

# THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XXV, No. 2

Summer 2021



Summer 2021 Edition

# Past President's Passage



## Greetings TJA Members,

What a great conference in Austin! Becky Caffey and her Training Committee lined up excellent speakers with great topics. The entertainment committee did a fantastic job with the first annual corn hole tournament and other entertainment and we had a sold out vendor hall! I cannot be prouder of the men and women of your 2020-2021 Board and their ability to hold two successful conferences. As the old saying goes you are only as strong as your weakest link, I can assure you there were no weak links on this board it was a total team effort.

I would like to congratulate our annual award winners: Sheriff (Retired) Chris Kirk/Jerry Baggs Leadership Award, Sharese Hurst (TJA Executive Director)/Hall of Fame, Todd Allen (Tom Green County)/Distinguished Service, Karen Cruz (Randall County)/Officer of the Year and Vendors of the Year/Keefe Group and Crown Correctional Telephone.

I would like to thank you all for the privilege of having served as your president this past year, and what a long strange trip it was. I am confident our President, Ricky Armstrong, will continue to lead the association in a positive direction and cannot wait to see what he and the 2021-2022 Board has for us at JMI and beyond.

Stay Safe and Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Corbin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Dan Corbin**

Past President, Texas Jail Association

# Message from the President



## Texas Jail Association Members,

The 35th annual conference is now in the books, and what a great conference it was. Record attendance and great speakers made this conference one to remember. I would like to thank Past President Dan Corbin for organizing and overseeing such a wonderful conference. Vice President Becky Caffey and her training committee put together a top-notch group of instructors from across the nation to deliver the training to our members to help fulfill our mission of advancing professionalism through training.

I want to also thank our vendors for their support and for helping make our conference a success. Our vendor's dedication to our profession does not go unnoticed.

I would also like to thank the entire board for their hard work and dedication. Without the hard work of the board, a conference of this magnitude would not be possible, and let us not forget Executive Director Sharese Hurst, Aimee Crockett, and the staff of CMIT for their continued hard work, long hours, and continued support of the Texas Jail Association.

*"A leader must lead but also be ready to follow." "Good leaders must welcome this, putting aside ego and personal agendas to ensure that the team has the greatest chance of accomplishing its strategic goals," — Jocko Willink*

I believe we have a board that will do just that, not only lead but will be willing to follow and work for you. For those of you that were unable to make it to the conference I would like to take the time to introduce your Board of directors for 2021-2022, Immediate past president Dan Corbin from Lubbock County, President Ricky Armstrong from McLennan County, 1st Vice President Becky Caffey from Brown County, 2nd Vice President Edwardo Jackson from Travis County, 3rd Vice President Johnny Jacques from Lubbock County, Treasurer Abby Belangeri from Brazos County, Directors Greg Pilkington from Tarrant County, Frances Dembowski from Travis County, Rowdee Edwards from Hockley County, Jason Davis from McLennan County, Terry McCraw from Collin County, Levi Vance from Tom Green County, Board appointees are Secretary Lynette Anderson from Harris County, Vendor Representative Kevin Johnson and Bill Rhyan, Chaplin Don Moore from Shelby County, Historian Eric Hensley from Washington County, Parliamentarian Kevin Stuart from Brazos County, Sergeant-at-Arms Shane Sowell from Bell County, Private jail Representative Rodney Cooper with LaSalle Corrections, Sheriff's Representative Gerald Yezak from Robertson County, and Executive Director Sharese Hurst of CMIT.

Congratulations to everyone who ran for a position on the board, I would also like to thank everyone that has accepted an appointment for your dedication and willingness to serve our membership, I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Now it's time to register and make your reservations for our next conference on Galveston Island, September 13-17, 2021. Until then stay safe and I'll see you down the road.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricky Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Ricky Armstrong**  
President, Texas Jail Association



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## 2021 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

September 13-17, 2021 | Galveston, TX



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# Membership Report

Despite hurricanes and pandemics, the Texas Jail Association remains strong! We have strength in unity, but our membership numbers have gone down as a result. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to expand our membership and rebound to an all-time high. We are asking for your assistance in recruiting interested individuals you may know. A twelve month membership is only \$30.00. In addition to outstanding conferences, regional training, and online networking, we have the added benefit of a 20% off discount to OSS Training Academy. I encourage you to browse though the many TCOLE credit classes they offer: <http://www.texasjailassociation.com/oss.html>

Please reach out to any committee member, we want to hear your thoughts and ideas for any trainings/programs/benefits etc. that you would like to see in the future. We look forward to another year of great training and networking with the TJA family!

Johnny Jaquess, 3rd Vice President Collin County	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 – 1053	ASSOCIATE – 25	BUSINESS – 30
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# BLOOD DRIVE

HOSTED BY THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION & SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS

September 14, 2021 | 9:00am – 1:30pm

The Blood Drive will take place at the Galveston Island Convention Center. **All Donors are entered in a drawing for a \$100 Gift Card.**



TEXANS HELPING TEXANS



# Training Report

We had another outstanding and record-breaking year at our 35th Annual TJA Conference in Austin. The variety and quality of the training continues to grow and improve; and is some of the best I've seen with any organization based on your feedback!

We provided 28 total classroom hours of instruction via 27 separate training topics/sessions at the Annual Conference. I would like to thank everyone involved with putting on the conference this year this includes the fantastic instructors, the class moderators, the Training Committee members, and board members. Last, but not least, I want to thank all of you for your participation and feedback. You are the reason we work so hard to put on classes that will not only interest you, but keep you up to date with the latest innovations and trends in our profession.

We are not stopping now; we have already begun preparations for next year! In addition to your feedback on classes presented, we need your thoughts and ideas on training topics you would like to see at future Annual and Jail Management Issues (JMI) conferences. Please send me, or any member of the Training Committee, your suggestions for us to get started.

Chair, Edwardo Jackson, 2nd Vice President Travis County 512-854-5214 edwardo.jackson@traviscountytexas.org	
Becky Caffey, 1st Vice President Brown County 325-203-3330 becky.caffey@browncountytexas.org	Johnny Jaquess, 3rd Vice President Collin County jjaquess@co.collin.tx.us
Abby Belangeri, Treasurer Brazos County 979-204-8798 abelangeri@brazoscountytexas.org	Erica Hernandez, Member-at-Large Hays County 512-878-6780 erica.hernandez@co.hays.tx.us
Patricia Ramirez, Member-at-Large Hays County 512-878-6780 patricia.ramirez@co.hays.tx.us	Frances Dembowski, Director Travis County 512-854-5391 frances.dembowski@traviscountytexas.gov
Jason Davis, Director McLennan County 254-405-2652 Jason.Davis@co.mclennan.tx.us	Levi Vance, Director Tom Green County 325-450-2301 Levi.Vance@co.tom-green.tx.us



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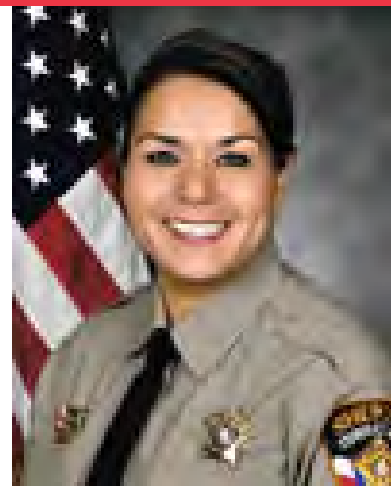


I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow TJA membership for honoring me with your vote. I appreciate the expression of confidence from you all and look forward to serving the TJA membership as Treasurer. I promise to serve as an advocate for the professionalization of our field and support training on best practices for county jailers. The work we do to serve our communities is critical in maintaining safe communities and supporting the efficacy of the criminal justice system. Thank you all for the job you do every day and the sacrifices you make in the execution of your duties.

— **Abby Belangeri**

I would like to thank the membership for affording me the privilege to continue to serve the Texas Jail Association. It truly is an honor to be part of such an amazing organization. This organization's members are true professionals. How great it is to have an opportunity to extend my work family from across the state. I will continue to work hard on all the committees I am on, to ensure the members get the best training out there. If I can be of any assistance, I am available to the members, please feel free to reach out. My contact information is on the TJA website.

— **Frances Dembowski**



What an awesome conference we had in Austin! Attending awesome training and networking with each other instilled confidence in T.J.A. members through continuing education and exemplified the core values of the Texas Jail Association. I look forward to seeing you at J.M.I and continuing to build relationships with each and every one of you. Thank you for voting for me! This great opportunity you have blessed me with is beyond expressible. It is very humbling to know that you had the confidence in me, by giving me your vote. I am excited to get to work and serve you, the members of our great Texas Jail Association.

— **Rowdee Edwards**

Hello TJA family! We had another great conference in Austin this year. I really enjoyed the fellowship with my jail professional friends, attending some great training, and learning about all the latest and greatest our business partners have to offer. I look forward to JMI in Galveston this fall and San Marcos next year. I want to extend my appreciation and say THANK YOU for trusting me with your vote and electing me as your 3rd Vice President! The membership committee will be working hard to strengthen our membership this year!

— **Johnny Jaquess**





The 35th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference was one of the best yet. It was truly great to see all the Past Presidents that made this association what it is today. The staff of SHSU CMIT did an amazing job and although Sharese Hurst was unable to attend, she was very active behind the scenes giving advice and instruction. This association would not be what it is today without her and her amazing staff.

I would like to thank all the members who took time to vote for the positions of 3rd Vice President, Treasurer and Directors. I would like to congratulate Johnny Jaquess for running a terrific campaign and ultimately winning the position of 3rd Vice President. JJ will represent the members to the well during his tenure on the Executive Board. I would also like to congratulate Abby Belangeri for being elected Treasurer. Also elected as Directors were Francis Dembowski, Greg Pilkington, and Rowdee Ed-

wards. If you were able to attend the conference, you saw firsthand the work and dedication put forth from the candidates and as I said in my election speech, there were no bad choices. I truly believe that the TJA Board of Directors is one of the best that we have seen in many years. We have representation from small to large jails across this great state.

I would like to encourage everyone to promote TJA within your ranks and recruit new members. Please consider running for the Board and be a part of the greatest Jail Association in the United States. I will continue to stay active with the Association as I serve as the Committee Chairperson for the Vendor Transition from Austin to San Marcos.

I look forward to seeing all of you at JMI. Please stay safe, keep your family close, watch out for each other and go home when your shift is over.

— **Bill Jennings**

I humbly thank you for your vote and support during this year's elections at the 35th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference. It is my honor to be representing you on the Board of Directors. This year in Austin, it was exciting to meet new members and to see longtime friends. Everyone seems to enjoy the classes as well the other events throughout the week. Your Board of Directors are here to serve you, so don't hesitate to reach out to us if you or your agency needs anything.

— **Greg Pilkington**



**THANK YOU to the TJA Membership for your participation in the 2021 Nominations and Election.**



# The GTL Tablet is a secure, wireless device specifically designed for corrections

A man with short dark hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, is seated and looking down at a tablet device he is holding with both hands. To his right, a vertical timeline of activities is displayed, connected to the tablet by a red line. The timeline includes icons for each activity: a person, speech bubbles, a graduation cap, an open book, scales of justice, a telephone, and a trumpet.

- 7:24 am**  
Watch video of a daily sermon
- 8:32 am**  
Message exchange with girlfriend
- 11:15 am**  
Study algebra for secondary education
- 13:12 pm**  
Read 30 pages of a Jules Verne novel
- 15:45 pm**  
Do legal research on pending case
- 18:21 pm**  
Talk to mom on the phone with the tablet
- 19:32 pm**  
Listen to some Louis Armstrong tracks

## Corby Kenter

Director – Account Management  
(214) 415 4866

## Cheryl White Mynar

Senior Account Manager  
(713) 898 7090

## Lesley Hernandez

Account Manager  
(512) 739 8652

# Nominations & By-Laws Report

It was great seeing everyone at the 35th TJA Annual Conference. I hope that everyone enjoyed the training and had safe travels home. I am excited to be your 1st Vice President, and I am looking forward to the following year. This coming year, I will be the Nomination and By-Laws Committee Chair.

This year at the conference, we had one by-law change that was voted on and passed. The following is the wording that was changed.

*Section 2: Nominations A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members: 1. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall be the First Vice-President; 2. One (1) member shall be the Second Vice-President; and, 3. One (1) shall be a member of the general membership, as appointed by the First Vice President.*

*B. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at ~~least two (2)~~ individuals for the offices of Third Vice-President, Treasurer, and each vacancy on the Board. The committee shall ensure that the nominees have met all eligibility requirements and verify the support of their Sheriff(s) prior to formally nominating them.*

I also want to congratulate all the candidates that ran for a place on the Board. I would like to personally thank them for their leadership and interest in TJA. I look forward to the following year and hope to see a lot of interest in the Board whether it be in running for a position, or just volunteering in some capacity.

Thank you to all that attended and thank you to all that voted in the election.

Nomination Committee 2021-2022	By-Laws Committee 2021-2022
Chair, Becky Caffey, 1st Vice President <i>Brown County</i>	Chair, Becky Caffey, 1st Vice President <i>Brown County</i>
Edwardo Jackson, 2nd Vice President <i>Travis County</i>	Kimberly Dunn, Member-at-Large <i>Runnels County</i>
Les Karnes, Member-at-Large <i>Brown County</i>	Les Karnes, Member-at-Large <i>Brown County</i>
Kathleen Pokluda <i>Williamson County</i>	



THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF SERVICE  
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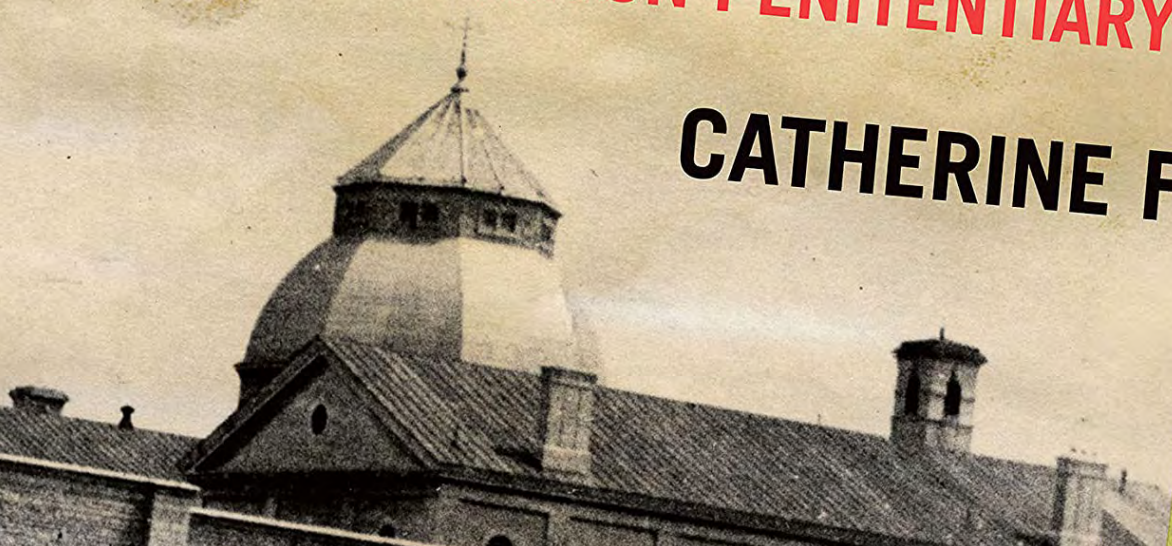
# MURDER ON THE INSIDE

THE TRUE STORY OF

THE DEADLY RIOT

AT KINGSTON PENITENTIARY

CATHERINE FOGARTY



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# A CASE STUDY IN CORRECTIONAL MANAGEMENT

BY DAN RICHARD BETO

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*Review of Murder on the Inside: The True Story of the Deadly Riot at Kingston Penitentiary, by Catherine Fogarty. Windsor, Ontario: Biblioasis, 2021, 309 pp., \$18.95 (paperback).*

A review of the literature reveals that during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries there have been a number of prison riots throughout the Americas resulting in the loss of life and the destruction of confinement facilities. In addition to receiving considerable media attention, some of these disturbances – particularly those in North America – have resulted in scholarly articles published in professional journals and more detailed treatment in well-researched books. Some of the more prominent books include: John Bartlow Martin's *Break Down the Walls*, which covers the 1952 prison riot in Jackson, Michigan; *A Time to Die: The Attica Prison Revolt* by Tom Wicker and *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* by Heather Ann Thompson; *Eleven Days in Hell: The 1974 Carrasco Prison Siege in Huntsville, Texas*, by William T. Harper; and *The Devil's Butcher Shop: The New Mexico Prison Uprising* by Roger Morris, *The Penitentiary in Crisis: From Accommodation to Riot in New Mexico* by Mark Colvin, and *The Hate Factory: A First-Hand Account of the 1980 Riot at the Penitentiary of New Mexico* by Georgelle Hirliman.

A new addition to this area of correctional literature is *Murder on the Inside: The True Story of the Deadly Riot at Kingston Penitentiary* by Catherine Fogarty, published on the 50th anniversary of the four-day disturbance at the maximum security prison at Kingston, Ontario. Fogarty, the founder and president of Big Coat Media in Toronto, Ontario, is a successful televi-

sion and documentary producer, writer, and director. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Guelph, a Master of Arts degree in social work from the University of Sydney, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of New England, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative non-fiction writing from the University of King's College.

By way of background, the Kingston Penitentiary, Canada's oldest prison, opened in 1835 as the Provincial Penitentiary of the Province of Upper Canada, more than three decades before the passage of the British North American Act of 1867 which created the Canadian Commonwealth. In reading *Murder on the Inside*, we were surprised to learn that Kingston was to Ontario as Huntsville was to Texas – a prison capital. At one point the Kingston area had nine prisons.

The author does a commendable job of describing the conditions and events leading up to the riot on April 14, 1971, at the troubled Kingston Penitentiary, when a handful of inmates overpowered unsuspecting guards and took control of the institution. During the four-day riot, six prison guards were held hostage – one was released early – and the inmates who initially took control of the prison were replaced by a more violent group. A number of inmates were severely beaten and two were killed by fellow inmates. Those brutally tortured and killed were identified as

“undesirables” – child sex offenders and institutional informants or “snitches.” In addition, a portion of the prison facility was destroyed. One inmate, a multiple offender by the name of Barrie MacKenzie, made it his mission to protect the guards held hostage from harm at the hands of other inmates while negotiations were ongoing between inmates and a citizens committee. He was successful in doing so and was considered a “hero” of the Kingston Penitentiary riot. At the conclusion of the riot, the hostages were released unharmed.

## **MURDER ON THE INSIDE IS AN EASY READ, AND THE AUTHOR'S WRITING STYLE IS SUCH THAT IT KEEPS ONE'S ATTENTION.**

Fogarty's detailed description of the riot, the persons involved – inmates, guards, citizen committee members, government officials, and politicians – and what transpired thereafter, offers considerable insight into the causes of the riot and what went wrong.

Shortly after the riot was brought to conclusion, the Commissioner of Penitentiaries for the Province of Ontario appointed a Commission of Inquiry chaired

by Justice J. W. Swackhamer to investigate the cause of the disturbance. On April 24, 1972, a little more than a year following the riot, the Swackhamer Commission released its report, to which Fogarty devotes a few pages. Specifically noted in the book is the following from the Swackhamer Commission:

*We have noted a number of causes for Kingston's failure: the aged facility, overcrowding, the shortage of professional staff, a program that has been substantially curtailed, the confinement in the institution of a number of people who did not require maximum security confinement, too much time spent in cells, a lack of adequate channels to deal with complaints, and the lack of an adequate staff which resulted in the breakdown of established procedures to deal with inmate requests. These facts were established beyond doubt by the testimony heard by the Commission.*

Interestingly, the 63-page Swackhamer Report – officially known as the “Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Certain Disturbances at Kingston Penitentiary During April, 1971” – is still accessible online.

Murder on the Inside is an easy read, and the author's writing style is such that it keeps one's attention. In addition, found in this book are a number of relevant photographs that enhance this literary effort. Persons interested in the history and administration of confinement facilities – be they prisons or jails – will find this book instructive. In addition, Murder on the Inside could easily serve as a supplemental text in a graduate course on correctional administration. Catherine Fogarty has made a significant contribution to criminal justice literature.

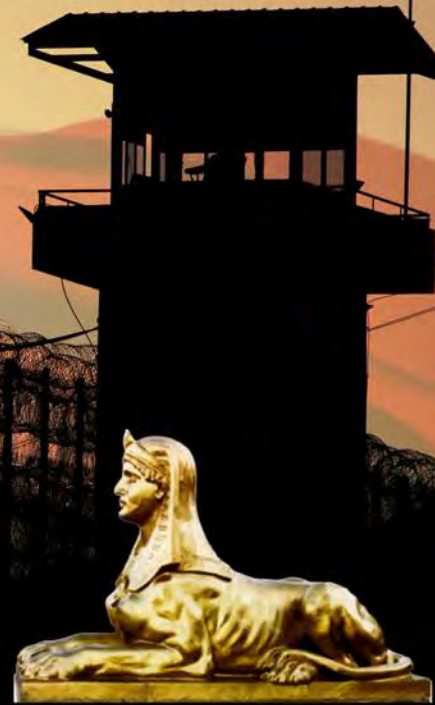
***Dan Richard Beto, a life member of the Texas Jail Association, spent more than four decades in the criminal justice system. He is a past President of the Texas Probation Association and the National Association of Probation Executives, and was the founding Executive Director of the Correctional Management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

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## **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.

# TJA Fellowship of H.O.P.E.

## Helping Officers Pursue Excellence

By: Abby Belangeri, Treasurer, Texas Jail Association

As an association, serving our membership is our highest priority. With this in mind, it is our goal to always strive to be aware of and working toward meeting the needs of those we serve. We all know the challenges we face day in and day out can take a toll on our well-being, especially in today's climate. This being the case, the board has voted to create a committee called the Fellowship of HOPE (Helping Officers Pursue Excellence). The goal of this committee is to seek out services and membership benefits we can pursue and provide to our membership in support of your wellness and in an effort to help combat some of the negative impacts of the modern challenges you face daily in your work.

One of our first steps in providing wellness resources is our partnership with Dr. Edward Smith who developed the Officer Wellness curriculum taught to you in our regional trainings and the Austin conference this year. This training highlights the importance of building resiliency in our jail staff who are bombarded daily by situations that can take a toll on their mental and physical health. This training covers the four areas of wellness imperative to maintain complete wellness and to build resiliency. These four areas are physical, mental, social and spiritual wellness. Many times

we focus on physical wellness, but neglect focus on our mental, social and spiritual wellness. Complete wellness necessitates a focus and understanding of coping skills and resources in support of all four categories. Additionally, this class offers tools for your staff to use in peer-to-peer support efforts. In many cases, it is our peers we lean on the most.

In addition to his expertise in the field of 360 degree wellness, Dr. Edward Smith has also agreed to assist in the creation of a chaplaincy network which would ultimately be a resource for our membership agencies. Many agencies are beginning to see the value of having chaplains for their staff in these difficult times. Typically, larger agencies have the resources to secure chaplains for their staff who respond in times of crisis for both the agency and staff. We realize, however, that not all agencies have the resources available to offer a chaplaincy resource to their staff in the time of need.

The Fellowship of HOPE committee is currently working with Dr. Edward Smith on creating a chaplaincy network of volunteer chaplains throughout the state who would be a resource for all TJA membership agencies to call upon in their time of need. This resource would make licensed/



certified Chaplains trained in crisis response available to all member agencies regardless of resources and funding. During crisis or troubling times, it is nice to know that you have a resource available to call upon who can respond and assist with providing emotional and spiritual support to our staff.

Research on the benefits of chaplaincy demonstrate that there are health-related benefits of religious and spiritual beliefs and practices. These benefits include increased longevity and quality of life and lower rates of depression. (Association of Professional Chaplains, 2021) Studies on chaplaincy also show that spiritual wellbeing helps people moderate feelings such as anxiety, hopelessness and isolation. (Association of Professional Chaplains, 2021) As we have learned from our Officer Wellness training, these are all high risk feelings associated with Officer Suicide.

Ensuring our officers have access to the necessary resources to promote their wellbeing and address crisis situations is a priority for agency administra-

tors. Hence, we are asking for your support in our efforts to establish this chaplaincy network. In the coming months, we will send out a survey to agency heads in an effort to identify chaplain resources. We hope to ascertain their willingness to participate in this network with a readiness to deploy if needed to agencies within a specified region. We can do great things when we come together and pool our resources. This chaplaincy network can be invaluable to our membership and we appreciate your support in helping to further our progress in this endeavor.

### References

*Association of Professional Chaplains. (n.d.). Retrieved May 25, 2021, from [www.professionalchaplains.org](http://www.professionalchaplains.org)*

# The Chaplain's Corner

*Don Moore, Shelby County Sheriff's Office*

Hello, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I would like to inform all of you that I will now be the Texas Jail Association (TJA) Secretary for the 2021-2022 term. I am happy to pass my Chaplain duties into the very capable hands of Don Moore, Shelby County Sheriff's Office. I am elated TJA President Ricky Armstrong asked me to stay on the Board as the Secretary. I will miss writing to all of you and will continue to keep everyone in my thoughts and prayers.

— Lynette Anderson

Hello, to all my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. I am deeply honored to serve as your Chaplain for the 2021-2022 term. I am thankful, that President Ricky Armstrong asked me to serve in this capacity. As we navigate these stormy waters, keep in mind that the Lord can calm any storm. I am looking forward to serving you all. If I can be of help to anyone; I may be reached at the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.

God Bless  
— Don Moore

# Overview 35th Annual Jail Conference

by: Becky Caffey, 1st Vice President

What a great conference! I hope that everyone enjoyed the 35th Annual Jail Conference and came back with a lot of valuable information and new friends. We had over 400 attendees registered for the conference, and all of the pre-conference classes were full on Monday. A big thank you to Sharese Hurst and all her staff for their hard work.

The Annual Jerry Baggs Memorial Golf Tournament had a great turnout, and it just seems to be getting bigger and better every year. Thank you to Eduardo Jackson and Francis Dembowski for all their hard work. Eduardo has really done great things with the tournament and all the great prizes. We appreciate the sponsors for always supporting the tournament and the scholarship. We want to thank the 100 Club and look forward to continuing our relationship with them.

The Courtroom Challenge always brings in a big crowd, and this year it was one of the best we have had. We want to thank the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for their hard work. We also want to thank all the teams that participated. We saw some new faces competing this year, and hope to have a lot more counties participating in the future.

If you did not attend the Annual Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning, you missed out on some wonderful music and fellowship. The prayer breakfast was first implemented by Past President Jim Eiselstien and has continued for all these years and continues to grow. The breakfast is sponsored and planned by Correct Solutions Group.

The entertainment committee worked hard on

Game Night. They added a Cornhole tournament this year. We had 18 teams in the bracket for our first year. The winning team was from Travis County. We want to thank Daniel Law for his DJ & Karaoke services. It is always nice to be able to see old friends and make new friends during our social events.

We had a great selection of professionals from across the State running for Board of Directors positions. We appreciate everything they do and wish them many great years of service. We also had a by-law change during this election process.

This year the Training Committee worked hard on trying to bring a variety of topics to the participants. A huge thank you to all the speakers for bringing the latest and most up to date training available. So, as we transition from the 35th Annual Conference, to full steam ahead for JMI 2021, we will continue to provide the best training we can to our members. We look forward to another great training opportunity in Galveston for JMI.

The Texas Jail Association Board of Directors, would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our vendors. The vendor hall was sold out and we appreciate the support that they have given us. We appreciate their sponsorship and would like to extend a big thank you for all you do, to help make this conference the best it can be.

Lastly, thank you to the sheriffs for allowing your staff to attend. We appreciate the support and hope that you will continue to send as many staff as possible. To all of our members, it is you that make the Texas Jail Association such a great organization. You are all appreciated. We look forward to seeing you all in Galveston for JMI.



## 2021 TJA/100 CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

**The 2021 TJA/100 Club Golf Tournament was once again a success thanks in part to you!**

This year's tournament consisted of 88 players! This would not have been possible without the amazing support of our sponsors: Keefe Group, Galls, Crown Correctional, Sterling Commissary, LoneStar Commissary, Bill Miller BBQ, Travis County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Association, and Chick-Fil-A.

The net total raised for the tournament was \$7,592.61. The proceeds will be split with the 100 Club of Central Texas and the Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship fund. Thank you to the TJA Golf Committee for their hard work and efforts in getting this year's tournament organized. We are looking forward to a bigger and better year in San Marcos in 2022!



*TJA Past President Billy Bryan, TJA 2nd Vice-President Edwardo Jackson, Retired Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton*

# 35TH ANNUAL TJA CONFERENCE



# MAY 10-14, 2021 | AUSTIN, TX



## Detention Officer of Year Award — Professional Service

*Corporal Karen Cruz, Potter County Sheriff's Office*



Corporal Karen Cruz of the Potter County Sheriff's Office was recognized as Detention Officer of The Year at the Texas Jail Association's 35th Annual Conference. Corporal Cruz has been with the Potter County Sheriff's Office for nine years. During this time, she has proven her abilities in training and supervision. She is a defensive tactics instructor for TEEX, firearms instructor, hostage negotiation team member and teaches the FTO program. Corporal Cruz teaches the TEEX and FTO program to sixteen counties in the Texas panhandle ensuring those counties are meeting their TCOLE requirements. She does all this training while working the night shift

as a supervisor. Her supervisor, Captain Steven White, said, "She always has a smile on her face and truly cares about her employees and those she trains. She is a pleasure to be around and is dedicated in all that she does."

Corporal Cruz is happily married with seven children, four of her own and three she welcomed into her home after losing her sister in an automobile accident. Captain White said, "I am in awe of her dedication and perseverance. She brings professionalism to everything she does."

## Jerry Baggs Leadership Award

*Sheriff Christopher C. Kirk, Retired*



Sheriff Christopher C. Kirk (Retired) was recognized with the Jerry Baggs Leadership Award at the Texas Jail Association's 35th Annual Conference. Sheriff Kirk honorably served the Brazos County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Brazos County for more than 40 years.

In more than 4 decades as a Texas Peace Officer, Sheriff Kirk is known as a man of the highest character who demonstrated integrity, fairness, empathy, and a commitment to serving his community. During his career he served as a Detention Officer, Deputy Sheriff and Criminal Investigator. He capably performed the duties assigned and excelled in each role. He is recognized as a leader at every point in his career. He was elected Sheriff and took office in 1997. He served six terms as Brazos County Sheriff spanning 24 years before retiring December 31, 2020.

As Sheriff, he led the organization into the 21st Century. He embraced innovation in both organizational processes and technology. He oversaw the development of procedures to ensure fairness, equality, and professional growth of the employees of the office. He implemented promotional processes that relied on knowledge, skills, and abilities to identify the best candidate. He encouraged employees to seek out educational opportunities that would prepare them to become the next generation of law enforcement leaders. The Sheriff's commitment to technology led to a number of advances including the agency's position as the first law enforcement entity in the nation to perform mission critical operations on the FirstNet communication system. Sheriff Kirk left a legacy

of service that will benefit the men and women of the Brazos County Sheriff's Office for years to come.

Sheriff Kirk was active in numerous professional law enforcement organizations. His leadership on legislative issues influenced State and Federal laws that protect our communities. His many accomplishments while working with various law enforcement organizations, include being elected President of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association, and Director of the National Sheriffs' Association. He understood the value gained from being active in these organizations and knew the importance of contributing to their success as a benefit to all law enforcement agencies.

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## Hall of Fame Award

*Sharese Hurst, Correctional Management Institute of Texas*



Sharese Hurst was recognized with the Texas Jail Association's Hall of Fame Award winner at the 35th Annual Conference. Her award was presented by Life Member Dan Richard Beto. In 1991, Sharese was pursuing a bachelor's in business at Sam Houston State University and working part-time performing clerical work at the department's Walker County office. Former Director Dan Richard Beto of the Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department for Walker, Grimes and Madison Counties was so impressed with her work and demeanor, that when she graduated with a BBA in 1993, he hired her full time as a Community Supervision Officer, where she performed exemplary service while continuing her education toward an MBA, which she subsequently earned in 1995.

In 2000, Sharese was hired as a Project Coordinator to man-

age the Texas Drug Offender Education Program and provided secretariat services for the Texas Association for Court Administration. Her performance continued to be exceptional.

In 2004, the TJA Board of Directors designated her as the association's Executive Director. This is truly a highlight in the history of the Texas Jail Association. In addition, Sharese is involved in several related training initiatives. As a Division Director with CMIT, she oversees a number of programs, and she serves on the Advisory Committee of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, a joint initiative of the American Jail Association and CMIT. She was instrumental in the development and creation of the program that became Jail Administration Management and Operations. JAMO has delivered cutting edge information and best practices for jail operations to hundreds of leaders in Texas. The impact of these efforts has forever changed our jails.

Since 2004, Sharese has been steadfast in her service to the Texas Jail Association. During her tenure, and while working in concert with the leadership, the organization's membership has increased, and trainings have expanded. Because of her work, TJA events are envied by national associations for attendance, format, vendor participation, and program content. Through her stewardship and commitment, TJA is a healthy and vibrant professional organization. She is a true servant leader who consistently brings credit to the Texas Jail Association and Sam Houston State University.

## Distinguished Service Award

*Todd Allen, Tom Green County Sheriff's Office*



Todd Allen was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award at the 35th Annual TJA Conference. Since being elected to the board in 2010, Todd Allen has been a fixture on the Association Board, first as a Director and then moving up through the ranks to President. His involvement did not end there. Whenever called upon, Todd has been there for whatever was needed.



When the need became evident to form a Legislative Committee to actively advocate on jail related issues, Todd immediately stepped up to the plate. He has chaired this committee since its formation. During the Legislative Session, Todd stayed up to date on jail related issues and gathered needed information when requested. He is a true blessing to our Association.

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# CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Thursday, May 13, 2021 • TJA Annual Conference

We would like to send a special thank you to the TJA members that participated in the 1st Annual TJA Cornhole tournament. We had 18 teams register and I believe it was a success. We hope to continue the tournament at every conference. The winners of this tournament were **Jordon Heflin** and **Shane Dembowski** from Travis County. The runner ups were **Joel Barrientos** and **Larry Hromadka** from McLennan County.



*From Left to Right, Director Levi Vance, Winners Jordon Heflin and Shane Dembowski, TJA President Ricky Armstrong*



*From Left to Right, Director Levi Vance, Runner Ups Joel Barrientos and Larry Hromadka, TJA President Ricky Armstrong*

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## Vendor Report

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It was wonderful seeing everyone at the 35th annual Texas Jail Association Conference! After a hard year of many changes, we were so glad to see everyone come together again for a hugely successful conference. TJA is proud to say this conference had a record number of attendees and vendors. The vendor hall was sold out with 111 vendors. We would like to congratulate once again Keefe Group and Crown Correctional Telephone, Inc. for being named the Vendors of the Year - thank you for all you do!

TJA would like to recognize and thank Grant Oakley for his service as a board member over the past two years. The board is also welcoming a new vendor representative to the board, Bill Rhyan of Rhyan Technologies. We hope to see all our vendors at the JMI Conference in Galveston, September 13th – 17th, 2021. Registration is now open. You may go our website at [www.texasjailassociation.com](http://www.texasjailassociation.com) to find all information such as class topics, exhibitor packets, registration forms, schedules, hotel blocks, sponsorship opportunities and more. For information, questions or concerns please reach out to us your vendor representatives, 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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# Many In Jail Can Vote, But Exercising That Right Isn't Easy

by Matt Vasilogambros

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*Matt Vasilogambros writes about immigration and voting rights for Stateline. Previously, he was a writer and editor at The Atlantic, where he covered national politics and demographics. This article appeared on the July 16, 2021, issue Stateline, an online news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts. This article is reprinted with permission.*

The chapel and law library at the Cook County Jail in Chicago, Illinois, look like any other polling places around the country, with a couple notable exceptions: the monochrome uniforms of the voters and the alert officers keeping an eye on them. Although Illinoisans convicted of felonies lose their right to vote while serving prison sentences, most of the 6,000 people detained at the jail on Chicago's southwest side maintain their voting privileges as they await trial or serve time for misdemeanors.

During November's presidential election, around 2,200 people voted from four polling places across the jail's eight-block campus. Corrections officials have opened the jail to visitors for monthly voter registration drives and civics lessons. They also offer two weekends of early voting and provide voter education materials, including informational videos that can be played on common-area TVs.

"If we're going to have a significant role in returning individuals to our communities as stronger citizens, there's no better way to do that than voting," said Marlena Jentz, first assistant executive director for the Cook County Jail.

This commitment to ballot access by corrections officials is unusual in the United States. Illinois' largest county is among just a few jurisdictions, including Los Angeles County and Washington, D. C., that allow in-person voting for some of those in jail.

Nationwide, there are around 746,000 people in local jails, and most are eligible to vote, according to a 2020 report from the Prison Policy Initiative, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that advocates for alternatives to incarceration, and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, a civil rights organization formed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson. But very few exercise their right to vote, the report found.

While national pressure grows to restore voting rights for people with previous felony convictions after their release from prison, less attention has been given to people sitting in local jails who are awaiting trial or have been convicted of misdemeanors that don't affect their right to vote.

From the nine states that prevent people in jail from casting absentee ballots to the widespread confusion among those in detention about their voting eligibility, criminal justice activists say there are many barriers to ballot access in jails.

"Sheriffs have to work to understand who is eligible to vote and make that information clear to people in custody," said Wanda Bertram, a spokesperson for the Prison Policy Initiative. "Otherwise, we're disenfranchising thousands of people who actually have the highest stakes in these elections."

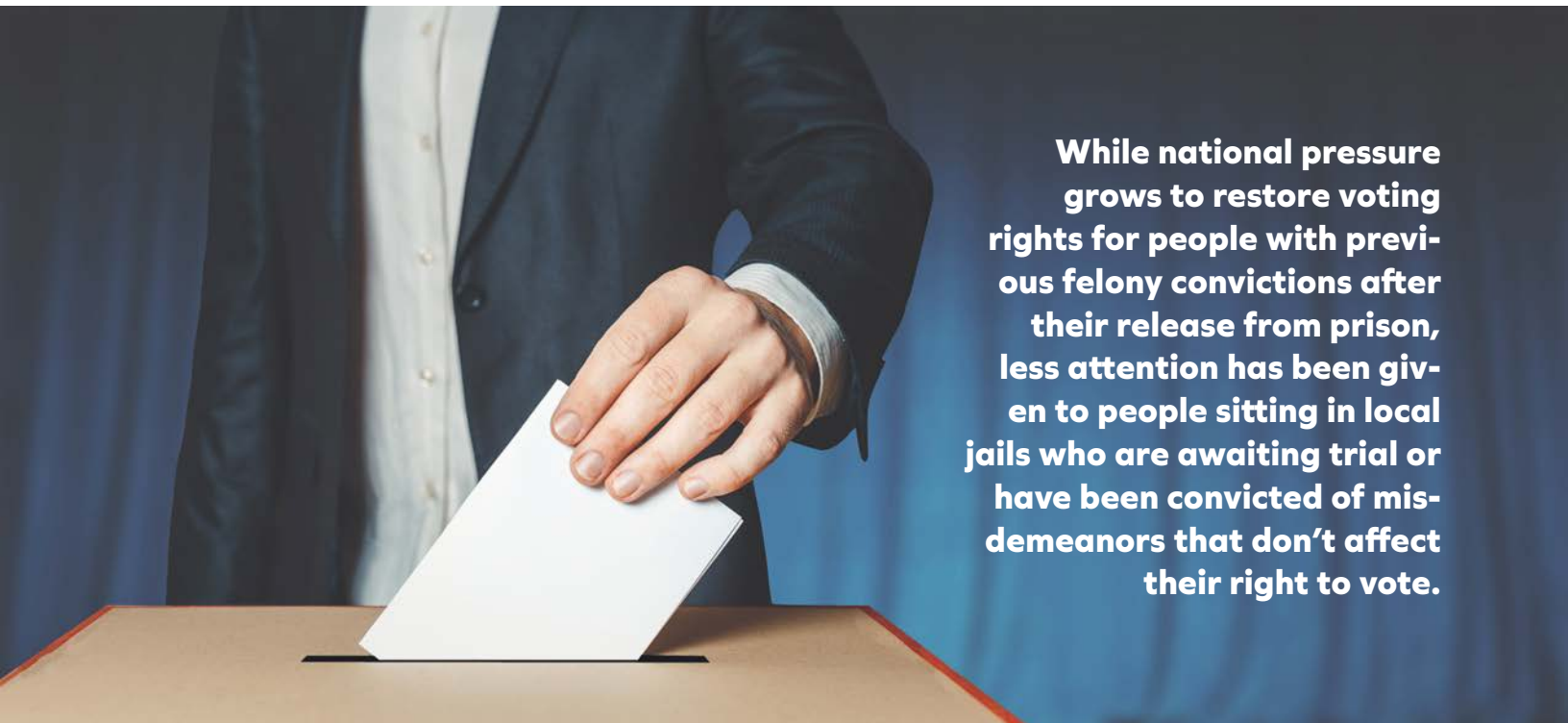
In Wisconsin, where most of the 13,000 people detained in jails are eligible to vote, voting rights groups All Voting is Local, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin submitted records requests to each of the state's 72 county sheriffs earlier this year. The group found that just over half the sheriffs said they had policies in place to encourage jail-based voting. For many incarcerated people, the group found several hurdles, including the state's voter ID law.

The Badger State does not permit a jail ID as an acceptable form of identification to vote. People in jail who want to register to vote or request an absentee ballot must ask corrections personnel to make a copy of their confiscated driver's license or other state-issued ID.

"This hasn't been at the forefront of the discussion around voter accessibility," said Shauntay Nelson, the Wisconsin state director for All Voting is Local. "This is the responsibility of the county jails, as well as election officials, administrators and the legislature. We have to work collaboratively."

Still, with the help of local election officials and voting rights groups, Riewestahl has hosted two voter registration drives. Sitting behind a plexiglass and barred barrier in the visitor's area, volunteers and election officials have registered more than a dozen new voters, sliding important documents through small slits in the divider and speaking through a closed-circuit telephone.

And while scanning the state-issued IDs of incarcerated individuals to meet the state's voter ID laws does place a burden on his staff, Riewestahl is happy to help. He also has made the state's voter registration



**While national pressure grows to restore voting rights for people with previous felony convictions after their release from prison, less attention has been given to people sitting in local jails who are awaiting trial or have been convicted of misdemeanors that don't affect their right to vote.**

After getting a records request from Wisconsin voting rights groups last year, Capt. Dave Riewestahl, the jail administrator for the Eau Claire County sheriff's office, found that his 418-bed jail did not have voting policies. As an Army veteran who served overseas in Kosovo, he said he knows the value of the democratic process and defending constitutional rights. But, he said, the state laws presented serious challenges.

Because Wisconsin elections are administered at the city level, to offer in-person voting Riewestahl would have to invite workers from the county's 18 towns to the jail. So, it made sense to limit voting to absentee by mail.

website one of the three approved sites available on wall-mounted tablets in the communal area.

"The people in jail are the people in the community," he said in an interview. "Voting is an important life skill that needs to be utilized whether someone is in jail or out of custody. If you are eligible and want to vote, the jail has the resources and support to make that happen."

In New York City, the Legal Aid Society earlier this year lambasted City Hall, the Department of Correction, and the state Board of Elections for failing to distribute voter registration information in the city's jails be-

fore last month's mayoral primary. Corrections officials disputed the letter, telling Gothamist they had "gone above and beyond to facilitate voter engagement."

In Illinois, establishing polling locations in jails took legislation. In 2019, Democratic Gov. J. B. Pritzker signed into law a measure that allows Cook County to set up polling locations in its facilities. The law allows this only for counties with a population over 3 million people – which is only Cook County. Last March's primary was the first election that the Chicago jail offered in-person voting.

Pritzker signed another measure requiring counties throughout the state to provide three 90-minute civics courses before people are released from prison. The state also requires jails and prisons to provide a voter registration form to people leaving prison or who are in jail.

"It's a moment of light in a dark situation," said Jen Dean, co-deputy director of Chicago Votes, which has registered close to 6,000 voters at the Cook County Jail since 2017. Dean has trained organizers in 30 counties across the country, in states from South Carolina to California, on how to make voting easier in local jails.

"Jail is an echo chamber of violence and trauma," she added, "and this is a moment when people can realize that they can have an impact."

Pritzker last month signed a sweeping voting bill with a provision allowing county sheriffs across the Prairie State to set up polling places for the 20,000 people in local jails. Previously, people in those jails could vote only by absentee ballot.

"Tell me why those awaiting trial, who are innocent until proven guilty, shouldn't have the right to vote?" said Democratic State Rep. Maurice West, who sponsored the legislation. No Republicans voted in favor of the final bill, and no GOP offices contacted by State-line responded to requests for comment.

The new law allows local jails to expand in-person

voting, but doesn't require it. West, one of the bill's sponsors, hopes the legislature will later make that expansion mandatory. He worries sheriffs outside of the Chicago area will be reluctant to expand voting access in their jails because of resource shortages and the stigma, especially in conservative areas, of allowing incarcerated people to vote.

As is done in many communities throughout rural Illinois, jail personnel in Tazewell County in the central part of the state hand out absentee ballots to incarcerated people who are eligible to vote. Corrections officers then return completed ballots to county election officials.

John Ackerman, the Tazewell County Clerk, said it does not make logistical or financial sense to open a polling location within a jail that has just a 226-bed capacity. His precincts usually comprise 800 voters, cost \$11,000 per election and require at least three election judges. He does not expect the county to take advantage of Illinois' new law and expand in-person voting. "We've been doing it for a number of years that way," he said. "I don't see a reason why we'd change that."

Arizona and Colorado sheriffs are required by law to coordinate with county clerks to provide registration and mail-in ballot access to people who are detained, while Philadelphia and Rhode Island jails have held voter registration drives. Voting rights groups have also held registration drives in around 10 other states.

Misinformation around voting rights is rampant among people in the criminal justice system, said Brian Harrington, 29, who was released from prison in Illinois last April after 13 years of incarceration. Some people awaiting trial in county jails wrongly assume they can't vote, he said, while others in prison incorrectly think they'll never have the right to vote after they are released.

"I was clueless," said Harrington, who now lives in Rockford, Illinois. "There's this myth that you can't vote because there's so many things you can't do when you get a felony. I just assumed I couldn't vote."

Twenty-one states, including Illinois, reinstate voting rights for people with felony convictions after they leave prison. But people with felony convictions lose their voting rights indefinitely in 11 states, while in 16 other states their voting rights are restored only after they complete parole, probation or all fines are paid. People never lose their voting rights in D. C., Maine, and Vermont.

Harrington now works with Chicago Votes as a civic leader manager, working to boost political engagement among formerly incarcerated people and pressure state lawmakers to allow all adult citizens, including those serving time in prison, the right to vote. An effort to restore voting rights to those serving prison sentences fell short this legislative session, but the fight continues, Harrington said.

"The everyday person thinks of the person in prison as an afterthought, so the people in prison think of themselves as an afterthought," he said. "We can show them the power of their voice. This can give them an opportunity to feel engaged in their communities."

Julie Shelton, a retired lawyer and a member of the League of Women Voters of Chicago, has for several years helped facilitate voter registration drives at Cook County Jail. She recently assisted with in-person voting during the 2020 elections.

She has seen women do happy little dances after casting their ballots, singing, "I voted, I voted." But she has also unsuccessfully tried to persuade others to register to vote. Some men she spoke to either didn't feel they knew enough about the candidates to vote or felt that their voice wouldn't make a difference.

"Their freedom has been taken away," Shelton said. "Their ability to be with their families and friends has been taken away. Their ability to create wealth or really to continue to be in society in any meaningful way has been taken away. Most of them are going to be let out of prison and we want them to be productive, contributing members of society. But they have to feel like they belong to society."

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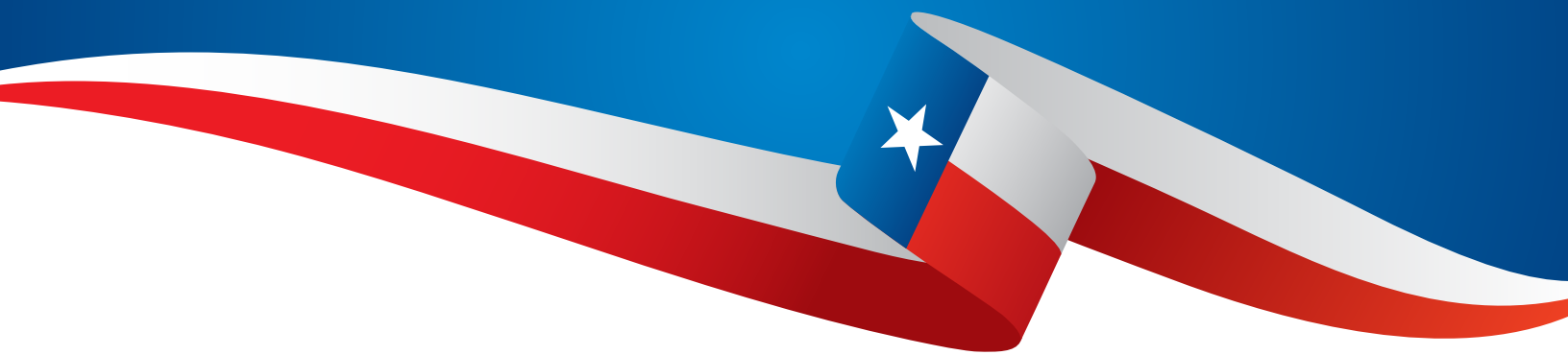
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# What's Happening Around the State?

## Comal County

On March 12, 2021 at approximately 8:00 am, Officer James Samsel took his dog for a walk. As Officer Samsel walked past his neighbor's house, a young girl by the name of Grace Goleman came running from the front door to Officer Samsel. The young girl appeared emotionally distraught and began begging Officer Samsel to help her father. She explained that her father had collapsed in the living room and was not breathing. Officer Samsel, without a second thought, ran into the neighbor's home, where he found Mr. Jon Goleman, lying unconscious on the living room floor. Officer Samsel performed CPR, using the training he received while working with the Comal County Sheriff's Office and managed to restore Mr. Goleman's pulse by the time EMS arrived. Mr. Goleman was immediately transported to Christus Santa Rosa Hospital.

On March 15, 2021, Mr. Jon Goleman passed away. It was determined that Mr. Goleman experienced a "Widow-Makers heart attack" and nothing more could have been done. Mr. Goleman retired at the rank of Sergeant from Houston Police Department and leaves behind his wife, Emily Goleman, and daughter Grace Goleman, and son Austin Goleman. Due to the quick response of Officer James Samsel, Mr. Goleman's family received 2 extra days with their loved one.



# What's Happening Around the State?

## Comal County

On April 16, 2021, the Comal County Sheriff's Office graduated the first CERT Academy of 2021.

*Pictured: Instructor Derrick Sassenhagen, Officer Roy Rodriguez, Officer Devin Richardson, Chief Jimmy Jones, Sheriff Mark Reynolds, Officer Mark Hamilton, Officer Jon Hamilton, and Instructor Anthony Gonzales.*



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

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

#### Fall Issue

October 1st, 2021

#### Winter Issue

December 1st, 2021

#### Summer Issue

June 1st, 2022

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**Send submissions to Sharese Hurst**  
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