

**NATIONAL BOARD OF CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS, INC.  
NOMINEE APPLICATION**

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**Name** James Giese (Jim)

**Mailing Address** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**City** [REDACTED] **State** [REDACTED] **Zip** [REDACTED]

**Street address (if different)**

**City** **State** **Zip**

**Home Phone** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Best time to call** Any

**Work Phone** **Best time to call**

**Email** [REDACTED]@[REDACTED].[REDACTED]

**Fallen Officer's Name** Richard Meyer **End of Watch** 11/13/2003

**Relationship to the deceased** co-worker

**Office for which you are seeking nomination:** Central Plains Region Trust<sup>+</sup>

**Have you served on the C.O.P.S. National Board before?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**If yes, provide dates of service and capacity:**

**As a Board Member, your name, address, and phone number will be made available to the public. Do you understand that this will give anyone easy access to you day and night?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Do you have experience offering peer-support to grieving families?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

(Any type of death – does not have to be police officer)

**If yes, please explain:**

I am currently the President of MN COPS.

Do you have any formal training in grief issues? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, please explain:  
I have been trained in Crisis Intervention, but not in formal therapy.

Are you involved with a C.O.P.S. Chapter or other victim's organization?

☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, please give name of chapter/organization, the capacity in which you have served, some of your duties/accomplishments.

Current President of MN COPS and also served as a chapter rep.

If yes, is this a non-profit organization? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you feel this could be a conflict of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever served on the governing board of a non-profit organization?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please tell us about the organization and your duties/accomplishments.

Youth soccer and youth football, both in Inver Grove Heights, MN

Do you have experience in public speaking? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

I was a public information officer at Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and I have also spoke on the radio and in public on behave of MN COPS.

Do you have certification as a "trainer" from any state law enforcement agency or commission? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

I am/was a Use of Force trainer, which includes everything from professional communications to hands on instruction.

Are you currently employed? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you: ☐ Full time ☒ Part time

**Describe your present/previous occupation:**

I am a medically retired police officer and currently work in motorcycle sales for Wild Prairie Harley, Eden Prairie, MN.

**If nominated and elected, you will be required to attend all Board Meetings, National Police Week, Board/Chapter Training, Board Team Building, Hands-On Programs for the Board Member's survivorship and other events as directed by the National President or the Executive Director. You will also be expected to attend various law enforcement conferences throughout the year.**

Will this be a problem for you? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Are you aware of any conflicts that may prevent you from attending any of these functions? (i.e. Children graduating, up-coming marriages, etc.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

**If yes, please explain:**

**As a C.O.P.S. Board Member, you will have a fiduciary responsibility to the C.O.P.S. organization. You will not only be involved in the development of C.O.P.S.' programs, but you will be expected to help seek funding for these programs. Do you fully understand and accept this responsibility?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any fundraising experience? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**If yes, explain:**

I have fundraising experience with Law Enforcement United and with my current chapter of COPS.

**As a C.O.P.S. Board Member, electronic voting on issues of importance will be required during the year. Will this be a problem for you?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Have you read, do you understand, and are you willing to sign the C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Are you aware of any possible conflicts of interest that may interfere with your duties as a member of the C.O.P.S. National Board?** (i.e. Involvement with another survivor organization that may be competing with C.O.P.S. for funding, receiving honorariums for speeches made in C.O.P.S. fields of interest, having a business or working for a company that does business with C.O.P.S., etc.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

**If yes, explain:**

**Other than the previous questions, what qualities or skills do you possess that would assist you in fulfilling your duties as a member of the C.O.P.S. National Board?**

I am passionate about our cause and not afraid to voice the opinions of our survivors. I am available day or night to assist them whether they are from my area or not.

**Why do you want to be a member of the C.O.P.S. National Board? (Goals, objectives, etc.)**

I give a lot of time to my local chapter but I feel I can give more and want to be more involved with COPS. Right now I am not sure where this will all bring me but I am enthusiastic about the future. Also looking at the current board members, there is not a co-worker. I think I could add a different perspective.

**As a C.O.P.S. Board member, you will be asked to share your personal story of loss and healing during presentations. Please share that story with us of how you became a police survivor and what coping skills you have used to help you rebuild your life.**

On 11/13/2003, I was working night shift for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, WI. We were having a busy night searching for two teenage boys who had gone missing while duck hunting on a jon boat. Their boat had capsized and we were busy searching for them all night. My friend Rick was working the North end of the county and my friend Mark was working South taking all the extra calls for service. Mark had called for assistance on a burglary in progress on the South end of the County. Rick went to assist. He took the shortest path to get there but was called off while enroute. This was around 1 AM. The night became very quiet. Around 5 AM, the sheriff's office received a 911 call from a local paper delivery driver that had come across a crashed police car. You see Rick took the shortest route which was through a construction zone. He crashed his car in the construction zone. We all raced there. When we got there he was still agonal breathing. We were with him on scene as he took his last breath...

You see back in 2003, you grieved until the funeral then either got over it or hung it up. I chose to tuck it away. It didn't hit me until later in my career, switched departments, divorced... It had a profound affect on me and my life. I found Law Enforcement United and COPS. The coworkers retreat is a god sent and the way LEU honors the fallen is unmatched.

\*Deputy Rick Meyer EOW 11/13/2003\*

**Please provide a brief biography of 50 words or less that will be used in the National Newsletter. This biography will allow survivors the opportunity to know who is being nominated for positions on the C.O.P.S. National Board.**

My name is Jim Giese. I grew up in Racine, WI and have a BS from UW Madison. I started my career with Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, WI (1999-2010). I moved to MN and started working for Minnetonka Police (2010-2023). I retired in 2023. I currently work selling motorcycles at Wild Prairie Harley, Eden Prairie, MN. I am a co-worker survivor of Deputy Richard Meyer EOW 11/13/2003.

The following attachments are to be included with the completed application.

☒ Electronically signed or notarized Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy (to be dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the application cutoff date)

☒ Resume

☒ One letter of reference from each of the following (additional letters will not be accepted):

☐ Personal

☐ Professional

☐ Survivor

\*References cannot be from family members

\*No more than 3 references will be accepted

\*References must be dated no more than 60 days prior to the application cutoff date

☐ Electronic Photo - (So that it may be used for the C.O.P.S. Newsletter and other communications.  
*Disregard if current board member*)

**Mail or email completed application, along with all attachments in ONE PDF document to:**

C.O.P.S. Nominations/Elections Committee Chairperson

Patricia Carruth, Immediate Past President

[patricia\\_carruth@nationalcops.org](mailto:patricia_carruth@nationalcops.org)

PO Box 3199 Camdenton, MO 65020

**If you need assistance putting the document in ONE PDF, contact  
Barbie Squires at [barbie\\_squires@nationalcops.org](mailto:barbie_squires@nationalcops.org).**



## C.O.P.S. CONFIDENTIALITY & NOMINEE PLEDGE INFORMATION POLICY

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The National Board of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) has directed the National Office to ensure that the C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Information Policy form is signed by each National and Chapter official. This pledge will require your officers to always work in the best interest of Concerns of Police Survivors. Their active support and participation in any other "law enforcement support group" that is not affiliated with Concerns of Police Survivors will be prohibited when they sign this document.

Serving on a C.O.P.S. Board may put this Board member in touch with "proprietary information" from both the National C.O.P.S. organization and the chapter. This pledge is essential to ensuring that C.O.P.S.' proprietary information stays within the organization.

This document must be signed prior to the election process and/or appointment. Any member who refuses to pledge their unwavering support to Concerns of Police Survivors cannot be afforded the opportunity to participate in the election process or hold a Board position.

The National C.O.P.S. Office will not release survivor information, mailing lists, or other proprietary information to Board members and/or C.O.P.S. chapter representatives unless the two required forms (C.O.P.S. Chapter Officer Roster Form and the C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy form) are on file with the National Office.

The "C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy" form along with the "C.O.P.S. Chapter Officer Roster Form" should be filed with the National C.O.P.S. Office within 30 days following a chapter election or appointment and/or every time an officer position changes. This C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy shall apply to all officers, Board members, volunteers, and any other individuals serving Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., (hereinafter "C.O.P.S.") or any local chapter or affiliate of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (e.g., C.O.P.S. chapter). In response to being considered a potential Board member serving on the National and/or a chapter Board of Concerns of Police Survivors, the undersigned does hereby voluntarily make the following pledge and representation to those who will be considering my election/appointment.

Each officer, Board member, volunteer, or other individual serving C.O.P.S. or any C.O.P.S. chapter in any way acknowledges the confidential nature of the mailing, donor and membership files and lists, as well as the practices, procedures, and methodologies of C.O.P.S. and any C.O.P.S. chapter. All such information that is of a confidential nature shall, by agreement, not be distributed or used except in accordance with or for the benefit of C.O.P.S. and/or its affiliates. This restriction will include, but not be limited to, records, documents, materials, mailing lists, donor lists, contracts, methodology of C.O.P.S. or any of C.O.P.S. affiliates however obtained. It is the express intention of C.O.P.S. to keep all such proprietary property restricted in its use or distribution solely for the benefit of C.O.P.S. and/or its affiliates.





## C.O.P.S. CONFIDENTIALITY & NOMINEE PLEDGE INFORMATION POLICY

Each officer, board member or volunteer, shall be required to return all property of C.O.P.S. and the C.O.P.S. chapter he/she serves, including, but not limited to, donor, membership, and mailing lists and any physical assets and other proprietary data or objects acquired through the individual's relationship with the corporation, as well as any and all copies of such items, immediately upon the resignation or other termination of the individual's service to C.O.P.S. or any C.O.P.S. chapter.

I fully understand that as a Board member of C.O.P.S. I will have a fiduciary duty to act on behalf of the organization, and be held to a standard of integrity, honesty, and dedication to advance the program services of C.O.P.S. Consistent with my pledge, should I be elected or appointed to a Board position. I further understand and agree that I am obligated now and at any time hereafter to disclose any kind of conflict of interest whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, of a financial nature. I believe in the principles of C.O.P.S. and those who serve the organization, and state herein that I am not now, nor will I be throughout my membership or term on the Board (National and/or chapter), a member of or be affiliated with any other group or organization whose purposes are competitive or in opposition to those of C.O.P.S. If elected or appointed, I pledge to the membership to conduct myself in a truthful and honest manner during my term on the Board (National and/or chapter), and at all times to promote the welfare of C.O.P.S. and to keep confidential all information to which I might be privy, that is of a proprietary nature. I further acknowledge and agree that if I am elected or appointed to serve, should I fail or refuse to discharge my fiduciary duties or breach any pledge set forth herein, such action shall constitute "cause" and will entitle the remaining members of the Board (National and/or chapter) to consider my immediate removal from the Board (National and/or chapter).

It is acknowledged that the terms of this C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy are necessary and reasonable for the proper protection of C.O.P.S. and any C.O.P.S. chapter. I have executed this notarized statement to emphasize my unconditional commitment to C.O.P.S. and those which it serves.

This form can be signed by electronic signature or notarized. To complete electronic signature, click in the box below and follow instructions.

Date 2/13/2025

Signature  DocuSigned by:  
EDAFEB8A0C3204BC...

Print Name **James Giese**

Board Position/Office C.O.P.S. Chapter Name **Central Plains Regional Trustee**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_ Subscribed and sworn before me this \_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_

## JAMES GIESE

(██████████) (██████████) (██████████) 1- (██████████) (██████████) @ (██████████) (██████████)

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Dedicated professional experienced in the public and private sectors with the ability to adapt to changing environments. Organized and detail-oriented individual who works well under pressure and enjoys a challenge. Strong ability to build lasting rapport with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Exceptional work ethic and passion for delivering results. Additional skills include:

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- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Proficient Technology Skills | ▪ Goal and Results Oriented              |
| ▪ Training and Development     | ▪ Collaboration and Interpersonal Skills |
| ▪ Strong Leadership Skills     | ▪ Negotiation and Compliance             |
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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### SALES

- Exceed sales quotas while meeting profit margin goals for sales.
- Utilize time effectively while meeting customers' needs and securing sales.
- Ensure all paperwork is done thoroughly and expeditiously following all procedures established by the dealership.
- Educate and increase customers' awareness of features and benefits on all products.
- Remain honest and fair in all business dealings.
- Pursue and build prospects via CRM system for future contact and to promote customer satisfaction while offering additional sales opportunities.
- Cross-sell accessories, additional parts, F&I products, service contracts, warranties, etc.
- Display empathy and a constructive attitude while handling customer complaints which as a result retains customer loyalty.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Experience within city and county departments in Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- Adapt and excel at assignments including: Department Firearms Armorer, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, Investigator, Bicycle Patrol, SWAT Operator (Sniper), Mobile Field Force, Use of Force Instructor (firearms, defense tactics, less lethal munitions), Pre-Employment Investigator and Honor Guard Member.
- Utilize strong organizational skills under direct pressure.
- Effectively write complex, detailed reports, and provide testimony in civil and criminal courts.
- Utilize active listening skills to understand perspectives and gain clarification towards a positive outcome.
- Interview witnesses, suspects, and victims in a respectful and ethical manner.
- Respond to medical calls, secure the scene, administer medical aid and when necessary, request additional support.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently with members of the public in various states of mood, emotion, and behavior.
- Utilize de-escalation skills with individuals in crisis, making timely and independent judgement decisions in a fluid, fast-paced environment.
- Perform investigations involving internet, property crimes and crimes against persons.
- Act and operate as a leader within the department.
- Develop trainings based on MN POST Board standards and departmental goals and initiatives.
- Utilize mobile camera and laptop systems, Google Docs, Microsoft Office, state and court databases and social media platforms on a daily basis.

#### CORRECTIONS OFFICER

- Responsible for the control, observation, and supervision of inmates to ensure the maintenance of security, operational rules and policies of the Winnebago County Jail.
- Rotated assignments from intake, direct supervision of inmates, and court supervision.
- Member of Correctional Emergency Response Team responsible for negotiating with inmates to prevent harm to self or others.
- Field Training Officer and Use of Force Instructor.
- Maintained accurate handwritten and computer driven logs of inmates and staff.



#### APPRAISER

- Complete appraisals for public locations to include buildings and property reconciliation for insurance purposes throughout the United States and Canada.
- Buildings and properties included: schools/universities, municipalities, churches, freshwater, and wastewater treatment plans.
- Create detailed reports outlining cost replacement new, cost replacement new minus depreciation values, taking into consideration geographic areas, so that appropriate insurance coverages can be determined.
- Maintain neutrality between insurance carriers, city managers, and property owners.
- Look over properties and gather specific information that directly impacts value including: architectural features, environmental factors and conditions of structures.
- Follow accepted industry depreciation schedules to determine replacement of infrastructures, materials, and movable property.

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

██████████ HARLEY-DAVIDSON; ██████████  
VEHICLE SALES ASSOCIATE

FEBRUARY 2023-PRESENT

CITY OF ██████████ ██████████  
POLICE OFFICER

JULY 2010-FEBRUARY 2022

██████████ COUNTY; ██████████  
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY; CORRECTIONS OFFICER

JANUARY 1999-JULY 2010

AMERICAN APPRAISAL ASSOCIATES; ██████████  
APPRAISER

JULY 1996-JANUARY 1999

#### VOLUNTEER WORK

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (COPS)  
LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED (LEU)  
YOUTH FOOTBALL, SOCCER & BASKETBALL COACH -SIMLEY

#### EDUCATION

LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATIONS-FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE-██████████  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE-GERMANIC LINGUISTICS AND MATHEMATICS-UNIVERSITY OF ██████████  
GERMAN LANGUAGE AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS STUDIES-UNIVERSITAET FREIBERG-FREIBERG, GERMANY

1/23/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly recommend Jim Giese for the position of Regional Trustee for National Concerns of Police Survivors. Jim is a survivor co-worker of Deputy Richard Meyer, EOW 11/13/2003, of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office (WI). With 11 years of dedicated service at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and 12 years at the Minnetonka Police Department (MN), Jim brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of law enforcement and survivor support.

For the past two years, Jim has served as the President of the Minnesota Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors, previously holding the position of chapter representative. During his tenure, he has done an outstanding job in building meaningful relationships with both the survivor community and law enforcement agencies. His leadership has fostered a sense of unity and support, ensuring that survivors receive the care and recognition they deserve.

Jim is not afraid to jump in and get the job done. He was instrumental in organizing all chapter events, including the highly successful 1st Annual C.O.P.S. and Joggers 5k/10k Run in 2024, and playing a key role in planning the upcoming 2nd Annual run. His commitment to honoring fallen officers and supporting grieving families is further exemplified by his participation in the Law Enforcement United (LEU) ride for seven years.

Jim's dedication, leadership skills, and unwavering commitment to the mission of Concerns of Police Survivors make him an exceptionally strong candidate for the role of Regional Trustee. His experience, passion, and ability to connect with people will be an asset to the organization.

I strongly support Jim Giese's candidacy and encourage you to consider him for this important role. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jackie Bergeron

MN COPS Treasurer

To

The National Selection Committee,

My name is Mikk Alexander and I'm the General Sales Manager at Wild Prairie Harley-Davidson in Eden Prairie, MN. I am writing to highly recommend Jim Giese for the position of Central Plains Region Trustee for Concerns of Police Survivors. I have had the pleasure of working side by side with Jim for almost two years now.

Jim, the person, is as outstanding as they come and is one of the most honorable guys I've ever met. Honest, respectful, and empathetic are just a few ways to describe him and how he navigates through his daily life. It's no wonder why he always has a smile on his face even when things may not always be perfect.

Jim, the employee and fellow colleague, is an absolute blessing to have on the team here at the dealership. His quiet leadership skills come naturally and he is someone that everyone else looks up to for help and advice. As a manager, I know I never have to worry about what Jim is doing because he is always finding ways to improve operations, hitting the relief valve on a pressure situation, and/or always making sure our customers are having the best experience possible when they are purchasing a new toy!

In addition to helping out with day-to-day operations, he is also excellent at staying in tune with his customers and communicating with them to let them know the latest update with their prized possession. Follow-up is a huge priority in our business and he has no problem fulfilling this obligation.

The last thing I'll say about Jim is he has an uncanny ability to relate to people in very short of amount of time which is key in this type of setting. The best part is, he can do it all while still maintaining a great sense of humor in a high-pressure environment. It's definitely a fun place to be when Jim is around!

I have no doubt that Jim would excel in this new role and can't say enough good things about him! Please feel free to reach out with any questions or insights regarding Jim's qualifications.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mikk Alexander', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mikk Alexander

General Sales Manager

P: 952-698-5000

[malexander@wildprairiehd.com](mailto:malexander@wildprairiehd.com)

Wild Prairie Harley-Davidson

Eden Prairie, MN

January 24, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to offer my highest recommendation for Jim Giese for the position of Concerns of Police Survivors Central Plains Regional Trustee. I had the privilege of working closely with Jim for 13 years at the Minnetonka Police Department. Jim was a dedicated police officer for 24 years, and has continued serving others in his roles as Chapter Representative and President of the Minnesota Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), as well as being involved with Law Enforcement United for 7 years.

Throughout his career and volunteer work, Jim has consistently demonstrated qualities that are essential for effective leadership and compassionate service. His deep passion for C.O.P.S. and unwavering commitment to the survivors of fallen officers are at the heart of his work. As a co-worker survivor, Jim brings a unique and invaluable perspective to the role. He not only understands the profound grief that survivors experience, but he is also fully aware of their complex needs and how to address them with care, sensitivity, and respect.

Jim is compassionate, hard-working, and thorough. He approaches every task with a level of dedication that goes above and beyond expectations. His punctuality, reliability, and ability to manage multiple responsibilities are just a few of the qualities that set him apart as a leader within the C.O.P.S. organization. Whether coordinating events, providing support, or advocating for the needs of survivors, he consistently demonstrates a high level of professionalism and genuine empathy.

As someone who has worked alongside him, I can attest to his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of survivors. His leadership, combined with his personal experience, uniquely qualifies him to represent the Central Plains region as a trustee. I have no doubt that Jim will continue to serve with the same passion, integrity, and dedication that he has shown throughout his career.

It is without reservation that I recommend Jim Giese for the position of Central Plains Regional Trustee. His experience, leadership, and deep commitment to C.O.P.S. will undoubtedly make him an outstanding addition to the team.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Carla Ertman

Retired Police Officer-Minnetonka Police Department (Minnesota)

612.644.0593

[carlaertman@gmail.com](mailto:carlaertman@gmail.com)

