



# Superior Officers Keep Faith in OSA, Reject LEEBA Takeover Bid

By James Harney • June 17, 2016

## **It was OSA, in a landslide.**

In a 50-to-1 vote, uniformed members of the Organization of Staff Analysts (OSA) have overwhelmingly chosen to stay with the union, rather than jump to an aggressive rival.

The Law Enforcement Employees Benevolent Association [LEEBA] had challenged OSA for the right to represent 61 superior officers working in the Police Department's Traffic Enforcement and School Security divisions. OSA has represented those officers since 2001.

## **Organized Themselves First**

OSA Chairman Robert J. Croghan credited the leadership of the union's uniformed chapter for the victory, saying, "Our chapter of uniformed officers is unique in that they organized themselves first—and only then came to OSA. We were delighted with their action on their own behalf and felt they were most appropriate in joining a larger union that had also organized itself."

In a letter sent to each active member of the unit, now-retired Administrative Traffic Enforcement Agent Barry Mandel, one of the unit's founders, strongly made the case for OSA.

"Decertifying OSA as our union would be an insult to our brothers and sisters who welcomed us and made us a part of their family," Mr. Mandel stressed in his letter. "It would also be unwise and no benefit to our members."

Noting that the current leaders of the OSA uniformed unit, Naomi Aice and Sheila Skinner of School Security and Cheryl Hodge and Peter Murillo of Traffic Enforcement, did research and held meetings with most of the eligible voters, Mr. Croghan said "It was their efforts that led to the OSA victory."

## **'Reinforced Commitment'**

Ms. Skinner, an Administrative School Security Manager, said one positive outcome of the election was that "the need to explain the benefits of OSA membership to the members of the unit reinforced their commitment to each other and to the union."

Mr. Croghan also praised Gregory Floyd, President of Teamsters Local 237, for being "kind enough to share the research and campaign materials Teamsters Local 237 compiled when they fought off an earlier raid by LEEBA."

"I am delighted," Mr. Croghan concluded, "to have the right to continue to serve this team of self-reliant and effective union members



Leaders of OSA's Traffic Enforcement and School Security unit celebrate OSA's win over the Law Enforcement Employees Benevolent Association in a contested representation election. Left to right: OSA General Counsel Len Shrier, Administrative Traffic Enforcement Agent Cheryl Hodge, Administrative School Security Manager Sheila Skinner, Administrative School Security Manager Naomi Aice, OSA Chair Robert J. Croghan, OSA Asst General Counsel Gabrielle Martinez and OSA Associate General Counsel Adam Orgel.