THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION
KEY ISSUES

Vol XXV, No. 3

Fall 2021

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Fall 2021 Edition

Past President's Passage

Greetings TJA Members,

What a great and unusual conference in Galveston! It is a testament to the dedication of the Board, the instructors, the attendees, as well as the Convention Center Staff that we were able to host the 2021 JMI Conference. As if COVID wasn't enough, add into it Hurricane Nicholas and it was definitely a conference to remember. As has become the expectation, there was great training organized by 1st Vice President Becky Caffey, 2nd Vice President Edwardo Jackson and the Training Committee. The speakers were excellent with great topics and persevered even through a power outage. The Entertainment Committee did an excellent job with the corn hole tournament, game night and karaoke. A special thanks to retired Sheriff Daniel Law for his DJ services.

As we approach the Holiday Season, I would like to wish everyone a blessed and safe remainder of the year.

Stay Safe and Best Wishes!

Dan Corbin
Past President, Texas Jail Association

Message from the President

Greetings to all!

As I am writing this letter, I hope everyone is doing well. I want to start by sending a huge thank you to our board for their work at the JMI Conference in Galveston, September 13-17, 2021. As most of you know, I was unable to attend due to my wife Charlene and myself having Covid. Vice President Becky Caffey stepped right in and took the reins, as well as all the board members. From what I have heard the first couple of days were pretty rough with the hurricane and no power. Thank you to all who toughed it out and stayed on the island. The conference was a huge success, due to the hard work of your board and the continued dedication of our members to work through challenging situations. We awarded training hours to 304 members that week!

Now let us look forward to the 36th Annual Conference, May 2-6, 2022 in beautiful San Marcos, Texas.

Make your reservations now at the Embassy Suites. We are looking forward to starting new traditions at our new venue with the same great training we have been providing for years. Second Vice President Edwardo Jackson is working on scheduling speakers for the conference with his Training Committee. The Annual Jerry Baggs Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Monday, May 2nd at the Kissing Tree Golf Club. We will host classes on Monday as well for those that come in early. Opening Ceremonies will be on Tuesday and our formal business meeting and dinner will be on Thursday. We have also scheduled some fantastic entertainment for after the business meeting during our family game night and final social event.

Nominations are now being accepted for the TJA Board of Directors, as well as our annual awards. Check out the website for more information: www.texasjailassociation.com/nominations.html or www.texasjailassociation.com/awards.html.

I look forward to seeing everyone in San Marcos. See ya down the road.

Ricky Armstrong

Ricky Armstrong
President, Texas Jail Association

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Membership Report

Despite another hurricane, the Texas Jail Association had a successful conference! It just goes to show how resilient our association really is. I am reminded that every great story has challenges that were overcome, and I will always remember the 2021 Jail Management Issues Conference! Two hurricanes, and one pandemic later, our membership remains strong at 1211 Professional Members, 32 Associate Members, and 31 Business Members!

I want to thank the membership committee for their ideas and continuing effort to strengthen our membership. I want to thank you all, our TJA family, for your continued support. Without your membership, there would not be an association. I am very proud of TJA and look forward to seeing everyone at San Marcos!

Johnny Jaquess, 3rd Vice President Collin County 806-549-8001	Terry McGraw, Director Collin County Retired
Levi Vance, Director Tom Green County 325-659-6597	Ryan Braus, Member-at-Large Lubbock County 806-620-3929
Rowdee Edwards, Director Hockley County 806-685-1745	Cody Greinke, Member-at-Large Guadalupe County 830-433-0242

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS		
PROFESSIONAL – 1211	ASSOCIATE – 32	BUSINESS – 31

BLOOD DRIVE

HOSTED BY THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCATION & SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS

May 3rd, 2022 • San Marcos, TX

The Blood Drive will take place at the 36th Annual TJA Conference. **All Donors are entered in a drawing for $100 Cash.**

TEXANS HELPING TEXANS

Training Report

Another conference has come and gone with great success. Although it was done partially in the "dark," it turned out great! A big appreciation goes out to the membership for attending the JMI Conference in Galveston and being the best part of the conference. You weathered the storm, LITERALLY! The 2020-2021 TJA Training Committee, chaired by current 1st Vice President Beck Caffey did a fantastic job of putting the training together for this conference. A big thank you to Sharese Hurst and the CMIT staff for their endless toil and constant presence.

This upcoming training year we look forward to getting back on track with regional training, and to provide the best training and information on our current trends and hot topics in corrections. The unfortunate bout with COVID put a damper on things for us this past year.

We, the 2021-2022 Training Committee look forward to bringing an awesome lineup of classes for 36th Annual Conference in May, and another great one in Galveston next year. We appreciate feedback and input from the TJA membership. So, use the app to evaluate the classes and please let the committee know which classes you would recommend, and which classes were not as valuable. Your feedback and input assist us greatly in providing the quality training the Association strives for. If we can be of assistance, please let us know.

<table>
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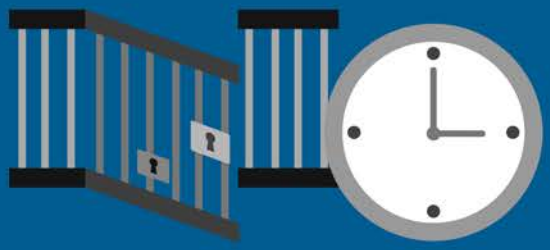

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ELECTION TIME IS COMING! We need good people from around the state to continue the tradition of dedication and commitment set by current and past officers and board members. Become involved and submit a nomination now. The TJA Nomination Committee will be selecting a slate of candidates for the following positions:

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

The person elected will serve progressively through the vice presidential chairs to become your president. Only voting members of the Association who are in good standing shall be eligible to hold office. The member must have completed at least one full year of service on the Board of Directors to be eligible for this position. The member elected to the position serves as the Membership Chairman and is responsible for the recruiting and retention of our membership along with other executive duties.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – TWO POSITIONS

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Association. The President shall be the presiding officer at all Board meetings. The Board shall be empowered to authorize expenditures for the general business of the Association, authorize additional expenditures, and set appropriate charges. The Board may enter into any agreement or contract with other personnel or organizations for the advancement of the Association. Members elected to this position shall serve a three-year term in office.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations with an attached resume, picture, and letter of endorsement from the agency head are to be returned to: TJA Headquarters, Attn: Sharese Hurst, Box 2296, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296.

Items may also be emailed to **sharese@shsu.edu.**

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. Individuals must be professional members in good standing as specified in the by-laws at the time of nomination.
2. Nominating Committee members shall not be considered for office.
3. Only hard copies of nominations will be considered. Self-nominations are acceptable.
4. Office being sought shall be identified in the nomination.
5. Endorsement of the affected agency head must accompany the nomination. Nominations lacking the agency head's endorsement will not be considered for office.*
6. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the by-laws. Nominations must be received by March 1, 2022.

All nominations shall contain the following for consideration: Full Name, Current Occupation, Official Title, Business Address and Phone Number, a brief biographical sketch (not to exceed 150 words), letter of endorsement from the agency head, and a picture to be included on the ballot. Nominations received after the deadline cannot be considered.

**Successful nominees should have the support of their Sheriff because the positions require significant time and travel away from the office. The duties may include teaching throughout the State, conference preparation, speaker introduction, class moderation, registration, reconciliation of monies, and inventory. If you possess the skillset, knowledge, dedication and commitment to service, TJA is looking for you. Be an integral part of an Association whose mission is advancing the professional career of corrections.*

All packets will be sent to the Nomination Committee Chair for verification of eligibility and distribution to committee members.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Becky Caffey, ***1st Vice President***
Brown County Sheriff's Office

Edwardo Jackson, ***2nd Vice President***
Travis County Sheriff's Office

Les Karnes, ***Member-at-Large***
Brown County Sheriff's Office

Kathleen Pokluda
Williamson County Sheriff's Office

AWARD NOMINATIONS

ACCEPTING NOW!

The Texas Jail Association is accepting nominations for Detention Officer of the Year (Professional Service and Valor), the Hall of Fame, and the Jerry Baggs Leadership Award. The purpose of these awards is to recognize exceptional service provided by an individual in the field of county jail operations. How often have you been told that you're doing a good job? Positive reinforcement and recognition of a job well done encourages staff to continue this exemplary behavior. TJA encourages you to evaluate your agency and find the individual that is excelling and is deserving of recognition. Whether it is a peer, a subordinate, or a supervisor, there is someone who has positively impacted your agency. Their level of professionalism, es'prit de corps, dedication, loyalty and/or actions has made a difference in the field of county corrections. Now is the time for you to recognize them.

The nomination process is simple. Please complete the nomination form and submit to the Awards Committee by March 1, 2022. A person does not have to be a member of TJA; however they must be eligible for membership. These awards will be presented at the 36th Annual TJA Conference, May 2-6, 2022, in San Marcos, Texas. Recipients will receive complimentary conference registration and hotel accommodations at the Annual Training Conference. The recipients will also be presented with a commemorative plaque and will be recognized in the TJA newsletter. Any nomination must have the written endorsement of the agency head.

Nominations will be accepted for the following:

DETENTION OFFICER OF THE YEAR – PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

This award is given to an individual working in county corrections who has demonstrated a commitment to professional service at his/her agency by making outstanding contributions to county corrections that exceed basic ability and expected performance.

DETENTION OFFICER OF THE YEAR – VALOR

This award is given to an individual working in county corrections who demonstrated courage or valor in the face of danger while in the performance of his/her official duties.

HALL OF FAME AWARD

This award is a tribute to the service of an individual career of outstanding contributions to county corrections and the criminal justice system. The recipient of this award has demonstrated a dedication to the advancement of the field of county corrections.

JERRY BAGGS LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is presented to an individual employed in the field of county corrections who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in and appreciation of the field of county corrections. He or she has exhibited a sincere commitment to the professional advancement of county corrections personnel.

Please complete this form and any supporting documents by March 1, 2022.
Please describe in detail how this nominee meets the criteria for the award. Attach additional pages if needed. Attach supporting documentation such as offense reports, statements, newspaper clips, and letters of recommendation.

Person Nominated: _____

Agency: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Nominated by: _____

Title: _____

Endorsement by Agency Head: _____

Mail Form to: Texas Jail Association, Attn: Awards Committee, Correctional Management Institute Of Texas, George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296.
Nominations may also be emailed to sharese@shsu.edu.

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Award & Board Nominations are Open!

Visit www.texasjailassociation.com for more information.

Nominations Report

I want to take a moment to remind everyone that it is never too early to start thinking about participating in the Texas Jail Association and to start giving back to our profession. The Call for Nominations is open now and this is your chance to run for a position on the Board.

Serving on the Board can be hard work, but it is also a very rewarding experience. If you know someone that would represent us well, please mention it and encourage them to run. If you would like to run, but are not sure and have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Every member of the Nominating Committee is here to serve you and would be happy to discuss it with you. Please take care and stay safe.

Chair, Becky Caffey, 1st Vice President *Brown County*	Edwardo Jackson, 2nd Vice President *Travis County*
Les Karnes, Member-at-Large *Brown County*	Kathleen Pokluda *Williamson County*

By-Laws Report

The By-Laws Committee is currently reviewing the By-Laws. We will review and determine if any changes or corrections will need to be made to the existing By-Laws. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Chair, Becky Caffey, 1st Vice President *Brown County*	Les Karnes, Member-at-Large *Brown County*
Kimberly Dunn, Member-at-Large *Runnels County*	

Keefe Group

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF SERVICE DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES.

Keefe Group extends its sincere thanks to the people who keep our nation's correctional system moving forward each day—every person, at every level, working in and supporting our industry. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication and are proud to assist you every step of the way.

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THE DON

The Story of Toronto's Infamous Jail

LORNA POPLAK

THE HISTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES OF A CANADIAN JAIL

by Dan Richard Beto

Review of The Don: The Story of Toronto's Infamous Jail, by Lorna Poplak. Toronto, Ontario: Dundurn, 2021, 260 pp., CA $24.99, US $21.99 (paperback).

In the Summer 2021 edition of Key Issues, we contributed a review of Murder on the Inside: The True Story of the Deadly Riot at Kingston Penitentiary, a fascinating book by Catherine Fogarty, in which she provides a detailed account of the conditions and events leading up to the four-day riot in April 1971 at the troubled Kingston Penitentiary and the aftermath of the disturbance. Another book about a Canadian confinement facility, this one by Lorna Poplak, was released in 2021 as well and deals with the history and management of the Toronto Jail, commonly known as the Don Jail or simply "The Don" because of its location east of the Don River that flows through the city into Lake Ontario.

According to Poplak's LinkedIn profile and the biographical sketch found in The Don: The Story of Toronto's Infamous Jail, the author studied library science at the University of South Africa in Pretoria and earned a bachelor's degree with honors in French at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg before emigrating to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in 1989. She graduated with high honors in 2009 from the Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto with a Technical Communication Postgraduate Certificate. In 2017 she published her first book – Drop Dead: A Horrible History of Hanging in Canada – in which she examines the use of capital punishment during the first century of Canada's developing criminal justice system.

In her second book, the author devotes her attention to the history of "The Don," beginning in the early 1800s with its predecessor institutions and ending with its decommissioning and repurposing in the early 21st century. In the book's introduction, the author clearly describes the scope of her latest contribution to correctional literature:

> *The pages that follow are not an academic treatise on penal philosophy or Canadian correctional institutions. Instead, they tell of the struggle in one small corner of the Canadian correctional system to negotiate the complicated and often contentious relations between the jail and the city that sprang up around it. The story of Toronto's infamous Don jails raise thorny questions: How and who did the Old Don deviate so radically from the enlightened reformist principles that underpinned its architecture and original correctional practices? Did the jails protect individuals on both sides of the barred doors and windows? Did they in anyway meet the requirements of a rapidly expanding city in an ever-changing world? And what should be done with a toxic artifact once it has outlived its original function?*
>
> *In addition to bringing to light the facts behind its location and construction, The Don is an intertwining saga of the historic jail and the people who have occupied it during its one-hundred-and-fifty-plus years of existence. To quote American poet*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "All houses wherein men have lived and died are haunted houses." Many men – and women – have lived and died within the bleak precincts of the Don Jail. You will meet a large and diverse group of the spectres, both benevolent and malevolent, that haunt the unhallowed halls of this notorious place: the pitifully young and old; the guardians and the guarded; the criminal, the innocent, and the mentally afflicted.

By all accounts, Poplak has delivered – and delivered well – on the book's stated purpose. In the 27 chapters of The Don, the author devotes more than adequate attention to the following topics: the design, architecture, and construction of the jail, initially completed in 1864, and subsequent modifications; the role of politics in the criminal justice system, much of which was less than enlightened; the nature of correctional management and staffing, which was frequently found seriously wanting; conditions of the jail environment; circumstances of those confined; notorious offenders; disturbances and escapes; the administration of capital punishment by hanging; and the closing and conversion of the jail from a confinement facility to a hospital administration building.

Enhancing the quality of the book are a number of photographs and drawings as they relate to the jail's history; in addition, there is a selected bibliography and a helpful index.

This book, which held our attention, was easy to read. We are persuaded that persons – like members of the Texas Jail Association – who possess an interest in the history and management of confinement facilities, and in the social and political dynamics of a particular era, would likely enjoy reading The Don. Lorna Poplak has made a notable contribution to correctional literature with this latest book.

THE DON IS AN INTERTWINING SAGA OF THE HISTORIC JAIL AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE OCCUPIED IT DURING ITS ONE-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY PLUS YEARS OF EXISTENCE.

Dan Richard Beto, a life member of the Texas Jail Association, spent more than four decades in the criminal justice system. He is a past President of the Texas Probation Association and the National Association of Probation Executives, and was the founding Executive Director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University.

TJA President Major Ricky Armstrong presenting MaKayla Cardona the Past President Scholarship.

Past-President Scott Simonton and his youngest daughter Molly Jo Simonton Garcia being presented with the Past President Scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Visit the TJA Website for more info.

Past President's Scholarship

The Texas Jail Association offers scholarships to eligible students pursuing an academic degree at a college or university. These scholarships are provided in honor of all Past Presidents of the Texas Jail Association. The scholarships are awarded for the Spring semester and Fall semester of each year.

Deadlines
Spring 2022 Semester - December 1, 2022
Fall 2022 Semester - July 1, 2022

Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship

The Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an active member of the association that is serving his or her county in a mid-management position up to Assistant Jail Administrator. The scholarship is for tuition to a class of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA). Tuition includes all class materials, lodging, and all meals/snacks). The sending agency will be required to provide transportation for the selected participant to Huntsville.

2021 JMI CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 13–17, 2021 / GALVESTON, TEXAS

The 2021 Jail Management Issues Conference was a huge success this year! Despite a Hurricane, loss of power, and water soaked carpet, we all weathered the storm so to speak. TJA would like to thank all of the vendors who stuck it out and remained for the entire duration. We realize it wasn't the best of conditions and are grateful just the same. To all the attendees, we appreciate your participation as well. Most classes remained on schedule and had record attendance for the ones available. The one thing it seemed we could control was the banquet, and it ended up being a huge success!

Everyone had a great time playing games, socializing, singing, dancing, and even donating money for an impromptu cancer awareness fundraiser. The Cornhole Tournament was unprecedented, and we would like to thank all the winners and participants who made it such a success and look forward to many more in the future! So here's to the end of 2021 and looking forward to a much drier 2022!

Technology Report

As your Technology Committee Chairperson, I am excited to see the number of attendees using the Crowd Compass app. We are continuing to see that number rise each year. This assists us in planning for the future. The amount of interaction that took place at the JMI Conference was as follows:

Logged-in Users	Total Engagements	Total Users	Minutes Used	Sessions Viewed
268	17.1 K	371	12.5 K	3.92 k

These numbers are awesome considering all the issues we had to overcome while in Galveston. "Just Add Water" was definitely a great theme!

Your technology committee is working hard for you to keep providing the best quality app for your best experience at our future conferences. If you have any questions, or suggestions, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support,
Rowdee Edwards, TJA Director

BLOOD DRIVE

HOSTED BY THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCATION & SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS

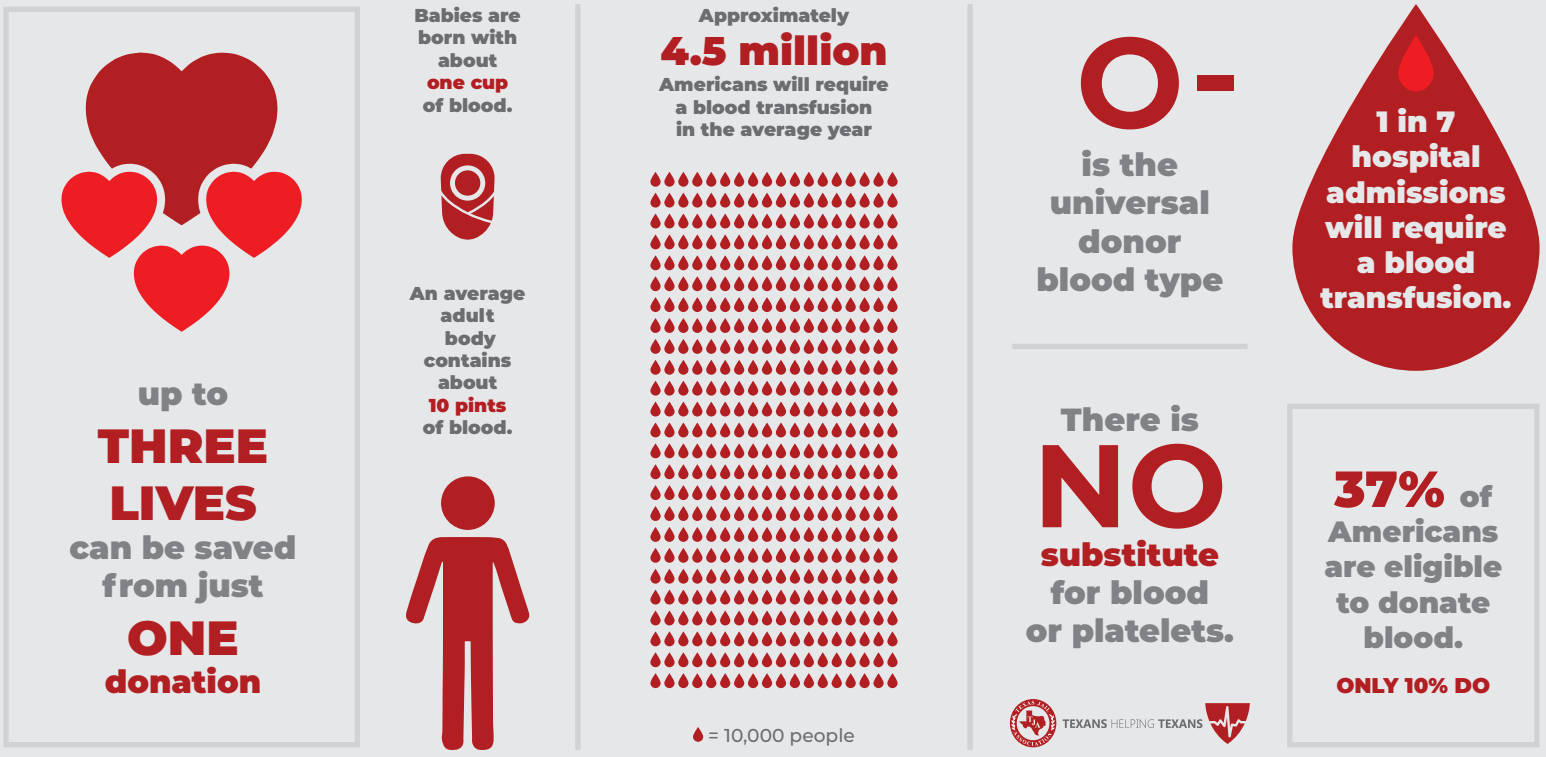
TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION DOES IT AGAIN!

This year we honored our Executive Director Sharese Hurst and named our Annual Blood Drive after her. She has been a living, working, caring example for all of us. We held three blood drives this year in her name. The first two drives were extremely well supported at the 35th Annual and Jail Management Conferences. The third occurred at the time of this report at the Mental Health Conference this year in Galveston!

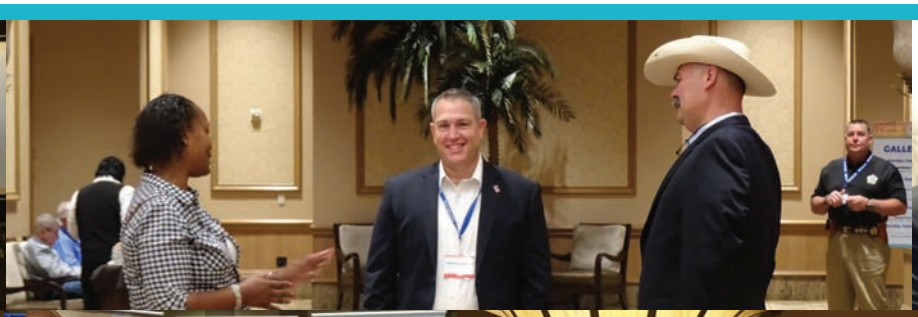
We maximized donor numbers at both events and are hoping to repeat this week.

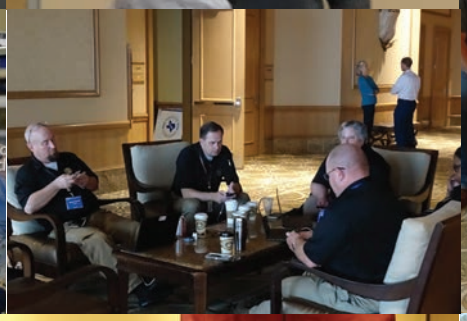
I'm so proud of our membership for rolling up their sleeves and saving lives!

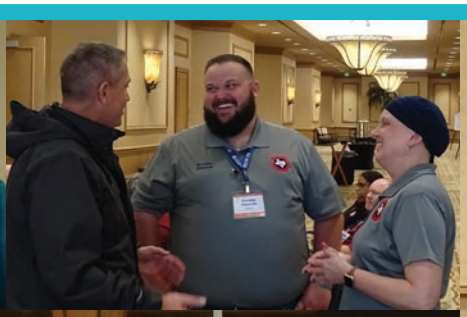
Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Quintana,
Past President
Texas Jail Association



2021 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES CONFERENCE







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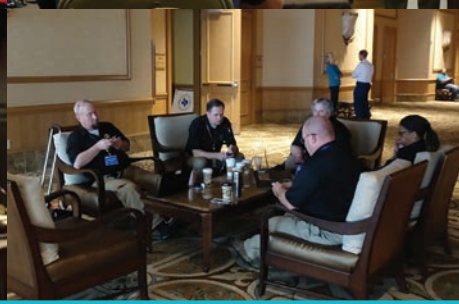

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Corporal Monica Wright

Corporal Monica Wright started with the McLennan County Jail in August 2016 after working as a supervisor at Conway Freight. In July 2021, Monica was promoted to Corporal. She has always had a passion for criminal justice and plans to continue her education. She aspires to work as an investigator or behavioral analyst. During our interview with Corporal Wright, she stated, “Days at the jail are long and unpredictable, and it is my co-workers that make this job great.” She sees the jail staff as her family and enjoys learning about their life and observing all of their different personalities.

As a Corporal, Monica feels roll call is a vital part of her day. This is her time to update the incoming staff of events that took place in a prior shift. Keeping everyone aware and partnering individuals together for a shift is a duty that Monica feels is very important. She also enjoys the opportunity to be a positive influence in someone’s day. In her tenure, she has gained confidence in her abilities and is determined to, NEVER STOP LEARNING! There are multiple occasions in the jail atmosphere to grow personally and learn about the world around you.

Monica enjoys reading and spending time with her family. She believes that her family and friends would describe her as funny, respectful, and definitely opinionated. Her advice to new McLennan County employees would be to have an open mind, be open to learning, accept constructive criticism, and don’t take anything personal. If Monica could go back in time and teach her younger self something, she would say do not procrastinate, take every opportunity to educate yourself. Corporal Wright has achieved notable success at the McLennan County jail and we want to thank her for her service to our community!

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Off-Site Video Visitation

On-Site Video Visitation

Secured Database

Live Monitoring and Recording

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Vendor Report

It was wonderful seeing everyone at the 2021 JMI Conference! Despite COVID, we were able to fill the exhibit hall and have a fantastic Welcome Reception Monday night. Then, we were thrown a curve ball in the form of Hurricane Nicholas. We would like to thank all the vendors for managing the hurdles of no electricity and lots of rain. Thank you for your never wavering support!

For the first time in over 17 years, we have a venue change for the Annual Conference. We hope to see all our vendors at the 36th Annual TJA Conference, May 2-6, 2022 at the Embassy Suites San Marcos. The exhibit packet will be posted in late 2021. The host hotel for the vendors will be the Holiday Inn Express & Suites San Marcos South, 900 Barnes Drive; (512) 392-6355. The rate will be $96 for single occupancy and $139 for double occupancy. We will also host our Annual Jerry Baggs Memorial Golf Tournament at Kissing Tree Golf Club.

Our website is a wealth of information throughout the year, www.texasjailassociation.com. You can find information such as class topics, exhibitor packets, sponsorship opportunities, hotel information, advertising opportunities and more. For more information or questions, please reach out to us, as your experience with the Texas Jail Association is of the utmost importance to us. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Stay safe and God bless!

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BJS Report on Suicides in Jails and Prisons

by E. Ann Carson, Ph.D, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics

The report – Suicide in Local Jails and State and Federal Prisons, 2000–2019 – Statistical Tables – was written by BJS statistician E. Ann Carson, Ph.D., and is available at www.bit.ly/3Cj8EQx.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U. S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating reliable statistics on crime and criminal justice in the United States. Additional information about the work of BJS may be found at www.bjs.ojp.gov.

In October 2021 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released a new report – Suicide in Local Jails and State and Federal Prisons, 2000–2019 – Statistical Tables – that reflects a total of 340 persons in state and federal prisons and 355 persons in local jails died by suicide in 2019. The number of suicides in local jails increased 5% from 2018 to 2019, while suicides in state and federal prisons were stable. Suicides accounted for 30% of deaths in local jails and 8% of deaths in state and federal prisons in 2019, based on the most recent mortality data from BJS.

Nearly a fifth (19%) of the nation's 1,161 state and federal prisons and a tenth (9%) of the 2,845 local jails had at least one suicide in 2019. More than half of the largest jails (those with an average daily population of 1,000 inmates or more) had at least one death by suicide, as did 45% of state and federal prisons holding 2,500 or more persons.

Over the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019, more than 6,200 local jail inmates died by suicide while in custody. Suicide deaths among jail inmates increased 13% over the period. Those who died by suicide were most often male, non-Hispanic white, incarcerated for a violent crime and died by self-strangulation. More than three-quarters of jail inmates who died by suicide from 2000 to 2019 were unconvicted and awaiting adjudication of their current charge. Nearly half (46%) of those who died by suicide in local jails had been held for 7 days or less at the time of death.

During the aggregated period of 2000–19, the average suicide rate in local jails was highest among persons who were white (86 suicides per 100,000 white inmates), American Indian or Alaska Native (57 per 100,000) and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (52 per 100,000). The rate was lowest among persons who were Hispanic (25 per 100,000) and black (16 per 100,000). Jail inmates age 55 or older had the highest average suicide rate (78 per 100,000) of all age groups.

During the 5-year period of 2015–19, about 18% of local jail suicides were of persons held for assault, and almost 10% were of those held for murder or nonnegligent manslaughter. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of jail suicides took place in the person's cell and 8% in jail segregation units. During this period, two-thirds of suicides (66%) occurred within the first 30 days of incarceration and 44% within the first week.

In state and federal prisons, a total of 4,500 people died by suicide from 2001 to 2019. The number of suicides increased 83% over that period. Similar to local jails, most persons in state and federal prisons who committed suicide were incarcerated for a violent crime and died by self-strangulation. They were also typically male, non-Hispanic white and age 25 to 44.

During the aggregated 5-year period of 2015–19, an estimated 29% of state prisoners who died by suicide were serving time for murder or nonnegligent manslaughter. Federal prisoners serving time for weapons offenses and sex offenses each accounted for about 20% of suicides in federal facilities during this period. About 13% of federal prisoners who committed suicide had been sentenced for a drug offense, more than three times the share of state prisoners (4%).

Suicides in state and federal prisons were more likely to occur during the first year of imprisonment. Three-quarters (75%) of state prisoners and nearly two-thirds (64%) of federal prisoners who died by suicide during 2015–19 did so after their first year in prison. Almost 76% of state prison suicides took place in the person's cell or room, 11% in a segregation unit and 4% in a special medical or mental health services unit. Among federal prisoners, more than half of suicides (58%) occurred in a medical or urgent care center outside of the prison facility. An equal percentage of suicides took place in general housing or on prison grounds (13%) or in a segregation unit (13%).

During 2015–19, white people had the highest average suicide rate (41 per 100,000) among state prisoners, followed by Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (36 per 100,000) and American Indian or Alaska Native (29 per 100,000) people. These rates were roughly double the rate among black (16 per 100,000) and Hispanic (15 per 100,000) people. In federal prisons, American Indian or Alaska Native people had the highest suicide rate (77 per 100,000), followed by white (43 per 100,000), black (9 per 100,000) and Hispanic (5 per 100,000) people.

BJS STATISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

From 2001 to 2019, the number of suicides increased 85% in state prisons, 61% in federal prisons, and 13% in local jails.

During 2010-2019, suffocation, including hanging and self-strangulation, accounted for nearly 90% of suicide deaths in local jails.

During 2015-2019, about 12% of deaths by suicide in local jails occurred within the first 24 hours of incarceration, a decrease from almost 22% during 2000-04.

The average suicide rate for white inmates in local jails was 93 per 100,000 during the 5-year period of 2015-2019, which is 5 times the rate for black inmates (18 per 100,000) and more than 3 times the rate for Hispanic inmates (26 per 100,000).

Almost 60% of state prisoners who died by suicide during 2001-2019 were white.

During 2001-2019, state prisoners who had been sentenced for a violent offense accounted for almost 72% of suicides in state prisons.

During 2015-2019, about 75% of suicides in state prisons and 64% of suicides in federal prisons occurred after the first year of imprisonment.

Persons serving time in federal prison for weapons offenses and sex offenses each accounted for about 20% of suicides in federal facilities during 2015-2019.

In 2019, suicides occurred in 217 state and federal prisons, 19% of all prison facilities.

BJS Bureau of Justice Statistics

BJS is the primary statistical agency of the Department of Justice. It is one of the thirteen principal federal statistical agencies throughout the Executive Branch, agencies whose activities are predominantly focused on the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of information for statistical purposes.

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County Jail Telemental Health Care

Washington County contracts with Texas A&M Telebehavioral Care to provide telemental health services in the Washington County Jail. *County Progress* asked Jail Administrator Eric Hensley and County Commissioner Joy Fuchs to talk about the program.

Articles originally printed in the November 2021 issue of County Progress. www.countyprogress.com

Eric Hensley
Washington County
Jail Administrator

Mental Health: The more services, the better.

While mandates require us to provide mental health services, it is the right thing to do. The mental health population inside our jails is not going down anytime soon. It is something all jails and we administrators are experiencing. So my solution is, the more help and services I can provide these citizens, the better their quality of life will be; hopefully, we can keep them from coming back to jail.

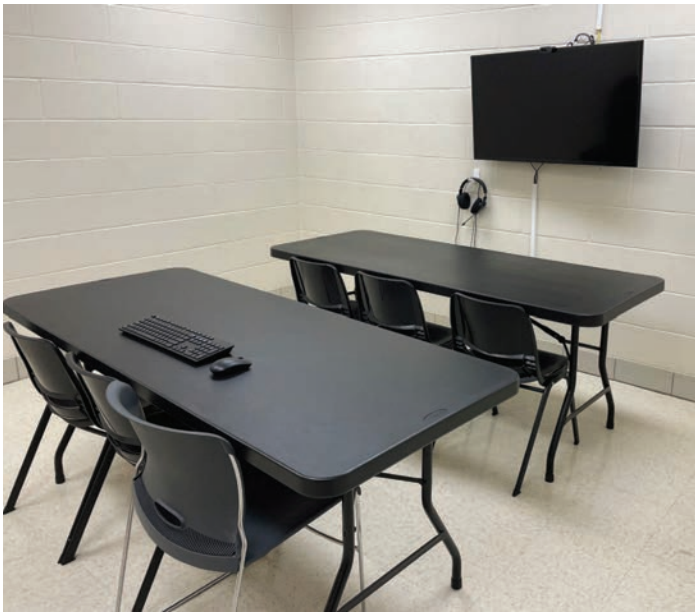
In Washington County we have an excellent Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) that was already in place; all I had to do was expand it inside of my jail. My jail, at the time, did not have anyone with MHMR staffed inside the jail. I met with the LMHA and Commissioner Joy Fuchs to devise a plan that would staff a member of MHMR full time inside the jail. Now I have a full-time forensic case manager with an office inside the jail. She screens all of the incoming inmates and provides the services when needed.

Knowing that was not going to be enough, I contacted Dr. Carly McCord, director of Telebehavioral Care for Texas A&M University, about setting up telehealth counseling services inside the jail. As of now we currently have two groups, plus individual counseling for the inmates who wish to participate. We were among the first in the state to implement these services and currently have two other counties (Robertson and Burleson) that share and participate in our counseling services.

How the system works:

The inmate is screened as soon as he or she enters the jail. The screening is then reviewed by the jail staff, forensic case manager, and justice of the peace. The inmate then receives services based on his/her answers. That could be a separate screening from the forensic case manager, a telehealth appointment with a psychologist, or an evaluation by our health service nurse or jail doctor. This process is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If an inmate makes an immediate outcry wanting services, then the inmate will be screened by a forensic case manager within the hour.

We currently have 10 inmates on the list that see the psychologist via telehealth. Some are biweekly, and others are monthly, depending on how they are responding to their treatment. The list can shrink or grow daily; it just depends on the inmates. We currently have around 20-30 inmates who participate in our telehealth counseling programs with A&M. This does not include inmates from Robertson and Burleson counties.



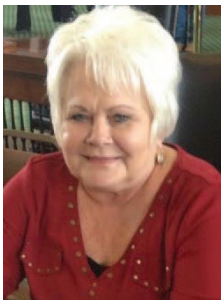
Counties who want to launch a similar program should get buy-in from their Commissioners Court and from the community. Of course money definitely helps, but you will eventually need services from the community. For rural counties, this is a challenge because they might only have limited to no services available. This requires you to think outside the box. Like Robertson and Burleson counties, they do not have the resources or funds available for services, so I let them participate through my program. We have to help each other if we are going to make a difference.

Additional advice?

Train your officers! The mandates are going to continue and get more structured and complicated. The more training your staff receives, the better off you are going to be. Be in the know, IDD (Intellectual or Developmental Disability) is the new hot topic, and the state is currently figuring out how to implement the screening process and how to identify individuals with these impairments. So, as a whole, we need to start working with our services and community to make treatment more accessible for these individuals while incarcerated.

Telemental Health Care

Commissioner's Perspective



Joy Fuchs
Washington County
Commissioner

We have been using Brazos Valley MHMR for all of our mental health issues in the jail, and we realized that we needed more to keep up with the compliance with jail standards. The Sandra Bland Act was definitely part of this decision.

We use Dr. Carley McCord and her team at the Texas A&M University Health Science Center for telemental health services, and we pay $28,200 per year.

We believe it saves the county money, as we have the inmates counseled in either group settings or one on one. We also have psych telemedicine in our Washington County Health and Service Center run by the same group, and our hope is that when the people get out of jail, they will continue their counseling at this center. We have only been in this program since January of 2020, so we are still looking at data to make the determination of what is being accomplished through this program.

Our hope is, even if we do not save a lot of money, that we are helping our inmates to stay out of jail by helping with their mental problems and keeping them on their medications.

With all the cuts in funding from the state when it comes to mental health, I would recommend to other counties to look into this program to help the revolving door of mental health inmates. There are many ways to accomplish goals of keeping the mental health patients out of jail, and I believe this is a good way to start until more mental health beds are made available by the state.

To read more about the Texas A&M's Telebehavioral Care Clinic, go to https://bit.ly/3lrPVwF.

Jerry Baggs Memorial Golf Tournament

Greetings to all!

As we prepare for next year's Annual Conference in San Marcos, I would like to take this time to announce the new location for our Golf Tournament. **The Jerry Baggs Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on May 2, 2022, at the Kissing Tree Golf Course in San Marcos, Texas.** I am excited about our new location!

For the past several years, we have made our home at Balcones Country Club. I believe this new change will bring a new challenge to the tournament and a great change of scenery (literally!).

As always, we will be working hard to bring the best experience possible for the tournament players with a variety of sponsorships and prizes.

Please stay tuned for further information in the coming months. This will include tournament fees and sponsorship options.

See y'all soon!

Edwardo Jackson,
TJA 2nd Vice President/Golf Committee Chairman

The Chaplain's Corner

Don Moore, Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Two thousand and twenty-one has certainly been a year full of challenges for law enforcement and corrections. COVID 19, the Delta variant as well as the attacks on law enforcement. It is so easy to get down and discouraged even to the point one is willing to give up and find another line of work. I want to encourage each of you to continue fighting that good fight of faith. Your work doesn't go unnoticed. The Lord knows what you are doing. He lets us know that our calling is from above.

In Romans. 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: The powers that be are ordained of God."

The power you have to enforce the laws have been given to you from above, so continue to work knowing the Lord has called you to this great work and He sees your struggles as well as your victories.

What's Happening Around the State?

Have a story or updates about your county? LET US KNOW!

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter Issue
December 15th, 2021

Summer Issue
June 1st, 2022

Fall Issue
October 1st, 2022

Send submissions to Sharese Hurst
sharese@shsu.edu

Brazos County

On November 13, 2021, Officer **Bethany Daily** was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Jail Division. Sergeant Daily joined the Brazos County Sheriff's Office in 2014 as a detention officer. Sergeant Daily has served as a detention officer, medical officer, FTO and most recently ST Coordinator. During this time, Sergeant Daily has acquired substantial knowledge of Texas Jail Standards and Detention Center Policy and Procedure. She has also exhibited her strong ability to work well with others and take on a leadership role.

Congratulations to Corporal **R. Jackson**, Corporal **E. Sever** and Corporal **T. Green** on their promotion to Jail Corporal. Corporal Jackson and Corporal Sever both began their career with the Sheriff's office in 2018. Corporal Green began her career at the Sheriff's Office in 2019.

What's Happening Around the State?

Lubbock County

On August 15, 2021, members of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard participated in this year's Texas Rangers First Responders Appreciation baseball game in Arlington, Texas.

On August 26, 2021, West Texas Law Enforcement, Sheriffs. And Police Chiefs participated in a Roundtable event with Senator Ted Cruz, hosted by Sheriff Kelly Rowe, discussing the challenges everyone faces regarding gangs, drugs, violent crimes, and mental health.

Lubbock County

The Lubbock County Sheriff's Office would like to announce newly promoted Captains, Sergeant, and corporal assigned to the Detention Center. Lieutenant **Ybarra** promoted to Captain, Lieutenant **Flud** promoted to Captain, Corporal **Aishman** promoted to Sergeant and Deputy **Holmes** promoted to Corporal. Congratulations to all!

What's Happening Around the State?

Tarrant County

Michael A. Empkey was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lieutenant Empkey has been with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office since 2013 and is currently assigned to the Booking Section. Lieutenant Empkey was also recognized as the Detention Supervisor of the Quarter in October. Nominated by his peers, Lieutenant Empkey is known for going out of his way to support, train, and assist his staff how ever he can.

Chief **Deputy Reyes** earned designation as a National Certified Corrections Executive (NCCE) through the National Institute for Jail Operations (NIJO). Achieving NIJO Certification is a significant accomplishment and reflects intense training, effort, experience and comprehension so that the individual confidently knows and can follow clearly established laws and procedures in fulfilling his or her duties within a correctional facility. NCCE certification is the highest level of certification offered by NIJO and requires completion of over 100 hours of legal based detention training.

Chief Reyes also holds designations as a Certified Jail Manager (CJM) through the American Jail Association and Certified Corrections Executive (CCE) through the American Correctional Association.

Joel O. Garcia has been with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office since 1999 and is currently assigned to the Booking Section. He was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

What's Happening Around the State?

Tarrant County

Lieutenant Garcia has served as a Gang Intelligence Officer and is the immediate past President of the National Latino Law Enforcement Organization – Greater Tarrant County Chapter. Garcia was also recognized as Detention Officer of the Year by the Major County Sheriffs of America.

Corporal **Valerie Bryant** has been with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office since 2007. This year she was awarded the National Institute for Jail Operations (NIJO) Dedication to Excellence Award. Also known as the "Overwork and Underpaid Award, the award is for a detention officer, supervisor, or administrator who in the past year has gone above and beyond normal expectations by working extra hours, making extra effort to ensure the safety and security of staff members, inmates, and the general public.

Corporal Bryant is the jail's Gang Intelligence Corporal and was nominated by five different people for this award.

Lieutenant **Esmeralda Garcia** graduated from the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (ILEA) School of Police Supervision. The month-long program is designed for first-line supervisors and middle-level management and aims to develop a professional management team. It is the only independent four-week school in the nation for police supervisors and recognizes the importance of supervision as a major management function in law enforcement. The curriculum focuses on the transition from "street policing" to management, especially the social and personal adjustments.

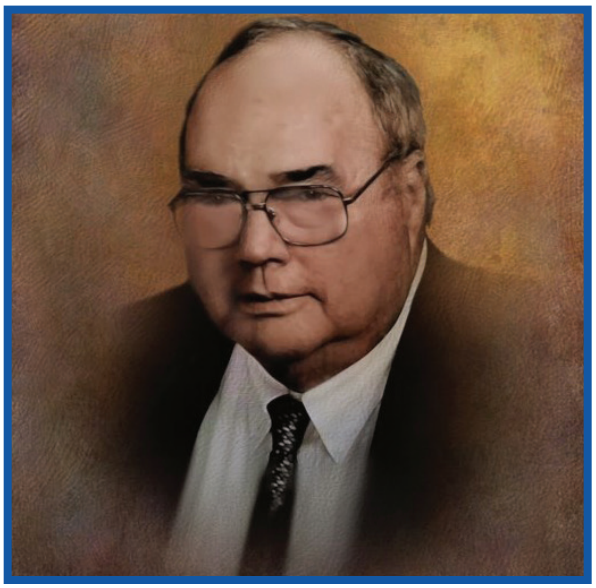
What's Happening Around the State?

Lieutenant Garcia is a commander at the Lon Evans facility and has been with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office since 2006.

Wichita County

Former Wichita County Sheriff's Office Sheriff **Thomas Callahan** passed away August 12, 2021.

Thomas Joseph Callahan was born November 3, 1946.



After his service and honorable discharge from the Air Force, Thomas sought employment and was hired as a jailor for Wichita County Sheriff's Office. He became a deputy and eventually obtained the rank of Lieutenant. Thomas was appointed Sheriff in 1986, ran for Sheriff in 1988 and was elected Sheriff for the next 5 terms. He was the longest serving sheriff in Wichita County. Thomas retired on Dec. 31, 2008. He was then hired by Midwestern State University to teach Criminal Justice Classes until his second retirement three years later.

Thomas was preceded in death by his brother, Francis. He is survived by his sister, Catherine, brothers, Joseph, Brian and Patrick. Thomas also leaves behind his wife, Mary Anne, two daughters, Siobain and Coreen, two sons, Thomas and Aiden, eight grandchildren and a nephew, Daniel Ahern.

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