



The Standard Newsletter

Winter 2024

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group



A message from our President

Torin Misko, Hartland Police Department

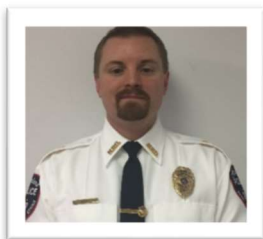
Greetings,

I just recently was chosen to fill the President position on the WILEAG Executive Board upon the retirement of our past President, Chief Mark Ferguson of the Glendale Police Department. Chief Ferguson did an excellent job leading the WILEAG Executive Board and I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement. I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to the WILEAG agencies. I have been the Chief of Police at the Hartland Police Department since 2018. I earned my master's degree in organizational leadership and my bachelor's degree in criminal justice through Marian University. In addition, I am a graduate of the FBI National Academy Session #256 and the Homeland Security Leadership Academy Session #2. I have also received an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership through the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. I am a member of the training committee for the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association and serve on the Board of Governors for the Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SRLEEA).

The WILEAG Board continues to meet regularly throughout the year to strengthen our organization and promote best practices for Wisconsin law enforcement. The WILEAG 6th edition accreditation standards and the WILEAG 3rd edition CORE verification standards are in place and comply with current legislation.

WILEAG remains committed to providing a meaningful and affordable accreditation process to the law enforcement agencies of Wisconsin. We look forward to addressing the professional needs of police and sheriff's departments for many years to come.

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Torin Misko".



12/2024

2025 Spring Training

Assessor training: APRIL 7TH, 2025

This FREE training will prepare the attendees to perform an agency onsite evaluation paired with a team leader and another assessor. Topics include an introduction to accreditation, definitions, how to complete documents (ACRs/CVRs), expectations as an assessor, and sample scenarios.

Accreditation/CORE Manager Training: APRIL 25TH, 2025

This FREE training will prepare the attendees to be the accreditation manager for their agency (whether pursuing full accreditation or core verification). Topics include an introduction to accreditation, how to complete the appropriate documentation, file construction, expectations during an accreditation on-site or core review, and then an opportunity to examine sample files.

Available in person at:

CVMIC

Wauwatosa, WI

Questions? Contact WILEAG Executive Director Katie Wrightsman at

executive.director@wileag.info

Training is provided by WILEAG; and hosted by Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company (CVMIC); a WILEAG gold sponsor.



12/2024

Featured Board Member



DEPUTY CHIEF BOB FLETCHER

WEST ALLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bob is a new WILEAG Board member elected to an at-large position in 2024. He has been a sworn member of the West Allis Police Department for over 21 years. Currently, he is a Deputy Chief in charge of the Department's Operations division.

Bob became involved in accreditation in 2009, when as a police officer he was temporarily assigned to WAPD administration to draft/edit policy and collect proofs for the WAPD's first WILEAG accreditation in 2010. He then served as the Department's Accreditation Compliance Officer and Accreditation Manager. He has been involved with the WAPD's re-accreditation in 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022. During his tenure at the WAPD, Bob has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, crisis negotiator, evidence technician, Accreditation Compliance Sergeant, Captain, and Deputy Chief.

In addition to assisting the WAPD achieve accredited status, Bob has been involved with WILEAG since 2010. He has served as an assessor, and team leader and helped review submissions for Use of Force certifications. He has had the unique opportunity to be part of all three WILEAG on-site assessments of the Milwaukee Police Department, serving as the team leader for MPD's most recent on-site.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and Juris Doctor degree from Marquette University and served as an assistant district attorney with the Waukesha County District Attorney's office for five and a half years. He is also a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Certified Public Manager program and the FBI National Academy. During his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Cyndi, and high school-aged sons, Tyler and Nolan. His favorite things to do are playing golf with his family and watching his boys' athletic competitions.

Bob's thoughts on accreditation

Accreditation is an excellent way for a law enforcement agency to ensure they are providing the most professional service to the communities they serve. The accreditation process helps the agency make sure its policies are up-to-date and in alignment with best practices in law enforcement. For our officers, it provides them with confidence in the agency's policies, procedures, and training they receive. Our agency has been accredited several times and each on-site provides us with new ideas to improve how our department functions. Along the same lines, when assessing other agencies, I've always found something that another agency does that I can bring back to improve my own department. I believe that WILEAG-accredited agencies are at the forefront of leading Wisconsin law enforcement agencies to being the most professional law enforcement agencies they can be.



12/2024

Featured Accredited Agency



Grafton Police Department
Ozaukee County
Chief Jeff Caponera

About the Village of Grafton

Situated 20 miles north of Milwaukee in the heart of Ozaukee County, Grafton, Wisconsin, has a rich history dating back to the mid-19th century when it was first settled in the 1830s by European immigrants, primarily from Germany. Officially founded as a village in 1846, Grafton was named after Grafton, Massachusetts, presumably the roots of its settlers. Grafton's strategic location along the Milwaukee River contributed to its growth, providing transportation and power for early industries.

The railroad's arrival in the 1880s boosted Grafton's economy by connecting it to larger cities, attracting more residents and businesses. Originally part of the Town of Port Washington, Grafton became an incorporated village in 1896 and continued to expand throughout the 20th century.

Paramount Records, established in 1917 in Grafton, played a significant role in the history of Grafton and American music, particularly in the blues genre. In the late 1920s, the label attracted renowned artists such as Charley Patton and Skip James, making a lasting impact on music despite its relatively short production run, which ended in the mid-1930s.

Today, Grafton boasts a population of just over 13,000. Grafton offers a vibrant community, with its heavy retail and restaurant district, a historic downtown area, and access to outdoor activities. The village preserves its history through several notable landmarks, successfully blending its rich past with modern development, making it a unique place to live and visit.

The Grafton Police Department, established in 1956, currently has 23 full-time officers and six professional staff members. In October 2024, the police department achieved the honor of becoming a fully accredited agency through the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group – this is a first for Grafton!



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Grafton Police Department's Mission Statement

It is the Mission of the Grafton Police Department to provide professional, impartial, and ethical law enforcement services through Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Empathy (CARE).

Meet Chief Caponera

Chief Caponera is an accomplished law enforcement professional with nearly 30 years of experience. He came to Grafton after a long career in Texas, where he retired as Chief of Police from the Anna Police Department. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Regis University in Denver and is working toward a Master's in Public Administration. He graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy Session 276 and the 53rd Session of the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's (ILEA) School of Executive Leadership.

Chief Caponera is deeply committed to bringing excellence in policing to the community. Upon his appointment in September 2020, he set a goal for Grafton to become an accredited agency by 2025. Chief Caponera got to work immediately by establishing a policy development committee and appointed an accreditation manager to ensure this goal was met. Grafton PD started the accreditation process in early 2023 and achieved accreditation status in October 2024. Chief Caponera said he is "proud of the hard work and commitment the men and women of our organization put into this effort. Achieving full accreditation is an arduous but rewarding task. It helps build trust through transparency and our community should be extremely proud of their police department's efforts to close the gap."

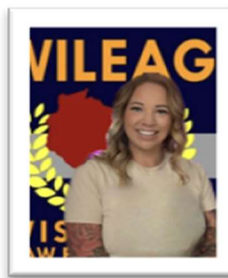
Chief Caponera currently serves as the President of the National Board for the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers-USA (FCPO) and is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates Community Engagement Committee. He previously served on the executive board for the Wisconsin Organized Retail Crime Association (WIORCA) and as a committee member on the Wisconsin DOJ's Committee on Abuse in Later Life, demonstrating his strong desire for and commitment to community involvement.

Chief Caponera is blessed with two adult sons, one serving in the USAF.





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WILEAG Executive Director

Katie Wrightsman

Hello WILEAG Members!

Please take the time to check out our website for new updates www.wileag.info

The website hosts the 6th Edition Manual, Core 3rd Edition Manual, cross-over documents, and ACRs/CVRs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns! I am help guide you through the accreditation process.

Stay safe!

Katie

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12/2024



Featured Video

On-site assessment process



<https://youtu.be/kBm343eF-gU?si=zPgiOWAB7nXBhq07>

Would you like to see another video answering specific questions?
Let us know!

www.wileag.info



12/2024

Benefits of Police Accreditation

Point of View: PowerDMS

Police accreditation has far-reaching benefits that touch every avenue of your department.

Liability avoidance is in the best interest of every law enforcement agency. By enforcing compliance to your agency's policies and procedures, you can prevent costly litigation issues.

Compliance not only protects your agency's reputation and finances; it also ensures the safety of your officers and community at large. Liability avoidance also keeps your agency in good standing with your insurer and provides protection from bankruptcy.

There's a common stereotype within law enforcement that only larger agencies face risk when it comes to liability avoidance. But truth be told, liability avoidance is no longer a "big agency problem." In fact, small agencies often suffer the most when it comes to liability because of resource and budgetary restrictions.

Many insurance companies withdraw coverage in the case of misconduct lawsuits. If a small municipality lacks insurance, even a single claim against a police department can lead to bankruptcy. According to Governing Magazine, "Cities in California, Illinois, Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee have in recent years opted to disband their police departments after losing coverage." In other scenarios, insurers have forced agencies to enact major reforms to ensure coverage. Fortunately, there are ways to protect your agency, no matter the size, from the many risks of litigation. In particular, police accreditation is an important step toward liability avoidance.

Continue reading this PowerDMS article [HERE](#)

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