



PAL News
Spring 2011

PAL News is a periodic newsletter of the Abington Police Athletic League to keep supporters informed of PAL program developments and activities.

Abington PAL Meets Philly PAL on the Lanes



The PAL bowling league has become a well-established Friday night activity during the school year. It welcomes kids of every skill level, including beginners, to join the fun and become better bowlers in the process. One of the spring season's highlights was the second annual bowling event with Philadelphia's PAL kids and cops which took place in May at Thunderbird Lanes in Willow Grove.

The Abington Police Officers' team comprised Animal Control Officer Ron

Griffith and his son Teron, Lt. Steve Hochwind, Detective John Lyon and Sgt. Pat Molloy. Lt. Hochwind notes, "This was a great opportunity for interaction between Abington and Philadelphia PAL as kids and officers took turns throwing several frames together before Abington and Philly officers went mano a mano on the lanes. It was nice to see the kids bowling together and watch their highly animated expressions when they saw the results of each roll of the ball."

Teron and Det. Lyon said they do not bowl often, yet they were throwing games in the 150-180 range. "We thought we stood a chance with Teron and John as these two clearly have some talent," said Griffith "...that was until we saw the Philly cops warm up. Then we knew we were in trouble."

Soon, the Philly cops were bowling 200+ games. "We have a friendly rivalry with the Philly PAL cops," emphasizes Det. Lyon. "Everyone supports one another,



er, especially for strikes. It didn't matter which team was doing well; we all cheered for each other. The evening had a great party atmosphere with lots of food. Thunderbird Lanes takes good care of us."

Sgt. Pat Molloy points out, "The purpose of the even-



ing is for Philly and Abington PAL kids to mingle. Everyone got along well, and now we are looking forward to an officers' rematch next year." Ofc. Griffith is making some noise about learning some tricks from his son, so the competitive spirit is alive and well.



Abington Police Officers Compete in CopStache



Ofc. Shawn Nisbet gets a clean shave from Floyd's Barber Shop barber Dan Yerkes to begin CopStache. Looking on are CopStache idea man Sgt. Jerry Fayette (left), Ofc. Joe Blei, and Floyd's partner/owners Paul Friedman and Debbie Jackson.

The community saw a spirited side of their Abington Police Officers in February and March during the

fellow civilian Township employees. As a result of their efforts and fantastic community support, CopStache raised more than \$10,000 each for both the Abington Township Police Association Scholarship Funds and Abington PAL.

All began with a clean shave, compliments of Floyd's Barber Shop in Willow Grove. During the contest, Abington Police Officers were allowed to step a bit outside of their grooming guidelines as they raised personal sponsorships from local businesses, family, and friends. Each week, a handful

of officers had progress photos published in the local media.



Chief Kelly (center) with his mustached officers and contest judges.

Abington Police Department's first ever CopStache contest. For 6+ weeks, more than 30 officers competed to grow the bushiest, most creative mustaches and were joined by some of their

of officers had progress photos published in the local media. The community was invited to a culminating judging and shave-off beef and beverage event on Friday, March 18, at the North Penn VFW Post 676.

To heighten the fun, Chief Bill Kelly agreed to let Floyd's shave off his mustache of 38 years "if CopStache raises \$10,000 or more." This was the mustache that the Chief had decided to grow when he was in the police academy as he and other officers felt they looked a bit young for their new assignments in a tough area of Cleveland. Plus, it was the early 70s when most men and boys were growing long hair and facial hair. "A mustache was how an officer could demand a little more respect," the Chief explains.

The community was invited to sponsor an officer for as little as \$5 and got on board with CopStache in a big way. Sgt. Kevin Magee said that every time

he stopped at Wawa, the employees leaned across the counter to check out his growth. DARE Ofc. Jim Dwyer invited his students at three schools to vote on whether or not he should keep his mustache. The result was a 50-50 split. Ofc. LaRosa explained that when he encountered probing looks on the street and was in casual conversations with citizens, he would tell them about

CopStache. However, in a traffic stop or other police situation, he said nothing but felt the stares. He said, "Then my partner would show up looking equally awful, and we would watch people do a double take."

Sgt. Shawn Williams' daugh-

Mustache Growing Efforts Raise \$10,000+ for Abington PAL



CopStache winners were (left) Ofc. Dave Wiley, Most Follically Challenged; Ofc. Shawn Nisbet, Most Stylish; Ofc. Matt Ruddell, Meanest; Community Policing Coordinator Jack Murphy, the Keeper (and he didn't); and Ofc. Rob Davis, Best Overall Mustache. Looking on are regional representatives from the Ms Pennsylvania Beauty Pageant.

ter was not so sure about her dad's appearance at a father-daughter school dance and ini-



Chief Bill Kelly sacrifices his mustache of 38 years,

tially prevailed upon him to shave, but dad wouldn't budge. In fact, he was not shy at the dance about asking other dads for support.

CopStache was the brainchild of Sgt. Jerry Fayette who got the idea from a TV show in which a school principal was shaved for losing a bet with students. Sgt. Fayette explains, "I thought about how our police association could implement this idea and help raise support for Abington PAL."

With Chief Kelly's blessing and PAL's Director of Donor Development Peggy Myers's coordination, everyone jumped on board and in no time, cops were getting excited. Sgt. Fayette notes. "The contest generated a great deal of camaraderie and banter throughout the department. It proved to be a great wintertime morale booster"



Ofc. Roger Gillispie



Ofc. Al Freed



Ofc. Bob Mann

Montco Black Law Enforcement Officers Honor Two Abington PAL Kids



Chaneil receives her award belatedly.

At the 21st annual celebration dinner of the Montgomery County Black Law Enforcement Officers Association (MCBLEOA), two active

Abington PAL members were honored for their high level of participation and commitment. Both Chaneil Monet Croxton and Kristian Lowery-Jesse are growing up in Abington, in close-knit families and are regular

members of Abington PAL since they became eligible. They demonstrate positive attitudes and are well-rounded young people who pursue varied interests.

A sophomore at Abington Senior High School, Chaneil maintains a solid grade average.

She is a member of the school's Leo Club which performs community service and is also on the track team. She enjoys cooking, especially a variety of breakfast foods.

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Save the Date

2011 International PAL Food Festival

Tuesday, October 11, Philmont Country Club

Honoring

**Bob White & Abington Bank
Officers Sean Gargan and Andy Gibbs**

Police Athletic League

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*Preventing crime and violence by providing
safe, supervised places for the youth of
Abington Township.*



MCBLEOA Recognizes Two Abington PAL Klds

(Continued from page 3)

At PAL, Chaneil participates in the bowling program where she received an award for most improved bowler. She likes to see her friends at PAL and take the special trips that PAL offers. Chaneil is already thinking about attending culinary school as well as college and wants to major in business management to run her own daycare center.

Kristian attended Abington Schools, beginning in kindergarten, but is completing 9th grade in Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy. Kristian has long enjoyed playing baseball, basketball, and football for community sports leaders Sam Rines and Sunny Hill.

He has received numerous awards for his participation in North Hills Baseball and Basketball tournaments.

At PAL, Kristian likes the off-site trips, playing basketball and video games, and working with Mr. Bob and Mr. Jerry. For the past three years, he has practiced the art of praise dancing that seeks to articulate the word and spirit of God through the body. Currently, he uses this talent for the opening act of his mother's live performances.

Kristian likes to read mysteries and write poetry. He would



Celebrating at the banquet are (left) Commander of Community Policing Sgt. Dan Buckley, Kristian's grandmother Shirley Dennis and mother Shirley Lowery, PAL honorees Kristian Lowery-Jesse, Community Policing Project Specialist Melissa Gargan, Retired Abington Police Det./Sgt. Will Holt, and PAL Site Manager Jerry Bradley.

love to become an NBA or NFL player, but his back-up plan is to attend college and become a lawyer or doctor.

Abington PAL joins the MCBLEO Association in congratulating these two outstanding young people who have grown tremendously during their years at PAL.