

# *In Service*

 **TMPA**  
Texas Municipal Police Association

**July - August 2010**

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# Message from the Executive Director

Chris Heaton, Executive Director [✉ chris@tmpa.org](mailto:chris@tmpa.org)

## TMPA Mourns Passing of John Cunningham

When I joined TMPA and attended my first conference in 1989, one of the first people I met who made me feel at home was John Cunningham. He was a TMPA past president (1977) and had retired from Forth Worth PD after 30 years of service. John knew the founders of TMPA. He was there when some of the most significant moments of TMPA history took place. I considered him to be a mentor and a wealth of information, who always gave sound and honest advice. John and Alice Cunningham were the first people I would often see when I attended to a TMPA conference, and I know the annual conference was one of their favorite destinations. John attended over 50 consecutive TMPA conferences and was one of the most respected past presidents in our organization. John passed away at his home on May 19, 2010 at 83 years of age. John will be missed, but his leadership, guidance, and memory will always be a part of this great organization.

## Why Collective Bargaining Needs to be Done Right

A recent post on another organization's website touts their support for the national collective bargaining bill (which TMPA also supports), but chastises TMPA for supporting sheriff department deputies who wish to bargain separately from correction/detention officers. The 'big tent' philosophy is a nice ideal, but as we are witnessing in Bexar County, and will most certainly see in other counties in the future, the ideal and reality do not always come together. In Bexar County, the law enforcement deputies are unable to get their market wage because the detention group (which significantly outnumbers the law enforcement members) will not abide a larger cost-of-living increase for the law enforcement officers than what is being offered to the detention group. Never mind that the law enforcement officers are significantly under their market and the detention officers are at market for their wages, they simply will not vote for a contract that gives a bigger raise to the law enforcement group. So, they (the detention-dominated union) stall, cajole, threaten, and have continued to do so

for well over a year. Meanwhile, law enforcement officers can do nothing to get the pay and benefits they deserve, and the union (the local or the statewide group) they belong to has no interest in helping them because that would alienate the larger detention group. This is what we predicted would happen and why TMPA took the stand it did (on split bargaining units) during re-unification talks. TMPA is now being accused of union-raiding and promoting disunity. Nothing could be further from the truth. The disunity that exists is the result of irreconcilable and competing interests within a local and its statewide union because it is suffering from incurable mission confusion. TMPA promotes the interest of law enforcement officers and the profession and our actions are always consistent with our mission. If that happens to run afoul of unions who don't understand what they are and who they are supposed to represent, so be it.

The original collective bargaining bill that was passed in 1973 (a TMPA-backed bill) was a strict police and fire bill. Until the 1980s, only police officers and fire fighters could negotiate their wages and conditions of work. Eventually courts ruled that detention officers could also bargain, but there is no way for the sheriff deputies (the sworn peace officers) to bargain separately for their wages and benefits. Since they are a numerical minority in any county where bargaining is in place, they must bargain through a detention-dominated agenda where cooperation is not possible.

We know from past legislative sessions that detention groups do not necessarily have the same political ends or agenda as peace officer groups. In the last Texas Legislature, the very same CLEAT-backed detention group (that is keeping its own law enforcement deputies from getting the raise they deserve) tried to pass a bill that would have allowed detention officers to work police overtime jobs, at the expense of full-time peace officers and an unsuspecting public.

We applaud law enforcement and detention officers groups like Orange County that are able to work together for the common good. But we cannot deny the reality that in some counties, detention groups want to control the agenda at the expense of law

enforcement officers. TMPA supports allowing law enforcement deputies to negotiate their wages and benefits apart from other employee groups whenever and wherever the common interests of all cannot be maintained. That is what is right, and we will fight for all law enforcement officers who are or will be disenfranchised by a bargaining bill that does not recognize and support the very groups it was created to protect.

## TMPA Constitution and Name Under Review

One of the points of discussion at the upcoming annual conference will be some proposed modifications to our constitution and even our name. Tom Gaylor has an article about our name and why the issue is up for discussion, so I thought I would take a minute to talk about the constitution and possible revisions.

During re-unification talks, a proposed constitution was drafted that incorporated many new ideas and the best elements of both organizations. There were some tremendous ideas that came from those meetings. Even though re-unification is no longer possible, the board of directors felt some of the provisions in the proposed re-unification document has value for TMPA today. So, the board of directors incorporated these ideas into our current constitution, and we will discuss those ideas and proposed language changes to the delegates prior to bringing amendments to all members. We will keep you apprised, (any changes will require a membership vote) so you will have the opportunity to approve or vote down any proposed changes. I know this edition of "In Service" may not get to all of you before the conference begins, but I look forward to seeing everyone there and having a great time. Stay Safe.

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### For editorial

If you have a letter to the editor, announcement (employment and special events), news item or story idea that would be of interest to the Texas law enforcement community, you can reach us in any of the ways listed above. We treat all communications as letters to the editor unless otherwise instructed, and we reserve the right to edit for length, style, or clarity.

### About the Texas Municipal Police Association

TMPA was formed in June of 1950 by officers representing all ranks and agency sizes. TMPA began as a lobbying group of municipal officers with the objective of promoting professionalism in Texas law enforcement as well as improving job conditions and enhancing communication among Texas peace officers.

In recent years, TMPA has evolved into a full-service law enforcement organization. In addition to administering the most comprehensive professional legal protection program for Texas law enforcement officers and public safety professionals, we also have a successful legislative program, provide local representation, TCLEOSE-approved training, a scholarship program and a comprehensive package of membership services and benefits. TMPA also provides management and evaluation support for Police Traffic Safety programs (STEP, Click It Or Ticket, FRIDAY and CRASH programs) funded through the Texas Department of Transportation and advanced Sexual Assault and Family

Violence Investigations Course (SAFVIC), funded through the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

### How to join TMPA

Membership in TMPA is open to anyone in a law enforcement or public safety occupation in the State of Texas. For more information on membership in TMPA and any other TMPA program, call the State Office at (800) 848-2088 or contact us by e-mail, [membership@tmpa.org](mailto:membership@tmpa.org).

JOIN on-line by visiting our Website:  
[WWW.TMPA.ORG](http://WWW.TMPA.ORG)

### We Welcome The Opportunity...

The TMPA staff and our Board of Directors welcome the opportunity to visit with you. Please contact us with your questions, problems, or to arrange a time for a representative to speak to a group of officers from your department about the benefits of joining TMPA.

### Other TMPA-related Websites:

Buckle Up, Texas:  
[www.buckleuptexas.com](http://www.buckleuptexas.com)

Sexual Assault and Family Violence Investigators Course:  
[www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org)

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# What's in a name?

Tom Gaylor, Deputy Executive Director of

Public Affairs ✉ [tom@tmpa.org](mailto:tom@tmpa.org)



For 60 years the Texas Municipal Police Association has represented the interest of Texas law enforcement and under that name we've worked for the betterment of all Texas cops. Started in 1950 by a group of municipal police from the major metropolitan areas, the group worked hard to protect legislative gains in law enforcement professionalism, such as municipal civil service. In the 80's the TMPA board opened membership up to any Texas peace officer and since then we've actively recruited and supported peace officers from state, county, school districts, and special districts law enforcement agencies. In fact, our current board includes two sheriff's deputies, two ISD officers, and one deputy constable.

In 2001, TMPA underwent a facelift, creating a new logo and key message. The selection of the logo demonstrated the diverse make up of the board. Board members were concerned about the type of badge used in the graphics and did not want to alienate any member or potential member. That discussion also contained a significant amount of emotion based largely on a feeling of nostalgia and pride for the genesis of TMPA and the miles we've covered since 1950. That pride, that sense of nostalgia and allegiance to tradition, remains as we tackle a new decade at TMPA and we are faced with a new, perhaps growing hurdle. After 60 years of service that has witnessed significant organizational growth we now consider the pros and cons of a name change.

The TMPA name has become a law enforcement brand and has served us well over the years. Our name was especially effective when we just represented officers from municipalities. But does it serve us well now? In some respects, yes, our name has limited our growth for a variety of reasons, as I will explain.

"What's in a name, that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," said Shakespeare. Shakespeare penned those immortal words in Romeo and Juliet back in the late 1500s and we all had to read them in school and watch a litany of redo's on the big screen. But regardless of how the question has been answered in literature, now we must answer that question in practice.

Over the last decade we've run into numerous Texas peace officers who did not know they could join and perhaps never even considered TMPA because our name contains the words, "municipal police."

Corporal Howard Potter of DPS in Temple recently met with one of our field representatives and said, "I had no idea we could join. I saw the 'municipal' in the name and thought it was just for municipal guys." In another recent example, a field representative was discussing our programs and benefits to several county deputies where TMPA has a few members but not majority. When our field rep asked them why they thought we didn't have more members considering all the issues they have right now, one simply pointed to the "M" in our name.

In addition, legislators, their staffers, local government leaders, and the media constantly turn to us for the "municipal cop" opinion without realizing that we, in fact, represent a significant number of Texas peace officers that are not municipal cops.

"At the capitol everything is best known by its acronym, so in thinking about what 'TMPA' means I paused to consider the words behind the letters. In particular, the second word, 'municipal.' Senator Hegar represents a largely rural and suburban district, yet it is home to hundreds of TMPA members including many county officers, so I can definitely see that there may be a need for a more inclusive name," said Pete Winckler, Legislative Aide to State Senator Glenn Hegar of Katy.

Lastly, our competitors regularly use our name against us when recruiting or trying to retain members in county or state agencies. Though not even remotely true, with the lilt of a snake oil salesman, they say, "those guys only care about the municipal cops," or "you can't join them, they represent municipal cops." That message is not hard for someone with limited knowledge of TMPA, what we do, or who we represent to believe. After all, our name says it all.

TMPA board members, staff, and TMPA members witness the legitimate confusion almost daily and

we subsequently speculate on how many members we would have if not for the natural impediment of our name. When I started my law enforcement career at UT Arlington, I shopped around for legal protection and representation. I found TMPA, but as a state police officer working at a university, I did not think I could join. I went with the other guys until I went to work at Plano and heard about TMPA again. Once I joined TMPA I learned about the organization's mission, legislative agenda, interest in the individual cop, and superior legal. I also learned that I could have been a member while at UTA. That was two years of membership lost to a name.

Now our organization, representing nearly 17,000 Texas peace officers, is a diverse and colorful cross section of Texas law enforcement. We got here through hard work, the dedication of our TMPA leaders past and present and yes, our name. We have broadened every aspect of our association when it was in the best interest of Texas peace officers and it is now time to consider an even more obvious expanse. So, for TMPA the question at the moment may not be "what's in a name," but rather, "what is not in OUR name?"

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## Conference Time

*Dee Rowell, Board Member*  
*Region 10* ✉ [dee.rowell@tmpa.org](mailto:dee.rowell@tmpa.org)

It is amazing how quick this year has gone by. I hope that as we attend this conference we find everyone is better off than they were a year ago. Hopefully all of you have made your reservations for summer conference in San Antonio.



Many important items will be discussed at summer conference due to the legislative session starting in January 2011. Please give the board and staff your opinions on the various issues. If you happen to have a "hot" topic that is near and dear to you, then please let us know. There are no guarantees that the legislature will address it, but we should be aware of members' concerns. This information will allow the staff to prepare for the possibility that your concerns will be addressed during the session.

Concerning issues in Fort Worth – please watch out for each other when it comes to drinking and driving. Fort Worth PD has had more than its fair share of off-duty officers involved in DWI accidents lately. The last one, unfortunately, involved an officer driving his personal vehicle into a residence. Luck had it that no one was killed. We, as brother and sisters, must step up and take care of each other. We have to take away keys, be the designated driver, or even pay for the cab so that our fellow officers arrive home alive. Gone are the days of stopping a fellow officer and giving that officer a ride home instead of an arrest. The responsibility is on all of us to take care of each other.



# TMPA PAC Report

*Lon Craft, Past President and  
Chairman of TMPA-PAC* ✉ [lon.craft@tmpa.org](mailto:lon.craft@tmpa.org)

Greetings to All,

I hope this finds you and your families in good health. I would like to remind everyone that summer means CONFERENCE and this year is the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual TMPA Conference. In 1950, peace officers from around the State got together to form this Association primarily for a voice at the state Capitol. Sixty-one years later that need is still as strong today as it was back then. The 2011 Legislative session will start in January and your Public Affairs team is working tirelessly to put together a legislative agenda that we feel will promote and benefit our noble calling. So all of you need to come to conference and be a part of process.

It seems to me that our collective voice in Austin, as well as in Washington D.C., it is important

now more than ever. There have been many recent instances where politicians have meddled in the affairs of the State, and have caused more paperwork and issues than are warranted. Unfortunately it causes more work for the average cop on the beat and allows criminals more leeway. I, for one, am tired of coddling crooks. Your support of TMPA PAC is vital to help stop the hazards and road blocks that are placed in front of us each session. Without your support it becomes difficult to stop the liberal, crybaby issues that do more to support criminal activity than stop it. SO PLEASE help us help you by supporting the TMPA PAC.

Stop by the TMPA web site and take a look at the listed legislative agenda, then send us your thoughts or comments on those issues.

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# A Few Thoughts of My Friendship with John Cunningham, Past President of TMPA



*Bill Elkin, Past President, 1988*

John Cunningham passed away at his home in Alvarado, Texas on May 19, 2010, at the age of 83 years.

First and foremost, John loved his wife Alice, who preceded him in death, very intently, and was always there to protect her from every adversity that my have presented itself. I recall watching them dance together at many TMPA Conferences; like poetry in motion.

John loved having been a policeman, and he was extremely proud of his service on the Fort Worth Police Department, having spent 30 years with the department and retiring at the rank of Lieutenant.

John loved the Texas Municipal Police Association and was President in 1977. He took extreme pride in the fact that he and Alice never missed an annual summer conference until most recently, when circumstance intervened. He could always be counted on for his dedication to TMPA and his willingness to serve in any capacity for the benefit of the organization. At the conferences he enjoyed talking with police officers from other departments, and discussed the many mutual problems and experiences they both had during their respective careers.

John and I had a very common thread, but with some slight differences. We both went to work at our respective departments (he in Ft. Worth and I in Houston) in the mid-fifties. He was 6 years older than me, but I became a Houston Police Officers about 2 years before he went to work for the Ft. Worth PD, so we would banter back and forth that although he was older than me, I was a member of TMPA longer than he was. He was president before me, but I followed as soon as I could. One glaring fact however, became apparent: we both loved having received the title of "Past President."

John always presented himself as a gentleman, and had a calming effect in any situation. He was a "peacemaker" of the highest order.

In my reflections of John, I think of two passages from the Bible:

*Matthew, 5:9*

*"Blessed are the peacemaker,  
for they will be called the sons  
of God."*

and

*II Timothy, 4:7*

*"I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, I have  
kept the faith."*

John was faithful always!

Good-bye John!



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# LEADRS

## Law Enforcement Advanced DUI/DWI Reporting System

Texas LEADRS is currently in talks with CrimeCog and Tyler Incode, both are records management systems (RMS) used by numerous law enforcement agencies statewide, about integrating their systems with Texas LEADRS. Currently over 35 agencies statewide are using CrimeCog as their RMS. CrimeCog is a web based application that allows for improved data integration and sharing throughout the justice community, from police to courts to parole. Just as LEADRS does, CrimeCog cuts data entry time by allowing its users to utilize their law enforcement records, jail management, and attorney case management modules which allow for easy data sharing. Over 100 agencies statewide are currently using Tyler Incode as their RMS. Law enforcement information is maintained in a central database that allows easy integration with mapping, data analysis, and field reporting tools, and provides customizable reporting features

that produce professional and court-presentable documents. We are very excited about these integrations, and are always looking for ways to make LEADRS an even more appealing program to law enforcement agencies across the state of Texas.

On May 21st Texas LEADRS welcomed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens, as they mandated the use of LEADRS statewide for all BWI/DWI arrests. With the statewide implementation we have added about 500 new users to the Texas LEADRS program. This comes at a very crucial time before the first major boating holiday (Memorial Day). As the summer draws near, the lakes and waterways become a popular destination for many Texans. We look forward to partnering with the Texas Game Wardens to keep the Texas lakes and waterways safer for all Texans during these summer months.

LEADRS was developed and is maintained through a partnership of TXDOT and TMPA. You can find more information available at <http://texas.public.leadrs.org>. Please contact us for any questions by email [dwhelp@tmpa.org](mailto:dwhelp@tmpa.org) or by phone 1-800-848-2088.

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## Police Traffic Services (PTS)

With the Labor Day holiday quickly approaching we would like to remind everyone that registration for the Labor Day Impaired Driving Mobilization incentive program is now open. If your agency does not currently have a TxDOT FY10 grant, then we encourage your participation in partnering with the Texas Department of Transportation and helping us make roadways safer during this holiday period. The incentive period runs from August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration information is available at [www.buckleuptexas.com](http://www.buckleuptexas.com). We all know that along with the Labor Day holiday comes increased traffic on Texas roadways. It will take a joint effort, but with your help we can make Texas roadways safer for all travelers.





# Local News

*Kevin F. Lawrence, Deputy Executive Director*

✉ [kevin@tmpa.org](mailto:kevin@tmpa.org)

## Welcome Home, Garland

Effective February 1st the Garland FOP Lodge officially affiliated with TMPA. Local President Tony Godwin and the rest of the Board of Directors looked long and hard at various options before recommending this move to their members. I will not presume to speak for them, as I am sure this has been announced several times by now. I just wanted to welcome them back to TMPA.

## Orange PD

We are pleased and flattered to announce that the Orange Municipal Police Association also recently voted to come home to TMPA. Local board members Eric Ellison, Paul Arceneaux, and Robert Campbell, along with most of the other Orange PD officers, met several times with our representatives before making this move. We almost immediately began the process of re-negotiating their collective bargaining agreement.

## Mission PD

The Mission Police Association was recently recognized by the City Commission as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for Mission PD for the purposes or meet and confer negotiations. The association and the city plan to start meeting in June. Congratulations to local President Dago Chavez and his board members for their hard work.

## Port Neches

The first deposition in this case was completed on March 9th. Afterward TMPA General Counsel Randy Doubrava and I struck up a conversation with the City Manager and the City Attorney. That conversation was quite informative and led to a resuming of the negotiations. The lawsuit is still pending, but at least we are talking again.

And, on May 8th more than 80% of the voters of Port Neches approved civil service for the police officers. None of us can remember any referendum in history having a margin of victory that large. Congratulations to President Clint Nichols and all the officers at PNPd.

## Weslaco

I don't even know what to say about Weslaco. The arbitrator agreed with us about the violations of the contract. The corporal who had been promoted to assistant chief was reduced back to corporal. He then filed for a temporary restraining order in County Court. The request was denied. He then filed the same motion in District Court. It was also denied. His suit was later dismissed altogether.

The chief who had been appointed last July resigned in early May. An interim was appointed and the city is now searching for a new chief.

Local President Alvino Flores and a large group of officers worked tirelessly in the City Commission elections this past May, endorsing three candidates. Every candidate endorsed by the Weslaco Municipal Police Union won their elections (including a new Mayor for the City of Weslaco)!!!

Congratulations to the Weslaco Municipal Police Union and to the City of Weslaco for taking the necessary steps for a positive change!

## Other Contract Negotiations

Contract negotiations will also be taking place this year at San Benito PD, McAllen PD, Edinburg PD, Galveston PD, Groves PD, and Balcones Heights PD.

## National Police Week

In May my wife and I (along with Mitch Landry) attended the annual police week ceremonies in Washington. Words cannot possibly describe the emotional gamut we went through. So I will only say this – GO. If only once in your lifetime, go to that event. It will help put every other aspect of your life into a whole new perspective.

## Membership

Between January 19th and May 24th we processed 1,281 new member applications, which brought total active memberships to almost 17,000, plus over 1,800 retirees.

## A Hero Rides Away

Any of you who attended a TMPA conference between 1957 and 2008, got a chance to meet a stately gentleman by the name of John Cunningham. John retired as a lieutenant after 30 years with Ft. Worth PD. During his career, and after his retirement, John and his wife Alice were mainstays in TMPA – as evidence by the fact that they attended more than fifty consecutive conferences. He was president of TMPA in 1977, but he was a mentor and confidante to many of us for years after that.

John had been in the failing health the last couple of years, and Alice passed away last year – but not before they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

John was a hero who will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

# Child Abuse & Neglect Training Program for Law Enforcement

*Nicole Martinez, Program Manager*

✉ [nicole.martinez@tmpa.org](mailto:nicole.martinez@tmpa.org)

The Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA) is pleased to announce the Training & Research Institute for Professional Law Enforcement (TRIPLE) has recently been awarded a grant from the Children's Justice Act (CJA) of Texas to improve law enforcements response to child abuse and neglect. CJA provides grants to States to improve the investigation, prosecutions, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

A rise in child deaths related to abuse and neglect has been recognized in Texas. There have also been significant changes among Texas laws, technology, and investigative techniques. Officers are in need of adequate, affordable, and up-to-date training on how to better respond to and investigate child abuse and neglect. TMPA & TRIPLE are prepared to develop the most up-to-date training for our Texas officers to better handle such crimes, while ensuring full victim restoration.

Over the years, it has been proven that the use of multidisciplinary teams comprised of professionals

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from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical, and other related

fields to combat child abuse allow for full victim restoration and successful prosecutions. However, most multidisciplinary teams such as Child Advocacy Centers are located in urban areas. This new training will provide rural officers with the tools needed to create a multidisciplinary team in their communities.

TMPA and TRIPLE are working diligently on developing an advance child abuse training for Texas Peace Officers. The goal is to improve law enforcement's response to child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, by administering a comprehensive and free training program that combines an overview of effective response to the abuse, with instruction on the benefits of a multidisciplinary team approach.

If your agency is interested in hosting a class, please contact Nicole Martinez at [nicole.martinez@tmpa.org](mailto:nicole.martinez@tmpa.org) or 512.454.8900.

# SAFVIC Welcomes New Instructors

*Jennifer Gonzalez, Program Manager*

✉ [jennifer@tmpa.org](mailto:jennifer@tmpa.org)

The SAFVIC program held the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Instructor course on February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and certified 9 new instructors. SAFVIC is pleased to welcome the following instructors to our team:

*Raul Serrata*, Pharr PD  
*Michael Williams*, Fort Worth PD  
*Chadley Krenek*, Bay City PD  
*John Wilkerson*,  
Knox County Sheriff's Office  
*Alberto Ponce*, Weslaco PD  
*Gregory Pratt*, Beaumont PD  
*Daniel Walden*, Donna ISD PD  
*Katherine Smith*,  
University of Texas System Police  
*David Welsh*,  
Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

The SAFVIC program also held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Telecommunication Professionals Instructor course on April 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, and certified 9 new instructors. This 'Train the Trainer' course was instructed by Patt Hollingsworth and Sherry Decker of NCTCOG, Jana McCown with First Assistant District Attorney at Williamson County District Attorney's Office, and and Vangie Barefoot with SANE Nurse and Coordinator of the Williamson County Sexual Assault Response Team. SAFVIC is pleased to welcome the following instructors to our team:

*Laura Blackburn*,  
Brazos County 9-1-1 District  
*Harry Goodan*, Longview PD  
*Judy Duff*,  
Southwest Regional Communication Center  
*April Bryant*, McKinney PD  
*Donna Ennis*, Donna PD  
*Laura Litzerman*,  
NCTCOG  
*Jane'e Garrigan*,  
Smith County Sheriff's Office Communications  
*Stacey Smith*, Tomball PD  
*Jean Smith*, Victoria PD

## In Other SAFVIC News

The Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigators Course (SAFVIC) Program currently has three courses available to bring your agency. All SAFVIC courses are free and we will send instructors to your location at no cost to you. SAFVIC offers the following courses throughout Texas:

- **SAFVIC for Law Enforcement**

This 24-hour course covers crucial aspects for law enforcement's response to crimes of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The course also focuses on providing the tools needed to identify community-based resources to assist law enforcement's efforts to investigate and prevent such crimes. This course is also available in stand alone 1-day/8-hour modules.

- **SAFVIC for Cybercrimes for Law Enforcement**

This 8-hour course is an introduction to the high-tech tools used to perpetrate family violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes against adult victims. The course will provide officers with training on how technology is being used to perpetrate crimes and the impact of these actions on the victim. Additionally, students will also learn how to properly seize and preserve electronic evidence

- **SAFVIC for Telecommunication Professionals (SAFVIC for TCPs)**

This 8-hour course consists of a comprehensive curriculum covering crucial aspects of telecommunication professionals' response to family violence, sexual assault, and stalking calls.

To register for any of these courses, or for additional resources to assist in investigating sexual assault and family violence cases and view our quarterly eNewsletter, please visit the SAFVIC website at [www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org). If your agency is interested in hosting any of the SAFVIC courses in your area please contact: [brooke.hinojosa@safvic.org](mailto:brooke.hinojosa@safvic.org).



# Training Division Developments

Mike Gomez, Training Coordinator ✉ [mike.gomez@tmpa.org](mailto:mike.gomez@tmpa.org)



TMPA has long believed that educating officers promotes professionalism in law enforcement. This is a mission we have always striven for that makes TMPA's members stand out among others. Over the past six months we have really amped up our training division and are focused on providing you with the most comprehensive training available in the state. We believe that being a well trained officer will not only help you better serve the public, but will allow you to enjoy a safer career in law enforcement.

When the opportunity arose for me to become TMPA's Training Coordinator, I knew it was the position I wanted. Training has always been a priority to me and I enjoy the opportunity to reach out to our members through better education. What I offer this position is 16 years experience working in the field, 12 years teaching law enforcement courses to peace officers around the state, and I served on TCLEOSE committee that revised and updated the new Field Training Instructor curriculum. As Training Coordinator my duties range from administrative to teaching in the classroom; I am responsible for evaluating new instructors, developing and approving course curriculum, and coordinating training around the state. However, it takes a team to meet the training needs of our nearly 17,000 members. Last December we hired a part-time assistant to help with logging training hours, maintaining our filing system, and providing you with certificates.

We also heavily rely on the contacts and relationships our Field Representatives develop throughout the state that help promote our training.

As we develop the Training Division it enables us to better serve you. Since October we have reported 14,000 contact hours and have held approximately 80 classes ranging from Legislative Update to Understanding DNA Evidence. We have also been working diligently to update our online capabilities. From the newly improved "Comprehensive Training" tab at [www.tmpa.org](http://www.tmpa.org), you may view the courses we offer, sign-up for a class and read instructor bios. We currently offer approximately 45 different classes on our calendar. We hope to develop the training page into a full service training site, providing webinars and on-line payments.

TMPA's Training Division strives to bring training directly to you and your fellow officers. Our network of statewide instructors allows us to provide the most comprehensive training available at a lower tuition rate than most other training providers. Feel free to contact me with any training inquiries at [mike@tmpa.org](mailto:mike@tmpa.org) or [training@tmpa.org](mailto:training@tmpa.org).



On April 21st, TMPA hosted an Association leadership training session in Mission, Texas. Over 30 local association leaders from the South Texas area were in attendance. Leaders from the Cities of Weslaco, Mission, McAllen, Edinburg, Pharr, and Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department. TMPA Field representatives John Sierega and Mike Zellers taught local leaders about Civil Service, Garity rights, what to include in a Bill of Rights for bargaining groups, and using the TMPA legal plan; while Attorney Bobby Garcia covered how to prepare for Internal Affairs interrogations.

# Upcoming Up Training Courses

## *Ethics in Law Enforcement*

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
7/1/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$25/\$25

## *IPMBA Basic Police Cyclist Course*

Leander Police Department  
7/5 – 7/7 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$125/\$125

## *State and Federal Legislative Update* (3181)

Leander Police Department  
7/8/10 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. No Cost

## *State and Federal Legislative Update* (3181)

7/8/10 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. No Cost

## *Background Investigation*

TMPA State Office  
7/9/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$50/\$60

## *Report Writing*

Bandera Sheriff's Office  
7/14/10 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$20/\$35

## *The Collection and Preservation of DNA Evidence at a Crime Scene*

Eastfield Collge  
7/14 – 7/16 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$150/\$175

## *Legal Issues for Supervisors*

TMPA State Office  
7/16/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$50/\$60

## *Document Fraud Detection/ Document Validation Training*

Bexar County S.O. Academy  
7/20/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$130/\$130

## *Report Writing*

Bandera Sheriff's Office  
7/27/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$20/\$35

## *TABC Law-Patrol/CID*

TBA  
7/29/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$50/\$60

## *Report Writing*

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
8/3/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$25/\$25

## *Understanding DNA Evidence*

Eastfield Collge  
8/4/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$150/\$175

## *Officer Involved Shooting Investigation*

Katy ISD Law Enforcement Center  
8/5 – 8/6 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$150/\$175

## *Advanced Internal Affairs*

Katy ISD Law Enforcement Center  
8/23 – 8/24 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$150/\$175

## *SFST Update Leander Police Department*

8/26/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$25/\$35

## *Child Physical Abuse: What's new? What's Not?*

Kerrville  
8/27/10 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. No Cost

## *Basic Hostage Negotiation Course*

Immigration Building  
8/30 – 9/3 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$200/\$250

## *Search Warrant Writing*

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
9/14/10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$25/\$25

# Annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament

On Saturday May 8, 2010 TMPA Field Representatives Ray Wilkinson and Tracy Chance had the pleasure of supporting the Calhoun County Law Enforcement Association with their annual saltwater fishing tournament at Bay Front Park in Port Lavaca. 18 teams were on hand to compete for great prizes. \$2,500 was raised to support local charities and scholarship funds for Calhoun County High School students. Tracy had the opportunity to spend a little time on the water with Sgt. David Hall, who just happens to be a professional fishing guide. The Calhoun County Law Enforcement Association members are not resting for long, they are already planning additional events to raise money to assist the charities in Calhoun County.

From left to right starting with those standing are: Renette Todd, Delores Drake, Richard Parish, Vickki Maddux, David and Donna Hall, Mary Bonuz, Steven Perez, Tina Aleman, Clyde Syma, Tracy Chance TMPA Field Representative, Steve De La Cruz, and Robert Harvey. Kneeling is: Myles Thompson, Jesse Alvarez, George Aleman, and Ray Wilkinson TMPA Field Representative.





# Instructor Spotlight: Mike Bacon

Trooper Bacon has been in law enforcement for 13 years. He is a former Military Policeman with the US Army where his responsibilities included patrol, desk sergeant, criminal investigations, and supervision of a criminal investigation team. For the past five years, he has served as a trooper in the Anderson, Blanco, and Gillespie Counties in Central Texas. He has experience teaching law enforcement courses and speaking to the community about underage drinking and driving. Trooper Bacon has been certified to administer Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and has been awarded the DPS Commander's Award for DWI Enforcement.

In April 2010, Trooper Bacon joined the newly formed Youth Community Assistance Program in his area. Their goal is to provide an alternative location and activities for youth in the community to avoid drugs and alcohol. Each month, their organization holds an activity for middle school and high school students to attend and participate in a themed event. During one of these recent events, a group of students reported that they attended after leaving a birthday party because another student arrived with drugs and alcohol. The Youth Community Assistance Program recently leased an empty building in town that will be remodeled and turned into a permanent location for the youth activities center. For more information on this coalition, or to contact Trooper Bacon directly, please call 512-460-9926.

For more information on the F.R.I.D.A.Y. Program or any of our instructors, please contact us at [fridayinfo@tmpa.org](mailto:fridayinfo@tmpa.org) or toll free at 1-800-848-2088 x 207. [www.texasfriday.org](http://www.texasfriday.org)



◀ Texas Municipal Police Association was invited to help with the Missouri City Police Officers Association fundraiser on June 12th to benefit Officer Vargas and his family. TMPA Board Members Trae Morris and Aaron Crowell along with Field Reps. Leighton Guarnere and Buddy Rector grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for the event to help pay medical bills for the Vargas family.

Left to Right; Board Members Trae Morris and Aaron Crowell, Officer Vargas, MCPOA President Donna Quackenbush and Field Rep. Leighton Guarnere. Photo by Buddy Rector

TMPA and the Board of SLEAMC (Sheriffs Law Enforcement Association of McLennan County) meet at the organizations first annual golf tourney to promote well being of SLEAMC and discuss local political support to strengthen the voice of officers in their local community.

Left to Right; Dwayne Motigney, Mike Garrett, Thomas Brown, Noel Johnson, Mike Graham, Steve Donaldson, John Sierega ▶



# Exceptional Officers Receive State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Awards

*Meredith McKinney, M.S. Public Affairs*

✉ [meredith.mckinney@tmpa.org](mailto:meredith.mckinney@tmpa.org)



TMPA is a direct reflection of its members. This fact resonates even more as we continue to grow in membership and services.

Every year the state of Texas recognizes exceptional officers at the Capitol. We would like to take a moment to recognize all TMPA members that received a 2009 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for their incredible service. Of the 24 officers recognized by the state of Texas, 13 are TMPA member officers; we couldn't be more proud.

## Officers Recognized for Acts of Public Service:

*Officer Mark W. Calvert* with Grand Prairie Police Department

*Officer Stephen W. Burres III* with Irving Police Department

*Officer John C. McDonald* with the New Braunfels Police Department

## Officers Recognized for Acts of Valor:

*Officers Nathan S. McDonald* with the Grand Prairie Police Department

*Arson Investigator Charles R. "Randy" Willis* with the Grand Prairie Fire Department

*Trooper John D. Cox* with the Texas Department of Public Safety

*Officer Roberto Barrionuevo* with the Pasadena Police Department

*Deputy Craig T. Davis* with Waller County Sheriff's Office

*Officer Joshua L. Ridings* with the Pasadena Police Department

*Deputy William J. Briggs* with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office

*Officer Dustin Shechter* with the Pasadena Police Department

*Officer Erik Grasse* with the Georgetown Police Department

*Officer James G. Putman II* with the Graham Police Department

Congratulation again to these amazing law enforcement professionals!

If you know of any officer you believe should be nominated for one of these prestigious awards, please contact me via phone or email [meredith.mckinney@tmpa.org](mailto:meredith.mckinney@tmpa.org) or 512-454-8900.

Thank you for all you do, and be safe out there!

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# TMPA Believes that Information is Power

*Meredith McKinney,  
M.S. Public Affairs*



TMPA believes that information is power, and having access to information empowers law enforcement professionals to serve their communities effectively while staying safe. In an effort to keep our membership up-to-date on issues which may directly impact their jobs, TMPA sends out an “eBlast” to all membership every 4-6 weeks. These emails contain valuable information which we believe will assist cops across the state. Information in recent eBlasts include:

- Free and discounted TMPA TCLEOSE training
- Information from DPS regarding changing policy (ex. Gun Shot Residue kits)
- Crime Lab reports and procedures
- Legislation impacting law enforcement
- Police sponsored events
- Scholarship information specific for children of police

The above is only a small sample of the types of information disseminated through the TMPA eBlasts. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, please email [meredith.mckinney@tmpa.org](mailto:meredith.mckinney@tmpa.org) or call our head quarters 512-454-8900, and request to be added to our email database.

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Members of the Orange PD who participated in the Guns and Hoses basketball game against the Orange Fire Dept. to raise money for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School Project Graduation. Field Rep. Buddy Rector was on hand to support the Guns who recently joined TMPA.

# Letters to TMPA

Kevin I want to take the time to thank the TMPA organization for all your help in our time of need. Greg Cagle responded immediately to our deputies on the day that one of ours was shot by a bank robber in Fort Bend County. TMPA had representatives that showed up at the hospital and provided a hotel for his parents, who were from out of town, while we were all busy putting all the pieces together. I can not say enough times how thankful we are in Law Enforcement to have an organization such as TMPA to look after all our needs in critical times.

Thanks again,

—Bill Butera, President  
Fort Bend County Deputy Sheriff's Association



Kevin, I just wanted to write a few lines and express out thanks to TMPA for all they have done for us. We started our association back in December of 2008 with a handful of officers along representatives of TMPA assisting us with getting started. Now we are over 150 members strong and adding new members each day. Without TMPA's help it would not have been possible for us to have come this far. TMPA's legal team Randy Doubrava and Lance Wyatt, did an excellent job speaking to our County Commissioners on the issue of Civil Service. They were very professional and had the attention of the Commissioners during the presentation. Although we do not have Civil Service at this time, I am sure we will in the very near future. TMPA's help with our Golf Tournament was awesome. Special thanks to Kevin Lawrence, Noel Johnson, John Sierega, Jaclyn Kerbow and Sgt Thomas Brown for there support. Noel Johnson and John Sierega are always there when I have question and willing to help in anyway they can. I could go on forever on how you guys have benefited in the rapid growth of our association. We look forward to working with TMPA in the future. If we can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

—Mike Garrett, President  
Sheriffs Law Enforcement Association of  
McLennan County

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*TMPA Field Representative Dick Brock assisted the Orange County Sheriffs Department with a Fundraiser for Suzanne Harbison. Suzanne is the wife of Orange County Sheriffs Office Correctional Officer Greg Harbison. Suzanne is battling cancer.*



*Picture of the twenty graduates of the Lamar Police Academy in Beaumont with TMPA Field Representative Leighton Guarnere. They graduated last week and are awaiting state testing. Picture by Field Rep. Buddy Rector.*

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**John Haring has been named as Texas Super Lawyer for 2009 and Christopher Livingston has been named Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star for 2009 by Law & Politics magazine!!**

**Robert C. Lyon, Bob Gorsky and Mark Gilbert have been named as Texas Super Lawyers again for 2009 by Law & Politics magazine!**

***We are now on Twitter! Go to [www.twitter.com/LyonGorsky](http://www.twitter.com/LyonGorsky)***

**NO consultation fee for TMPA members and their families.**

Robert C. Lyon is a member of Robert Lyon & Associates, P.C. and is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law and John Haring is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

All other lawyers in the firm are not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.