

From: [National Sheriffs' Association](#)
To: [Edward Hutchison](#)
Subject: November NATI Newswire
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2009 2:08:58 PM

National Sheriff's Association



November 2009

Please mark your calendars for the 2009 National Triad Conference!

On behalf of the National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI), we cordially invite you to the 2009 National Triad Conference to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, Florida from December 7 to December 10.

The conference will address older adult volunteers, law enforcement, and senior providers on the issues of disaster preparedness, fraud, medication disposal programs, older driver safety trends, and personal safety issues, among other topics.

Triad is a national community policing concept that partners law enforcement agencies with older adult volunteer groups and community services to educate older adults on crime and fraud, to reduce crime against the elderly, and dissipate unwarranted fear of crime. Through Triad, community leaders foster partnerships to form programs to improve the quality of life of older adults; involve older adults in activities and decisions affecting their lives; open communication between law enforcement and the elderly; and share resources for the most comprehensive delivery of services.

Nearly 18.7 million older adults in the United States are served in some capacity by Triad. The National Association of Triad, Inc. serves as a clearinghouse of information, best practices and early alert system for the local Triads. After twenty years in existence, there are Triads in more than 850 counties in 34 states.

Additionally, SALT Councils (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) have been implemented in nearly 1,500 communities nationwide. SALT Councils allow representatives of the community to come together to evaluate the community's needs; devise and implement a variety of programs; and promote older adult safety and well-being.

The National Triad Conference serves as an opportunity for Triad practitioners, law enforcement personnel, community policing and crime prevention officers, victim advocates, social service providers, adult protection, and criminal justice professionals to come together

and learn how to start, maintain, and improve their Triads throughout the United States.

Should you require more information or details regarding our conference, please do not hesitate to contact myself at (703) 838-5326 or ehutchison@sheriffs.org or Mrs. Terri Hicks, Triad Coordinator, at (703) 838-5301 or terrih@sheriffs.org.

Thank you in advance for helping to make this one of the best National Triad conferences ever.

Hope to see you in Orlando!

Below is the link to the forms for submitting a workshop proposal, exhibitor information, and sponsor information. Please contact either Terri or myself with questions you may have. Recall that registration fees are waived for presenters.

www.nationaltriad.org/Orlando09

Anthony Marshall, son of socialite Brooke Astor, convicted of stealing from her
James Bone in New York

The only son of Brooke Astor, the doyenne of New York society, was convicted last night of looting his mother's \$198 million estate.

Anthony Marshall, 85, the scion of one of America's most famous families, was found guilty of swindling his mother as she battled Alzheimer's disease before her death in 2007 at the age of 105. Mr Marshall, a former CIA agent and US ambassador turned Tony award-winning Broadway producer, was convicted of 14 of the 18 offences with which he had been charged, including fraud and first-degree grand larceny.

He listened calmly as the verdict was read. After the jury left the court, his wife, Charlene, her eyes glistening, gave him a hug and told reporters: "I love my husband."

The white-haired Marshall, who suffered health problems during the five-month trial and once collapsed in a courthouse lavatory, now faces a mandatory jail term of at least a year when he is sentenced in December. The case rocked the "Silk Stocking District" on New York's Upper East Side, where Mrs Astor was a revered figure. Among the 74 witnesses who gave evidence were her friends Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, the TV personality Barbara Walters and Annette de la Renta, the wife of the fashion designer Oscar.

Mr Marshall is Mrs Astor's son by her second husband, Charles "Buddy" Marshall, who died in 1952. A year later she married Vincent Astor, heir to the real estate fortune of John Jacob Astor.

When Mr Astor died in 1959, Mrs Astor inherited his \$60 million fortune, a \$60 million family foundation and a 42-person staff, including an English butler and a French chef.

The socialite became a much-loved figure, giving away nearly \$200 million to charity, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Public Library.

The family scandal first hit the headlines in 2006 when Mrs Astor's grandson, Philip Marshall, a university professor, went to court to accuse his father of "elder abuse". Philip Marshall accused Anthony Marshall of making Mrs Astor live in squalor in her Park Avenue apartment, forcing her to "sleep in the TV room in torn nightgowns on a filthy couch that smells, probably

from dog urine”.

Though the allegations were never substantiated, Anthony Marshall agreed to put his mother in the care of her best friend, Mrs de la Renta.

Prosecutors said that Anthony Marshall used his mother's failing health to make her sign a series of documents amending her will and funnelling tens of millions of dollars in cash, property and artworks to him and Charlene, his third wife.

Anthony Marshall's lawyer, Francis Morrissey, 66, was convicted of forgery charges. A prosecutor described the pair as “two reverse Robin Hoods who stole from charity in order to enrich themselves”.

The jury reached its verdict on its 12th day of deliberations after almost coming to blows.

The foreman sent a note to the judge earlier this week saying: “Due to heated argument, a juror feels personally threatened by comments made by another juror. With regards to her personal safety, she wishes to be dismissed anonymously.”

The judge kept the woman juror on the panel, providing the defence with possible grounds for appeal.

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Son accused of beating elderly parents in Bonita By Naples Daily News staff report

BONITA SPRINGS — An older couple's son remained jailed Tuesday a day after he is accused of sending them to the hospital with injuries.

Ralph Edward Barone, 42, of the 23000 block of Sanctuary Lakes Court, Bonita Springs, was charged Monday by Lee County Sheriff's Office deputies with two counts of aggravated assault on a person 65 years old or older. He must post \$15,000 in bonds before being released from jail.

According to an arrest report:

Barone's mother, whose name was not released, was eating lunch about 12:30 p.m. when her son walked by and hit her in the nose, possibly with a stapler he had borrowed a few minutes before. Deputies found the stapler near where the mother was eating.

After being struck, the mother called out to her husband, who was not identified, and told him what happened. Barone charged his father, knocking him into a wall and making him fall. He suffered a possible broken wrist.

While deputies were still at the house, Barone, who had apparently left the house, came back and was arrested.

The couple, whose ages were not in the report, were taken to North Collier Hospital for treatment.

Sentencing delayed for swindling New Hope son
By PAUL LEVY, Star Tribune

A New Hope man, who pleaded guilty to swindling his 78-year-old mother, temporarily avoided sentencing Tuesday because a judge acknowledged that the man remains the sole caregiver of the mother whose bank account he depleted.

Anna Sitte has Alzheimer's disease, which was diagnosed years ago, but until plans for her immediate future are made, sentencing for her son Steven Carl Sitte, 53, can't be determined, said Hennepin County District Judge Warren Sagstuen.

Jimmy Sitte, who turned in his brother to authorities earlier this year, has asked that their mother be moved back to North Dakota. There, three acres remain of a century-old 188-acre family farm that Jimmy Sitte says his brother liquidated without his mother's knowledge.

"In a case as complex as this, one that involves the health and well-being of one of our senior citizens, I would be remiss" to immediately sentence Steven Sitte, said Sagstuen. He moved to delay sentencing until Nov. 16.

"There's so much at stake," the judge said, "not only for Mr. Sitte, but the entire family, especially the mother."

Anna Sitte was not in the court room. The brothers, sitting 10 feet apart in court, did not speak to one another.

"They're using the shield of my mother's Alzheimer's again," said Jimmy Sitte, who recently moved to Medora, in western North Dakota. He said his three children live on the remainder of the family farm.

"The fact that my mother's still living with Steve bothers me," he said. "She needs to be in assisted living."

Anna Sitte, who fell into a dark depression after her husband, Carl, died in 2002, was moved into an assisted-living home in Moorhead, Minn., in 2004, Jimmy Sitte said. He said he moved her back to the farm in 2005 to live with him. When Jimmy Sitte, a musician, signed to play a show in Wisconsin in September of that year, he says, he asked if he could bring his mother to Steven's home in New Hope for a visit. Steven would return Anna to the farm the following week, Jimmy Sitte said.

The weeklong visit has lasted four years.

According to court records, Anna Sitte's dementia had worsened by early 2007. That year, the documents say, Steven, unemployed and \$300,000 in debt, forged his mother's signature 17 times on checks totaling \$136,000.

On Sept. 12, Steven Sitte pleaded guilty to one count of theft by swindle, a felony, while three other charges were dismissed.

"Steve is the principal caregiver, the only caregiver," his attorney, Marshall Tanick, said Tuesday. "Everyone agrees that Steve's been an excellent caregiver. It's become his mission in life."

5 million victims a year

Each year, an estimated 5 million Americans fall victim to elder abuse, according to the Elder

Justice Coalition in Washington. Of those cases, nearly one-fifth involve financial exploitation. The numbers of victims -- usually women between 75 and 80 -- are expected to increase as the population ages.

Several cases have been in the news in Minnesota this year. On Tuesday, a Roseville man was given 10 years' probation and ordered to pay restitution after he pleaded guilty last month to one count of theft by swindle; he had been accused in June of swindling two elderly people in home-repair scams.

In July, a North St. Paul woman was charged with stealing more than \$225,000 from her 75-year-old mother during a two-year period. In April, a St. Paul man pleaded guilty to one count after being accused of swindling more than \$100,000 from his mother. That case was the first prosecuted by a new elder-abuse unit in the Ramsey County attorney's office. Hennepin County also has such a unit.

Nationwide, elder-abuse crimes remain largely under-reported -- with only 16 percent reported to adult protective services, according to the National Elder Abuse Incidence Study. Those cases can be challenging to prosecute, with victims in failing health often intimidated and unwilling to cooperate with investigators.

"My mother has no recollection of any of this, thank goodness," Jimmy Sitte said Tuesday. "My mother shouldn't be living with Steve. She needs to be in assisted living."

Paul Levy • 612-673-4419

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Call for Workshop Proposals- [Rural Training Institute](#)
Behind Closed Doors XIII: Breaking the Silence in Rural Communities
The Hidden Truth

Deadline – November 20, 2009

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) will hold its annual Rural Training Institute April 28 and 29, 2010 at Chipola College in Marianna, Florida. This year we are proud to be celebrating the thirteenth anniversary of our "Behind Closed Doors – Breaking the Silence in Rural Communities" Training Institute.

The Behind Closed Doors Training Institute has worked to bring attention to the unique needs of rural communities serving women who are battered and their children. This year the Institute will address systems' responses to domestic violence when the batterer and survivor no longer reside together however the abuse continues and/or escalates. We plan to address systems responses to domestic violence beyond the traditional criminal justice response and advocacy services. FCADV requests proposals for workshops addressing the needs of older survivors, survivors who are deaf and survivors living with a disability.

Students, direct service advocates, members of law enforcement, allied agencies, professionals and other individuals who work in the domestic violence arena throughout Florida will come together to learn the emerging trends and developments in assisting rural domestic/sexual violence survivors and their children. Workshops will cover a wide range of topics and content will be presented both for seasoned advocates and new allies. This Institute contains a Law Enforcement track. For more information about this event please contact the Kim Wiley at (850) 425-2749 or wiley_kim@fcadv.org.

Please obtain the proposal form from www.fcadv.org. Proposals and accompanying

documents may be e-mailed to: callforpapers@fcadv.org, faxed to: 850-656-8127, or mailed to:

Rural Training Institute
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
425 Office Plaza Dr,
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Girardville woman charged with stealing \$160,000 from elderly woman

SHENANDOAH - A 37-year-old Girardville woman was charged Tuesday with stealing more than \$160,000 over a two-year period from an elderly woman she befriended.

Michelle A. Connors, 243 W. Preston Ave., turned herself in to Magisterial District Judge Anthony J. Kilker and was arraigned on two felony counts each of theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property.

Connors was released after a friend posted \$5,000, or 10 percent of the \$50,000 bail set by Kilker.

A preliminary hearing on the charges was scheduled for 9 a.m. Nov. 18 at Kilker's Shenandoah court.

Connors was arrested by Shenandoah police Patrolman Joseph Hall and Dolores Malec of the Schuylkill County District Attorney's Elder Abuse Unit and charged with taking the money over a two-year period between November 2006 and September 2008.

Investigators said that the thefts occurred while Connors had power of attorney for Mary O'Connell, now 90 years old.

Hall said that in November 2006, Connors took over the woman's assets that totaled \$222,692 and had control of the money until Sept. 11, 2008.

During that time, both Hall and Malec said Connors, who befriended O'Connell when she was a resident of a nursing facility where Connors worked, purchased items including a camera, computer and a cellular telephone from the woman's account

Connors also made numerous ATM withdrawals and large counter withdrawals from the bank, including \$5,000 that she used to fix a roof, Hall said.

He added that Connors also withdrew \$10,000 she said was to prepay for O'Connell's funeral. The funeral cost \$7,110 and Hall said Connors never returned the remaining \$2,890.

In all, Hall said Connors stole \$160,468 in addition to the money never returned after paying for the funeral.

District Attorney James P. Goodman said Tuesday's arrest is the third major arrest made by the Elder Abuse Unit since its inception.

Earlier this year, Elizabeth Deleon, 110 N. Front St., Port Carbon, pleaded guilty to stealing and misappropriating \$197,3590 as power of attorney for Margaret Palko, who was 88 at the time.

Deleon pleaded guilty in September and is scheduled to be sentenced next week in Schuylkill

County Court.

Malec said Deleon withdrew a total of \$197,359 from various bank accounts and annuities of the woman who was a resident in the Dementia Unit at Schuylkill Center Nursing Home in Norwegian Township.

An additional theft count was filed for Deleon trading in a 2005 Chevrolet Cavalier owned by the victim and then using the \$6,810 toward the purchase of a 2007 Pontiac Vibe she bought as a gift for herself, Malec said.

The second case involved Arthur Deiter, 52, of Pottsville, who was charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of Joanne Weider, 69, of Pottsville, who died in February.

Goodman said that in that case, Deiter neglected the woman while he was living in the same home.

Deiter is also scheduled to be sentenced next week after pleading guilty in September.

An autopsy performed by forensic pathologist Dr. Richard Bindie determined that although Weider's death was natural, it could have been prevented if medical attention was sought for her during the weeks preceding her death.

Bindie reported that "the causes of Joanne Weider's death were preventable if medical attention was sought," Pottsville police said.

After Connors' arraignment, Goodman said that elderly residents are prime targets for people wanting to take advantage of them and the money they have earned over their entire lives.

He said Connors and Deleon took a power of attorney and "used it as a license to steal from an elderly person."

Both Deiter and Deleon will appear at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 28 to see what punishment will be handed down.

Arma woman pleads guilty to financially exploiting woman in her care
By Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — An Arma woman has pleaded guilty to financially exploiting a 97-year-old woman who was in the care of her and her husband.

Attorney General Steve Six announced Wednesday that Ernestine Anselmi pleaded guilty Tuesday to one felony count mistreatment of a dependent adult, Lena Zanichelli.

Anselmi was charged in September 2008. Prosecutors allege that she and her husband, Ernest Anselmi, used "undue influence, coercion, deception, and false representation" to make nearly \$1 million payments to themselves and others with Zanichelli's money.

Court documents say the Anselmis were Zanichelli's "unofficial guardians" since at least May 2008.

Ernest Anselmi died in June. Zanichelli died in late March.

Ernestine Anselmi will be sentenced in February 2010.

Son charged with murder of elderly mother

By: Lisa Marchesoni

A mother whose son allegedly beat her with a baseball bat has died of her injuries, a Murfreesboro Police spokesman said Wednesday.

Victim Loraine Van Blarcom, 81, of Independence Way suffered critical injuries one week ago, said spokesman Kyle Evans. She was admitted to Middle Tennessee Medical Center where she died.

Son Roger Van Blarcom, 45, who lived in the same home, was charged with attempted first-degree murder.

After the mother's death, Detective Doug Arrington obtained new warrants charging the son with first-degree murder of his mother. The warrants were expected to be served Wednesday on the son who remains at Rutherford County Adult Detention Center.

In the initial report, Evans said police responded to the home where they found someone begging for help.

The mother told Officer Bob Sirising she awoke about 4:30 a.m. because of worries about her husband in a nursing home. Her son came downstairs and asked her, "Do you want to go to heaven?" and struck her with his fists.

"Mrs. Van Blarcom advised she covered her head with her arms, begged Mr. Van Blarcom to stop and then he pulled her off the couch and told her she was the devil and he was 'punishing her for what she did to him when he was a child,'" Sirising reported.

She accused her son of striking her with the bat and dragging her downstairs to the garage where she heard him say, "I killed her," the officer reported.

Police kicked in the back door of the home where they found Van Blarcom with blood on his hands standing over his bleeding mother. He was taken into custody.

A hearing on the charge is pending in General Sessions Court.

RI's first-ever safe haven for abused elderly opens

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. -- Last year, a statewide agency received 315 calls about elderly abuse.

"That number is just the tip of the iceberg," said Deborah DeBare, executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Many victims of elderly abuse go to the hospital for an injury, and then return home without calling for help. For years, they have had few options, DeBare said.

That will soon change.

On Tuesday, the [Saint Elizabeth Community](#) opened the state's first-ever safe haven for

abused residents 60 years and older, a program based on a similar project in [Riverdale, New York](#). The non-profit agency expects to house 20 people in rooms and apartments in its nursing homes and assisted living complexes in East Greenwich and Providence, Saint Elizabeth President and CEO Steven J. Horowitz said.

"Sadly ... elder abuse is on the rise in the United States and here in Rhode Island," Horowitz told a crowd of social workers and others at a morning news conference.

Saint Elizabeth Community will work with more than a dozen state and local agencies responsible for referring candidates to the safe haven program, he said. The elderly can stay up to 30 days.

Elders in need of safe haven are encouraged to contact one of the partner agencies:

Brown University's Center for Gerontology & Health Care Research
Child and Family Service of Newport County
Day One
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
Family Service of Rhode Island
Meals on Wheels
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Rhode Island Attorney General's Office
Rhode Island Department of Mental Health Services
Sojourner House
Westbay Community Action
Women's Center of Rhode Island
Women's Resource Center of Newport & Bristol Counties

Please see the following link from the American Society on Aging (ASA) for access to web seminars regarding older adults. One of specific interest to the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG) is the Alcohol and Other Drugs six session on demand web seminar.

Thank you to Christy Jensen, Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health, for sharing this information.

<http://www.asaging.org/webseminars/>

More Senior Safety related articles are located at www.nationaltriad.org; e-news section.

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