



# Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance



## *Code of Ethics*

Members of the Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance come from all walks of life and many have full time careers; some are retired; many are former full-time or reserve law enforcement officers who have joined to support the VLEOA organization. Those who are still sworn, serve as volunteer law enforcement officers to help their local community. Although, not full time peace officers, members must follow and obey their department's policies and procedures as their fellow full time officers must do.

A VLEOA member's duty is to serve the community and support the law enforcement organization they are attached to. Member officers must safeguard lives and property; protect the innocent, and respect the rights of all people with regards to liberty, equality and justice; they must maintain courageous calm, develop self-restraint, and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others; they must be honest in thought and deed in both their personal and official life. VLEOA members must be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and, if sworn, the regulations, policies and procedures of their department.

VLEOA members must never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence their decisions. They must never make compromises for crime and be relentless with the prosecution of criminals. They must enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, and never employ unnecessary force or violence and must never accept gratuities.

The badge and uniform of our office is a symbol of the public faith; and as such, we must conduct ourselves so nothing detracts from the respect and confidence, nor do anything that may become detrimental to the public interest. We must refrain from any conduct in an official capacity that detracts from the public's trust. Officers must act honestly and carry out their duties with integrity, fairness and impartiality.

This policy also applies to off duty conduct. We must understand the laws defining the scope of our enforcement powers and not knowingly exceed that authority in the enforcement of the law. We must not knowingly disobey the law or rules of criminal procedure in such areas as interrogation, arrest, detention, searches, seizures, use of informants and the preservation of evidence. We shall not knowingly restrict the freedom of individuals, whether by arrest or detention. We shall treat all members of the public courteously and with respect and exercise reasonable courtesy in our dealings with the public, fellow officers, superiors and subordinates.

VLEOA members shall not knowingly commit any criminal offense. Member shall not use their official position, identification cards or badges: (1) for personal or financial gain, for themselves or another person; (2) for obtaining privileges not otherwise available to them except in the performance of duty; and (3) for avoiding consequences of unlawful or prohibited actions.

Always remember the uniform does not define the person wearing it; the person wearing it defines the uniform. Wear it with great pride. Represent your department and the VLEOA with honor.