

<p>1. What is COPS and why was it founded?</p>	<p>Concerns of Police Survivors is a 501 (c)(3) – 4 STAR charity organization. National C.O.P.S. was Organized in 1984, and the Kansas Chapter was organized in 2001.</p> <p>Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria. C.O.P.S. also has a mandate to support current law enforcement officers.</p>
<p>2. Describe Kansas COPS and the men and women that lead the organization. What are your specific goals for KS?</p>	<p>Kansas C.O.P.S. is an organization lead by a cohesive group of line of duty death survivors, from a myriad of backgrounds. Our board is composed of current law enforcement, and private citizens all associated with 24,374 line of duty deaths national wide and more specifically the 274 Kansas line of duty deaths.</p> <p>The purpose of the Kansas Chapter of C.O.P.S. is to provide peer support to the surviving family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty by offering emotional support, aiding survivors in understanding the judicial process and providing information about available services within the local community, the state and the nation. Our aim is to offer longer-term support and friendship, after the initial wave of community and department support, media attention, and public sympathy has diminished for the survivor. As survivors ourselves, we recognize the needs and traumas each new survivor will face as the years pass. Training of state law enforcement agencies in the appropriate handling of line-of-duty death procedures is also a priority for our group.</p>
<p>3. Why does a man or woman become a law enforcement officer? Has that changed over time? Do you think that current events are damaging our police departments, the officers, and their families?</p>	<p>In my opinion an individual becomes a law enforcement officer due to their desire to service and protect citizens within their jurisdiction, city, state and federal.</p> <p>I don't believe that the individual's desire has changed, but the scope of services provided certainly has. In one shift, a law enforcement officer is required to be a social worker, patrol officer, faith leader, educator, community activist, and much more.</p> <p>I think current events are without a doubt changing the face and fabric of police departments nationwide. I also feel that when there is damage to police memorials such as seen in Kansas City Missouri, or calls to tear down memorials as seen in Baltimore Maryland, it re-traumatizes families who have already experienced loss.</p>

<p>4. How can lay people help law enforcement officers on a day to day basis?</p>	<p>Lay people can certainly offer their thoughts and prayers and get involved in a department by completing a citizen's academy, serving on a chaplaincy board, or simply by completing a ride along.</p>
<p>5. Are there things in your opinion that need to change in law enforcement community? Pre-screening for applicants? Training? Better leadership? More former law enforcement in public office? Less military equipment and training?</p>	<p>I think that the law enforcement community has to be open to change, cognizant of the current political climate, and concerns communicated by each and every community across our state. We also have to understand that Law enforcement is one of, if not the most, scrutinized career fields in the United States. The unfortunate reality is officers must make life-altering, and sometimes split second decisions which have eternal consequences. Officers can always utilize more training, and the creation of a national database system per the President's Executive order is a logical response to police misconduct. However, in this we must recognize the reality of police trauma and make a commitment to our officers who over a 25-30 year career, experience trauma on an almost daily basis.</p>
<p>6. Does COPS support badly wounded officer that may never work or normally function ever again? Mortgages, college tuition for children etc?</p>	<p>C.O.P.S. is an organization with a specific charter to assist those associated with a line of duty death.</p>
<p>7. When people talk of defunding the police, does that impact your morale of officers. In general, how do you handle the endless stream of bad/evil things that you see? Again, how can good people help you?</p>	<p>I think any social conversation of defunding the police, has a direct impact on the morale of officers and surviving families. It is a conversation that delegitimizes the sacrifices made by officers on a daily basis, and the ultimate sacrifice made by some. C.O.P.S. would encourage officers to go in service every day and do the best they can, and to remember why they started. I would also encourage any survivor to take part in one of our hands-on programs which seamlessly marry a bonding experience, with an opportunity to heal emotionally.</p> <p>Citizens can certainly help to change low morale by giving thanks, sending cards, offering support, and more directly by having conversations with their elected officials, and ensuring that their voices are heard. The silent majority must become the active voice in their communities. I would also call for elected officials to support their departments. Call for change when it is necessary, but support the good work that the men and women of law enforcement do on a day to day basis.</p>
<p>8. Describe what COPS did in the recent case of Overland Park police officer that was killed in the line of duty earlier this year. From first call to the last honoring act.</p>	<p>C.O.P.S. in that case provided immediate support for the family. Shortly after the tragic event, C.O.P.S. was notified and began coordinating services for the family. C.O.P.S. worked with the department and assisted in providing direction and personally met with the family to offer programming and suggestions in moving forward. C.O.P.S. also assisted and gave information for essential programs such as the PSOB Public Safety Officer Benefit program, and education</p>

	<p>benefits offered to Line Of Duty Deaths. More significantly, we offer and will continue to offer ongoing services for the department through traumas of law enforcement training, and hands-on programs for the family.</p> <p>C.O.P.S. also played an integral role in assisting the State of Kansas - The Department of Corrections, in determining the deaths of their two Lansing Correctional Supervisors as line of duty deaths per criteria Federal criteria, allowing them the benefits of all line of duty death benefits, financial, educational, therapeutic, and peer support.</p>
<p>9. What is the most exciting or fulfilling part of being a police officer? Why would you recommend that a young man or woman consider a career in law enforcement?</p>	<p>I think the most exciting and fulfilling thing about being a police officer, is being able to know that your actions have positively affected an individuals' life, and that your direct intervention may have a positive lifelong consequences. To know that you may be the spark in someone's life to become an officer, dispatcher, lawyer, doctor etc. is encouraging.</p>
<p>10. I heard recently about an issue of police officer pay parity amongst city, county, state, and federal agencies. Is this an issue? How is it resolved? (State by state?)</p>	<p>Pay is always an issue, and has to be taken into consideration in conjunction with the overall value placed on the services provided by the department. In our society, what is valued is monetarily incentivized. In 2019 average pay ranges for law enforcement according to a FORBES study ranged from the highest in California at \$105,220, to the lowest in Mississippi with a pay range of \$36,290. Elected officials who set salary ranges must recognize the sacrifice that officers make on a day to day basis, and incentivize them for their work. However elected officials must be careful not to discourage officers by doing what the Kansas City Kansas Commission recently did, when they accepted an incremental pay raise for Police Officers over the next 3 years, but on the backside cut overall manpower from 369 to 345; a staffing level not seen in years, and at a time when crime is on the rise.</p>
<p>11. Describe the feeling you get when you get an emergency call that required lights and sirens. After a few years, do you mostly know what to expect, or does it always change? Does the adrenaline – rush subside experience?</p>	<p>The adrenaline rush for me has always, and probably will always, be a reality. Incidents which require lights and sirens in general mean that something traumatic has occurred and your assistance is required immediately. As you respond, not only do you have to be unequivocally aware of your driving pattern, but also be aware of those who are driving around you. You have to process information coming out of a radio, and process information being updated on a computer or tablet screen. All while processing your immediate action when you arrive on scene.</p>
<p>12. Are most police officers strong advocates of the 2nd amendment or do some believe we can eliminate guns and end gun violence? If gun violence was</p>	<p>While I cannot speak on behalf of Kansas COPS on this topic, I personally do support second amendments rights, however, with every right comes responsibility and consequences. We as a society have to weigh the right of a citizen owning a weapon with the reality of modern society.</p>

<p>stopped in time, then what would happen?</p>	
<p>13. KCMO murder rate is up by 50% (Over 100 murders to date) despite a well-meaning, but ineffective mayor. What is the solution to stopping the murders in KCMO?</p>	<p>While I cannot speak to the violence in Kansas City Missouri, I can speak to crime rates in Kansas City Kansas. According to a Kansas City STAR article dated 07/23/2020, entitled, "Crime is not being prosecuted" Wyandotte County DA Dupree endangers public safety" current Kansas City Kansas Police Department stats indicate homicides have increased by 180%, aggravated assaults have increased by 70%, shootings into occupied vehicles have increased by 46%, burglary has increased by 26% and violent crime has increased by 12% all in the past year. Compare a current homicide count of 31 for a city with a population of approximately 153,000 according to the latest US Census Bureau stats you see a glaring issue. When you compare current stats publicized by the Centers for Disease Control it is approximately 6.0 firearm deaths per 100,000 citizens and KCK has 31 deaths to date for a population of 153,000.</p> <p>The approach has to involve law enforcement, elected officials who believe they do not have the monopoly on crime solutions and a myriad of other community services to combat rising numbers. It is imperative to have a comprehensive approach to improve community services, mental health, access to education, jobs, and a logical and data driven approach to law enforcement. By utilizing a Community policing or Problem Oriented Policing approach, to combat rising crime standards and by having elected officials who allow officers to actively and aggressively combat crime, we can reduce numbers, and bring law enforcement officers and citizens home safely at the end of every evening.</p>
<p>14. Why had I never heard of COPS before and do you want more lay people involved?</p>	<p>Kansas COPS is a grass roots organization. Generally unless you have experienced a traumatic line of duty death, or attended the National Law Enforcement Memorial or Candlelight Service in Washington DC, you may not have had the opportunity to hear of our organization. We are an effective partner in restoring the mental health of law enforcement officers and their survivors and co-workers and will admittedly support Law Enforcement in our great state.</p>
<p>15. Please let us know how we can support you and COPS? Website donations, attend events, prayers, etc</p>	<p>You can support our organization by going to www.KSCOPS.org, or by contacting any board member directly. Contact information for every board member is listed on our website under the contact us tab. If you would like to donate you can send any donation to Kansas COPS C/O Marilyn Goodheart, Treasurer, 2404 Brookside Dr. Lawrence KS 66047 or you can make a donation through our website via PayPal or you can recognize KS COPS as your sponsored organization via AMAZON and have a portion of your purchase go toward our organization. If</p>

	<p>you are a law enforcement officer, you can also elect to have a portion of your paycheck automatically deducted to our tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization.</p>
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You can also attend any of our local or national events with dates posted on our website.