to update the MPI Policies and Procedures which had generally stood the test of time. The contents of each policy was carefully reviewed to reflect any changes in the law, pertinent court decisions, community policing philosophy and state accreditation standards. A great many other manuals were updated and some new ones were prepared, all by our Association's legal staff.

The MPI also presents seminars covering a variety of managerial, legal and technical issues that face the police service today. These seminars are well attended by police chiefs and their command officers.

G. The Passage and the Retention of the "Quinn Bill"

The MCOPA has been in the forefront of supporting this legislation, named for Robert H. Quinn, former state Attorney General, who was its original sponsor. The passage of this legislation has successfully encouraged, and provided a monetary incentive, for Massachusetts police officers to obtain a college degree.

It has benefited police officers of every rank in municipal police departments throughout the state and has provided an important step towards our long sought goal of a professional police service.

H. The Regional Police Chiefs Associations

A new development, in recent years, in the history of the MCOPA was the growth of Regional Associations of Chiefs of Police. These regional associations, divided by geographical areas, were created in response to the needs of chiefs in the smaller communities. To attend their regional meetings they did not have to travel as far, they could quickly return home in an

emergency, and they were among chiefs who had mutual problems and they felt free to discuss them.

Concerned that this trend to regionalization could splinter the parent organization, the MCOPA revised its by-laws to expand their Executive Board by 12 additional members representing each county in the state. Later a retired chief was added to represent the Life Members – the retired chiefs. This has ensured that the regional associations operate under the umbrella of their state-wide organization, the MCOPA. This is imperative, so that when the Police Chiefs of Massachusetts speak on law enforcement issues they speak in one strong voice, through the MCOPA, so they can be clearly heard from Cape Cod to the Berkshire Hills, and especially in the halls of the state legislature.

I. The Accreditation Program

In 1996, the Governor issued an Executive Order authorizing the state Public Safety Secretary to establish the Municipal Police Accreditation Commission. This Commission is responsible for setting the standards and for establishing the on-site assessment process by which those police departments who meet these standards can be awarded accreditation.

The MCOPA is presently supporting this program which will enable local police departments to voluntarily demonstrate that they can meet or exceed a set of professional police standards in the administration and operation of their respective police departments.

This state-wide program is the result of the consolidated efforts of many people. The Accreditation Committee of the MCOPA has been in the forefront of this effort to professionalize the police service here in Massachusetts. The first chairman of this committee was Chief Kenneth G. Hutchins of Northborough. He was followed by Chief Stephen H. Unsworth of Waltham and the present chairman is Chief Paul H. Frazier of Braintree.

If a police department meets its requirements, accreditation is awarded for a period of three years, after which application may be made for reaccreditation.

Federal funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial were obtained to assist in establishing the Accreditation Program here in Massachusetts on a state-wide basis.

It should be noted that four Massachusetts Chiefs have served as President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP):

Benjamin P. Eldridge, Boston 1895-1897

Cyrille Leblanc, Gardner 1952-1953

Philip Purcell, Newton 1965-1966

William F. Quinn, Newton 1980-1981

Joseph C. Carter, former Superintendent of Police in Boston and presently Chief of Police in Oak Bluffs is expected to be sworn in as Sixth Vice President of the IACP later this year and he will eventually become its President.

The world has changed many times since that day – now so long ago – when a small group of police chiefs joined together to create the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association – the oldest professional association of police executives in the United States. It is still in existence today only because of the dedicated efforts of many police chiefs down through the years.

The MCOPA must now be ready to move forward to meet the challenges that will lie ahead in this new century. There will be new issues to confront, new demands to be met, new problems to resolve, new methods to consider and new technology to accept.

The MCOPA must continue to be in the future – as it has been in the past – a valuable resource for the Police Chiefs of Massachusetts – dedicated to the cause of a truly professional police service.

PRESIDENTS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

1926	Charles R. McCauley, Woburn	1968	Thomas J. O'Brien, Somerville
1930	Samuel McLeod, New Bedford	1969	Joseph J. Derro, Winchester
1933	Ernest H. Bishop, Quincy	1970	Paul L. Doherty, Boston
1934	Edward J. Tighe, Revere	1971	Thomas F. Ganley, Lynnfield
1936	Charles M. Finn, Chelsea	1972	Joseph J. Zoito, Jr., Williamstown
1937	Archie F. Bullock, Arlington	1973	Joseph B. O'Kane, Weymouth
1939	Thomas J. Godley, Fitchburg	1974	C. William Haggblom, Walpole
1940	Hector J. Pelletier, Cohasset	1975	Henry J. McNamara, Jr., Grafton
1942	William G. Heyd, Belmont	1976	Henry F. Maiolini, Bourne
1943	James W. Tonra, Brookline	1977	Robert F. Jones, Newburyport
1944	John T. McDewell, Danvers	1978	Joseph R. Connell, Westford
1945	John C. Harkins, Salem	1979	Gerald O'Connor, Westfield
1946	Cyrille LeBlanc, Gardner	1980	William J. Carlin, Swampscott
1947	John T. Stuart, Saugus	1981	William E. Warner, Middleboro
1948	Michael E. Kelly, Clinton	1982	John D. Coyle, Jr., N. Attleboro
1949	George H. Smith, Leominster	1983	Robert F. Conley, Sutton
1950	John R. King, Cambridge	1984	John Arena, Natick
1951	John F. Flaherty, North Adams	1985	John P. McHugh, Winchester
1952	Robert E. Hildreth, Winchendon	1986	Robert F. Johnson, Auburn
1953	John J. Kirby, Chelsea	1987	Christ J. Bouras, Danvers
1954	Samuel H. Bradish, Marblehead	1988	Edward W. Marchand, Reading
1955	George A. Royal, Williamstown	1989	Ralph T. Lepore, Swansea
1956	Colin A.W. Gillis, Revere	1990	Raymond P. McKeon, Chelmsford
1957	Thomas H. Calnan, Pittsfield	1991	David L. Young, Stoughton
1958	Daniel A. Short, Hull	1992	Robert E. Carroll, Somerville
1959	Patrick H. Ryder, Lancaster	1993	Thomas J. O'Loughlin, Wellesley
1960	Joseph V. McDonough, Salem	1994	George J. DiBlasi, Norwood
1961	W. Joseph Shea, Natick	1995	Robert G. Redfern, Easthampton
1962	Kenneth F. Burns, Shrewsbury	1996	Richard M. Stanley, North Andover
1963	Thomas J. Maguire, Woburn	1997	Peter L. Carnes, Yarmouth
1964	William F. Kane, Scituate	1998	Dennis J. Teehan, Dedham
1965	Jacob H. Perkio, Rockport	1999	Peter F. Roddy, Leominster
1966	J. Merritt Wenzel, Wakefield	2000	Richard A. Marchese, Longmeadow
1967	Malcolm Donald, Westfield	2001	John A. Ford, Jr., Bourne