

## 2023 National Conference Seminar Instructor Bios

**Rebecca Allanson** – Wellness Director/Licensed Clinician, The Badge Group

Rebecca is a retired police detective with over 18 years in law enforcement and is a licensed clinician specializing in trauma and substance and compulsion related issues exclusively for First Responders. Rebecca practices at the Colorado FOP headquarters in Westminster, Colorado for her business, The Badge Group.

Rebecca is currently completing her Doctorate in Psychology. She holds a master's in clinical counseling, and a bachelor's in criminal justice/Psychology. Rebecca has been trained as a Neurotherapist and holds a BCIA (biofeedback/neurofeedback certification), predominantly training in Neurofield Neuromodulation/Neurostimulation and PBM technology.

Rebecca conducts psychotherapy (individual and group) for the Colorado Fraternal Order of Police and consults nationally with organizations and agencies regarding treatment program recommendations for law enforcement officers across the country. Rebecca is a nationally recognized trainer in substance abuse and addiction and concurrent trauma, and Neurotherapy treatment.

**Anthony Bandiero** – JD, ALM, CPM

Anthony is a police officer turned attorney. After earning his law degree, Anthony has dedicated his life to passing along his knowledge and experience. Search and seizure law is his passion.

**G.A. Bartick** - President

G.A. Bartick is a critically acclaimed Trainer, Keynote Speaker, Coach with 20+ years' experience training and coaching some of the largest companies in the world: Google, Hotels.com, Caterpillar, Sharp Hospital, San Diego Police Department.

**Darrell Basco** – State President (LA)

Darrell has been the State President for Louisiana for the past 14 years. He serves on the LA Law Enforcement Commission, along with several other task forces. Darrell is currently the Chief of Police for Pineville, Louisiana.

**Dianne Bernhard** – Executive Director, C.O.P.S.

Deputy Chief Dianne Bernhard of the Columbia, MO Police Department, retired in 2014 with 22 years of service to become the Executive Director of C.O.P.S. Dianne came to know of C.O.P.S. through the LODD of a co-worker, Officer Molly Bowden in 2005. She now is spending her second career working as the leader of C.O.P.S. where she can assure that surviving family members and co-workers of our fallen heroes have the support they need.

**Craig Chaikin** – Senior Vice President, Callan

Craig Chaikin, CFA, joined Callan in 2022 as a senior vice president, providing client education, strategic planning, portfolio reviews, and policy development to institutional clients. For 14 years, he was a vice president with Segal Marco Advisors working with a range of institutional clients on their benefit plans. He also worked for Fifth Third Asset Management and American Express. Craig has an MBA from Xavier University and BS from Miami University (Ohio).

**John Cohen** – Executive Director, Center for Internet Security, Program for Countering Hybrid Threats

John currently serves as Executive Director, Center for Internet Security, Program for Countering Hybrid Threats. He previously served as Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism and Law Enforcement Policy, Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Senior Official/Under Secretary of Intelligence at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Senior Expert on Global Threats at Argonne National Laboratory, on-air expert for ABC News on homeland security, terrorism, counter-intelligence, and law enforcement issues, and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University.

**Adam Crawford** – State Vice President (WV)

Adam has been an active police officer for 15 years and an FOP member throughout his career. He is currently the State Vice President for West Virginia and Chairman of the National Succession Planning and Mentoring Committee.

**Michael Essig** – State President (NY)

Michael Essig has spent his entire adult life in service to his community, his country, and the law enforcement profession. A thirty-three-year law enforcement career saw him rise through the ranks, in several agencies, from officer to Commissioner. Along the way, he brought his deeply ingrained leadership style of transparency, integrity and inclusiveness to roles as varied as union delegate, instructor for development training and Deputy District Director of Homeland Security for his Congressional District.

Not only did he protect and serve the public, Michael has also dedicated himself to protecting and serving the members of the law enforcement profession. He is past president of the NYS FOP Foundation where he became well versed in nonprofit law and accounting. Michael is often called upon to teach others how to run a successful charity and raise funds. That experience has been invaluable to him in his role as chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the National Fraternal Order of Police Foundation. He currently serves as the President of the NYS Fraternal Order of Police and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of this eighteen-thousand-member organization. And in January 2022 was humbled to be elected to Chair the FOP Labor Coalition by his peers from around the nation. Additionally, he is proud of his elected official experience as a Former Town Councilman.

Michael strongly believes in giving back and is committed to several nonprofits. As a board member, he is especially active in Easter Seals, a nationwide organization dedicated to helping the disabled and the Three Strohm Sisters Foundation, an internationally recognized charity dedicated to cancer research. Also starting up outreach programs

with law enforcement giving back to communities during the holiday seasons from turkey drives during Thanksgiving or toy drives during the holiday season for children w/ special needs and their families.

Michael's proudest accomplishments are personal ones, being happily married for twenty-seven years to his wife Victoria and they have two children together.

**Robert Gaddy** – National FOP Diversity Committee Chairman

With over 25 years of law enforcement experience, Robert is a career veteran and a Captain of the North Carolina University PD. With expert skills in Tactical Law Enforcement, Drug Interdiction, and Narcotics and Criminal Investigations, Robert continues to be highly competitive, passionate, persuasive, and articulate. He can achieve results others believed to be impossible.

**Travis George** – Operations Manager; Lt. Retired (Kansas City)

Travis is a retired police officer, having served in the Kansas City Metropolitan area for 27 years. He currently serves as an Operations Manager and Financial Wellness educator for a large independent investment advisory firm headquartered in Overland Park, KS. It is a specialty practice that is positioned to serve the law enforcement community while working to dissect, and then educate, on all the nuances and unique aspects of retirement planning for law enforcement.

**Teresa Gilbert** – Senior Director, Dementia Care Field Services

Teresa Gilbert is an associate with Brookdale for over 17 years. Her experience began in geriatric/psychiatric treatment and has a long history of work, leadership, and compassion with Alzheimer's care in various settings. Teresa has an extensive background in creating and providing therapeutic programming, behavioral interventions, and dementia training. Currently she leads a team of Dementia Care Managers who are responsible for the oversight and quality assurance in the delivery of dementia care and programs.

**Matt Hagen** – National FOP Memorial Committee Co-Chair

Matt has been a member of the FOP since 1999 and has held several positions on his local lodge and state lodge boards. He is currently the past Minnesota State President and is the Co-Chair of the National Memorial Committee. He first attended Police Week in 2004 and has been volunteering at the Steve Young Honor Guard Competition and National Peace Officers Memorial Service since 2006.

**Katherine Keneally** – Senior Research Manager

Katherine supports projects tracking the intersection of disinformation, hate, extremism, and political violence in the U.S. Prior to joining ISD, she led research for the federal government related to human trafficking and hostage taking. She was also an Intelligence Research Specialist at the NYPD Intelligence Bureau's Racially/Ethnically Motivated Extremism Unit. She now resides in Montana.

### **Robert Krone** – National FOP Staff Accountant

Bob spent 40 years in public accounting as a CPA, the last 30 of which had an emphasis in not-for-profit auditing and tax work. Upon retiring from public practice in 2017, he was hired by the National FOP to assist small local lodges in complying with all Federal tax filing requirements. He is also an annual instructor at the National FOP Leadership Matters.

### **Brad Landes** – National FOP Recruitment Chairman

Brad Landes, a 31-year retired officer from Idaho. He has been an FOP member since 1992, at the beginning stages of the FOP in Idaho. Brad served 16 years as his local lodge president, five years as the Idaho State Lodge Secretary, 18 years as Idaho's National Trustee, and has served on different National Committees. He is currently serving as the National Recruitment Chairman. Brad has seen and been a part of the growth with the FOP in Idaho, which today represents over two thirds of its law enforcement officers.

### **Jason Lehman** – Founder, Why'd You Stop Me (WYSM)/Retired Police Sergeant

In January 2022, Jason Lehman retired from the Long Beach (CA) Police Department after serving for 16 years. Early in his career, Jason was involved in numerous critical incidents including acts of deadly force which led to PTSD and ultimately led Jason through numerous suicidal ideations. Jason was introduced to therapy and has since learned a string system of resiliency. In 2014, Jason founded the National FOP endorsed training organization entitled "Why'd You Stop Me" (WYSM). WYSM's mission is to provide empowerment training to both police officers and the public to improve legitimacy and reduce acts of violence during encounters by taking attitudes "From Duty to Desire". By utilizing both face-to-face interactions and digital engagement, Jason has spent thousands of hours on a quest to develop a system to teach others how to seek to better understand one another. Jason left his traditional law enforcement role to focus on his work as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) on Community Policing. Jason has spoken to more than 40,000 leaders in the public and private sectors.

Jason's most recent honor has been closing the 2022 FBINAA National Academy Conference as the keynote speaker engaging more than 3,000 law enforcement leaders with a talk entitled "Be the Change. Take the Reigns". Jason has been recognized as an SME on Communication and Community Policing by major organizations such as Lexipol, Fox News, the National FOP, the New York Post, and the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to name a few.

### **Sherri Martin** – National FOP Director of Wellness Services

Sherri Martin serves as NFOP Director of Wellness Services. A career police officer, Sherri achieved the rank of Lieutenant at the Charleston (SC) Police Department. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of North Carolina, a Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling Psychology from the Citadel, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Sherri is

experienced in clinical therapy and is a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate in the State of Connecticut.

**Andy Maybo** – National FOP Memorial Committee Co-Chair

Andy Maybo has been a police officer with the US Capitol Police for over 24 years, where he is currently assigned to K9. Andy Started with the National FOP Memorial Committee in 2005 and has been the Chair since 2008. He has dedicated countless hours to ensuring the surviving families of the Nation's fallen officers are properly honored and was recently appointed to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Names Committee, which approves all names to be inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

**Gena Maytubby** – NFOP Marketing Director

With 25 years' experience as a benefits negotiator, gena works closely with the Program Development Committee and FOP leadership to bring quality perks, programs, and services to members and their families. As Marketing Director, Gena helps get the word out to members about the valuable benefits they have available.

**Mark McDonald** – National FOP Legislative Liaison

Mark McDonald serves as the Legislative Liaison with the National Legislative Office. Prior to joining the FOP, Mark served as Regional Director on a Pennsylvania gubernatorial campaign, where he played a major role developing and executing the campaign's strategy. After graduating from Goucher College, where he studied Political Science and played lacrosse, Mark got his start in politics working on Capitol Hill for Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA). Mark and his wife reside in Washington, D.C.

**Charles Myles** – Pastor/Facilitator, Harvest Ministries Church

Pasadena (CA) based Senior Pastor of Harvest Ministries Church (and retired Lockheed Martin executive) Charles Myles was raised by two parents from the deep south who wanted the best for him and were determined to keep him safe. Charles was raised by his parents to fear the police. He had interactions with law enforcement throughout his young years that took him from fearing the police to partnering with the police after he experienced positive trust-building efforts. As a pastor of a predominantly black church in Pasadena, CA and while working with the nonprofit organization "Why'd You Stop Me?" representing faith/police partnerships, Charles is an advocate for peace who has trained more than 10,000 community members and police officers with a basis of ethics as his guiding principles.

**Mike Powell** – Assistant Director, IL FOP Labor Council

Mike is the Past President of IL Troopers Lodge 41. He retired from the IL State Police after 25 years and is currently serving as the Assistant Director of the IL FOP Labor Council.

**Rob Pride** – National FOP Chairman of Trustees

Rob has been a member of the FOP since 1994 and has been in law enforcement for 30 years. He served as his local lodge President for six years and has been on the Colorado State FOP Board since 2008. He currently serves as the NFOP Chairman of the National Trustees after being elected at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference in 2017.

**Timothy M. Richardson** – National FOP Senior Legislative Liaison

Tim is the Senior Legislative Liaison with the National FOP. He is a native of Burlington, NJ, and a graduate of Elizabethtown College in Lancaster, PA. He has been with the FOP since June 1996 and lives in Stafford, VA with his wife and two children.

**Sassetti, LLC** – Izabela Poludniak & Jim Robbs (Partner/Partner)

Sassetti LLC has been working with the NFOP for 20+ years, and provides audit, tax, and advisory services to the NFOP, the NFOP Foundation, and the NFOP Legal Plan, as well as various state and local lodges across the United States.

**Steve Schulz** – State President (CO)

Steve Schulz has been the State President of Colorado for the past nine years and was the Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for two years each prior. He has been the local lodge President in Longmont, Colorado since 2006. He is on the National Succession and Planning Committee, Labor Committee, and Anti-Narcotics Committee.

**Jack Simington** – National FOP Program Development Committee Chairman

Jack is a 26-year FOP member and the first Washington State President. He served four terms as State President before stepping down to serve as National Trustee for WA State. He is the current chairman of the Program Development Committee.

**Jason Smith** – National FOP DART Committee Chairman

Jason has served over 25 years as a peace officer. Jason has served on his local and State Executive Board in multiple positions, including State President. Jason has served on the State of Oklahoma DART team since 2008 and has served on the National DART team as the chairman since its conception in 2019.

**Rick Snyder** – National FOP Chaplain

Rick Snyder serves as Chaplain for the National Fraternal Order of Police. He was appointed by President Patrick Yoes and has served since August 2021, providing spiritual support for over 355,000 members across America. Rick is a certified Law Enforcement Chaplain with a focus in Sharing Hope in Crisis (SHIC) and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). He has provided services for the FOP National Law Enforcement Memorial, assisted with Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS), and has presented at the Cove Training Center for the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team.

Rick also serves as the President of FOP Indianapolis Lodge #86. In his elected capacity he represents over 3,000 active/retired officers and their families from 10 different law enforcement agencies in Central Indiana. Rick has 25 years of law enforcement

experience and has served and supervised in Patrol Operations, Criminal Investigations, Administration and Training. Rick received his MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University where he received top honors as the Outstanding Professional Award recipient. His graduate work also includes a Certificate in Public Management from Indiana University.

Most importantly: Rick is a follower of Jesus Christ, and he is a husband, father, and grandfather.

### **Shannon Wess** – Autism Specialist

Shannon Wess is an energetic and passionate presenter with a long history of providing direct support to individuals and families affected by autism, as well as the development and leadership of multidisciplinary support and educational teams. Wess is known for bringing her compassion, positive energy, and passion to coaching relationships to build the capacity for individual and program-wide efficacy. Wess developed First Response in 2018 and has since trained hundreds of first responders across Illinois. She also previously presented at the 65<sup>th</sup> National FOP conference in Indianapolis, IN.

### **Michael Yon** – Senior Vice President Nashville Office, Hylant Group

Michael has worked closely with the FOP Legal Plan for over 20 years. He leads the team at Hylant who the enrollment and marketing administrators are. His knowledge of the plan and experience brings some great insight and information as it pertains to the legal plan and its benefits.