

THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

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Summer 2024



Pennybacker Bridge, Austin, Texas

Summer 2024 Edition

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Message from the President



Dear Members,

I am honored to serve as your President of the Texas Jail Association for 2024-2025. Reflecting on my journey from attending TJA conferences over 25 years ago to now, I am deeply grateful for the mentors who have guided me and the giants upon whose shoulders I stand. My path to this point was unconventional. Raised in challenging circumstances, I left school at 16, obtained my GED, and joined the Army, eventually beginning my career at Lubbock County. These experiences shaped my belief that it is our responsibility to educate and support where others have failed, and that leadership is about influencing positive change.

As an association, we must champion the importance of jails in the criminal justice system. Despite being integral, our role is often misunderstood and undervalued. It's essential to address this by educating the public and policymakers about our work and advocating for necessary legislative changes. For example, recent bills have overlooked correctional officers in mental health benefits, despite their high PTSD rates. Our legislative committee must actively participate in these discussions.

I propose creating a social media campaign to highlight our profession and improve recruitment. Additionally, we are working with Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas to publish studies and share best practices with our members.

I want to thank each of you for your dedication to this demanding job. You are the unsung heroes, and your commitment does not go unnoticed. God bless you all and God bless Texas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Johnny Jaquess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Chief Johnny Jaquess
President, Texas Jail Association

Past President's Passage



TJA Members,

The 38th Annual Conference is now behind us, and what an incredible event it was! I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the TJA Board of Directors and the CMIT staff. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication made everything come together seamlessly. I am honored to have worked alongside such great professionals.

This year, we were thrilled to welcome over 550 attendees, making it one of our largest conferences yet. Our Training Committee did a phenomenal job bringing in new speakers and offering a variety of engaging classes. Newly added this year was the Grit and Grace Women's Panel, which showcased Corrections and Law Enforcement leaders from around the state. It was a great success and added a special touch to the conference. A special thanks to our Keynote speaker, Mr. Randy Prince. His message provided the positive enthusiasm we needed to navigate the challenges in our profession and underscored the vital role we play in the Criminal Justice system.

I also want to take a moment to sincerely thank every vendor who supported the Texas Jail Association Annual Conference. Your unwavering support means a lot to our Association!

The BBQ fundraiser for the Jack Crump Scholarship was a tremendous success, thanks to the overwhelming turnout. We had a fantastic crowd, and we anticipate an even larger one next May as we look to grow the event. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this meaningful cause. This year, we also hosted the first-ever stand-alone event for the Cornhole Tournament, which was a great success and had our largest turnout of teams to date. Lastly, our Jerry Baggs Golf Tournament at Kissing Tree Golf Course attracted 92 golfers and continues to raise funds for scholarships and the 100 Club of Central Texas.

To all our members, your support is deeply appreciated. I hope the conference allowed you to learn, network, and exchange information and ideas that you can bring back to your departments to create positive change and enhancements.

As I embark on my new role as Immediate Past President, I want to thank everyone who supported me during my years on the TJA Board. Every person I met along the way had an impact on me, either personally or professionally, and for that, I thank you! In May 2023, we set out to conquer several goals, and I am proud to say we accomplished them. Specif-

ically, I am excited that we have reignited our regional trainings. Please be on the lookout for announcements in the coming days for training opportunities.

Looking ahead, the Jail Management Issues Conference will be held September 9-13, 2024, in Galveston, TX.

Congratulations to our new President, Johnny Jaquess! We wish him all the best.

I hope to see you all in September.

Stay safe and God bless,



Edwardo Jackson
President, Texas Jail Association



Call for Articles!



Key Issues invites all members to send articles, photographs, presentations, papers, announcements, challenges, creative solutions or any submission that may be of interest to the TJA membership.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Fall Issue
October 1, 2024

Winter Issue
December 1, 2024

Summer Issue
June 1, 2025

SEND SUBMISSIONS OR INQUIRIES TO

Sharese Hurst
sharese@shsu.edu

Membership Report

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the 38th Annual Business Conference in San Marcos, Texas. Your engagement and enthusiasm were instrumental in making this event a resounding success. The training sessions provided invaluable insights and tools essential for our continuous professional development and advancement within the county jail system.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our plans for future regional training efforts across the state. These initiatives are designed to ensure that all members have access to high-quality training opportunities, regardless of their location. In our continuous effort to grow the Texas Jail Association, we ask for your support in sharing your TJA experience with colleagues in nearby counties and other professional contacts. Your firsthand accounts of the benefits of TJA membership, including access to specialized training, professional development, and a supportive network of peers, are the most powerful tools we have to expand our association. Please take a moment to reach out to your peers and share how TJA has positively impacted your professional journey. Encourage them to join our association and take advantage of the resources and opportunities we provide. By doing so, you will help us broaden our reach and strengthen our collective knowledge and capabilities as county jailers.

Once again, thank you for your active participation and ongoing support of the Texas Jail Association. Together, we can continue to advance the standards and effectiveness of county jail operations across Texas. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming regional training events and to working together to further our mission. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Abby Belangeri

Membership Committee Chair
abelangeri@brazoscountytexas.gov

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

PROFESSIONAL – 1477

ASSOCIATE – 25

BUSINESS – 49

Join or Renew Your TJA Membership Online!

www.texasjailassociation.com/join.html



Thomas Morris

In Loving Memory • April 7, 1955 – June 18, 2024

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of Thomas Morris, former Jail Administrator for Ochiltree County. Tom left the morning of June 18, 2024 to be with his wife Donna and his Lord Jesus Christ. He will be greatly missed by all. He is survived by one daughter, Jennifer Morris of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; one son, David Morris and wife, Kelly, of Melissa, Texas; two grandsons, Thomas Adrien Morris and Caleb Morris.

Thomas's funeral was held on June 21st at First Christian Church of Perryton in Perryton, Texas at the Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home of Perryton. Burial was held at Blue Mound Cemetery in Balco, Oklahoma.

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COURTROOM CHALLENGE

BY: CAPTAIN JONATHAN EDE, TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) delivered another high-noon style showdown at the 38th Texas Jail Association Annual Conference with the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw game. This high-stakes competition tests jailers' knowledge of minimum jail standards and never fails to engage the crowd. The competition and participating teams get exponentially better each year!

Teams of two battled it out round after round, answering rapid-fire questions projected on the wall for all to see. With points awarded not only for correct answers but also for speed, the tension was palpable as competitors raced against the clock and each other. Round winners advanced to the finals, where the questions became even more challenging, and the tension mounted. It is fascinating to see how quickly these teams provide the correct answer, most times before members of the audience have read the first few lines of the questions!

Travis County, a dominant force in the competition since the early 2010s, showed its prowess once again. In a twist of fate, two Travis County teams proved so unstoppable that they were forced to eliminate one of their own in the semi-finals to make way for the championship round.

Ultimately, Dallas County emerged victorious, edging out Travis County in the final round. While Dallas County may have claimed the bragging rights this year, the competition was a testament to the deep knowledge and dedication of all participating teams. The impressive display of expertise in Texas minimum jail standards highlighted the commitment of these professionals to upholding the highest standards in their respective counties.

Congratulations to the winners:

- 1st Place:** William Phariss and Jazmin Salas-Aleman (Dallas County)
- 2nd Place:** Saul Vega and Kurosh Griffin (Travis County)
- 3rd Place:** Jeremiah Deleon and Cody Baker
(Garza P Management and Training Corporation)

Travis County, having tasted both victory and the sting of defeat in this year's competition, is already setting its sights on reclaiming the top spot in 2025. The Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw may be a fun and engaging event, but it serves a much larger purpose. It showcases the dedication of Texas jailers to maintaining safe and compliant facilities, ultimately benefiting not only their own institutions but the entire state's correctional system.



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LEND A HELPING ARM

BLOOD DRIVE

BY: TIM QUINTANA, SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS AND TJA PAST PRESIDENT

The TJA/Southern Health Partners Annual Blood Drive was held May 7, 2024 at the 38th Annual TJA Conference. We had over twenty willing donors give life saving donations. This drive makes 12 years in a row of successful blood drives! Our membership should be so very proud of the amount of blood given.

This year hits close to home for me and my family. My mother recently fell and ended up needing blood at the hospital. The blood transfusion helped her get on the road back to good health. Without blood drives and our great TJA members these life saving transfusions might not be so readily available.

We are setting up our next TJA/SHP drive for September 10, 2024 in Galveston at the 2024 Jail Management Issues Conference. Roll up your sleeves and we will see you there!

All donors will be eligible for a \$100.00 drawing at the Thursday Evening Banquet.

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2024-2025 New Board Thank You's



Abby Belangeri, 3rd Vice-President

Lieutenant, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

I am deeply honored and grateful for your confidence in electing me as the 3rd Vice President of our esteemed association. Your support means the world to me, and I am excited to embark on this journey together as we strive to advance our profession.

My passion for county jails drives my commitment to moving our association forward. As your 3rd Vice President, I pledge to advocate for the professionalization of county jails by focusing on the implementation of best practices, enhancing training programs, providing technical assistance, and fostering robust networking opportunities through training and conferences. Our collective efforts are crucial in shaping the future of county jails in Texas. By promoting excellence and supporting each other, we can ensure that our facilities operate at the highest standards, benefiting both staff and those in our care.

Thank you once again for your trust and support. I am eager to collaborate with each of you to achieve our shared goals and to make a lasting, positive impact on our profession.



Rodney Cooper, Private Jail Representative

Executive Director, LaSalle Corrections

I would like to thank President Johnny Jaquess as well as all the past presidents who have given me the opportunity to serve on the board.

The Texas Jail Association is a great resource for anyone working in any jail throughout the state of Texas. The association constantly looks for new ways to provide training and support to all members and advocates for jail staff as they provide a vital service to communities throughout Texas. The conferences held each year give jail staff opportunities to hear from experts in the field and share best practices with colleagues. Members can also reach out anytime throughout the year to ask questions and get advice from other members of the association.

I encourage anyone who works in a jail in any capacity to become a member of the Texas Jail Association. You won't regret it!



Rowdee Edwards, 2nd Vice-President

Captain, Collin County Sheriff's Office

I am very appreciative of your continued support. I will continue to work diligently, supporting the membership and the ideals of the Texas Jail Association in the years to come. I am hopeful for the future of our association and its continued growth.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Jail Management Issues conference in Galveston.



Sheleana Davis, Director

Assistant Jail Administrator, Robertson County Sheriff's Office

I would like to thank all of you for providing me with the opportunity to be appointed to the Texas Jail Association Board of Directors. I am excited about the future of this incredible organization and want to assure all TJA members that I do not take this position lightly. I will serve with respect and integrity. I encourage all correctional personnel to take advantage of the excellent training the Texas Jail Association offers and to become active members within the organization.

Once more, thank you, Texas Jail Association members, for this wonderful opportunity to serve you.

Thank you to all of those who nominate and vote for the TJA Board!

Your participation helps the Texas Jail Association continue to *"Provide a Distinct & Unified Voice for Corrections Officers in Local Jails."*

If you're interested in serving on the Board or know someone who would be a great fit, nominations will open early 2025!

38TH ANNUAL TJA CONFERENCE



MAY 6-10, 2024 | SAN MARCOS, TX



TJA Awards

Please join us in recognizing the following award winners, who were honored at TJA's annual banquet in May at the Embassy Suites, San Marcos, Texas.

The **Jerry Baggs Leadership Award** was awarded to **Charles Eckert** of Tarrant County. Chief Eckert is known for his expert knowledge of jails and his problem-solving ideas.

The **Bob Patterson Award** was presented to the family of **Bob Patterson**, recognizing his dedication and contributions to the advancement of officers working in jails.

The **Hall of Fame Award** was given to **Reginald Walker**, a Lieutenant with Brazos County Sheriff's Office, for his outstanding contributions to county corrections and the criminal justice system.

The **Detention Officer of the Year - Professional Service Award** was given to **Staff Sergeant Chamayne Johnson** from Lubbock County Sheriff's Office for his exceptional contributions to county corrections.

The **Detention Officer of the Year - Valor Award** was presented to **Officer William Brassell** of the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office for demonstrating courage in the face of danger.

The **TJA Lifesaving Award** was given to **Officer Quoc Tran** and **Lieutenant James Leahy** of Collin County Sheriff's Office for their extraordinary performance in saving a life.

On May 30, 2023, Officer Quoc Tran was on duty at the Collin County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility. During a routine face-to-face observation, Officer Tran discovered an inmate hanging from his bunk in cell 19. He swiftly opened the cell door and found the inmate unresponsive, with a blanket tied around his neck and attached to the upper part of the bunk. Using his safety shears, Officer Tran cut the ligature, relieving the pressure around the inmate's neck, and gently lowered him to the ground. He immediately notified Building Control of the medical emergency in Pod 3D. He checked for vital signs and observed the inmate's chest for any movement. Finding no pulse, Officer Tran began performing CPR.

Lieutenant James Leahy promptly responded to Cell 19, where he found Officer Tran performing CPR on the unresponsive inmate. He removed the remaining part of the ligature from around the inmate's neck and noticed a buildup of saliva in the inmate's mouth. He instructed Officer Tran to roll the inmate onto his side and delivered three strong back slaps to clear the airway. After the inmate expelled the saliva, he was placed back on his back and observed for signs of life. Lieutenant Leahy performed a sternum rub, prompting the inmate to move and groan just as medical staff arrived. These swift actions allowed medical personnel to quickly transport the inmate to the ambulance waiting in the Sally Port.

A review of the incident reports and recorded footage confirmed that without the quick and decisive actions of Lieutenant Leahy and Officer Tran, the inmate would not have survived.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you for your service.



Chief Charles Eckert

The Family of Bob Patterson

Lieutenant Reginald Walker

Staff Sergeant Chamayne Johnson

Officer William Brassell

Officer Quoc Tran

Technology Report

The 38th Annual Conference was a huge success and as your Technology Committee Chairperson, I am thrilled about our continued partnership with The Sheriff App and enhancing the Association. I am excited to share the goals the committee is pursuing to enhance the Texas Jail Association App.

Our primary objective is to make the Texas Jail Association App interactive and informative all year round. To meet this objective, we will work on providing information about upcoming training sessions, provide access to marketing videos that highlight the association's activities, and provide access to articles and resources relevant to our field. We are also ex-

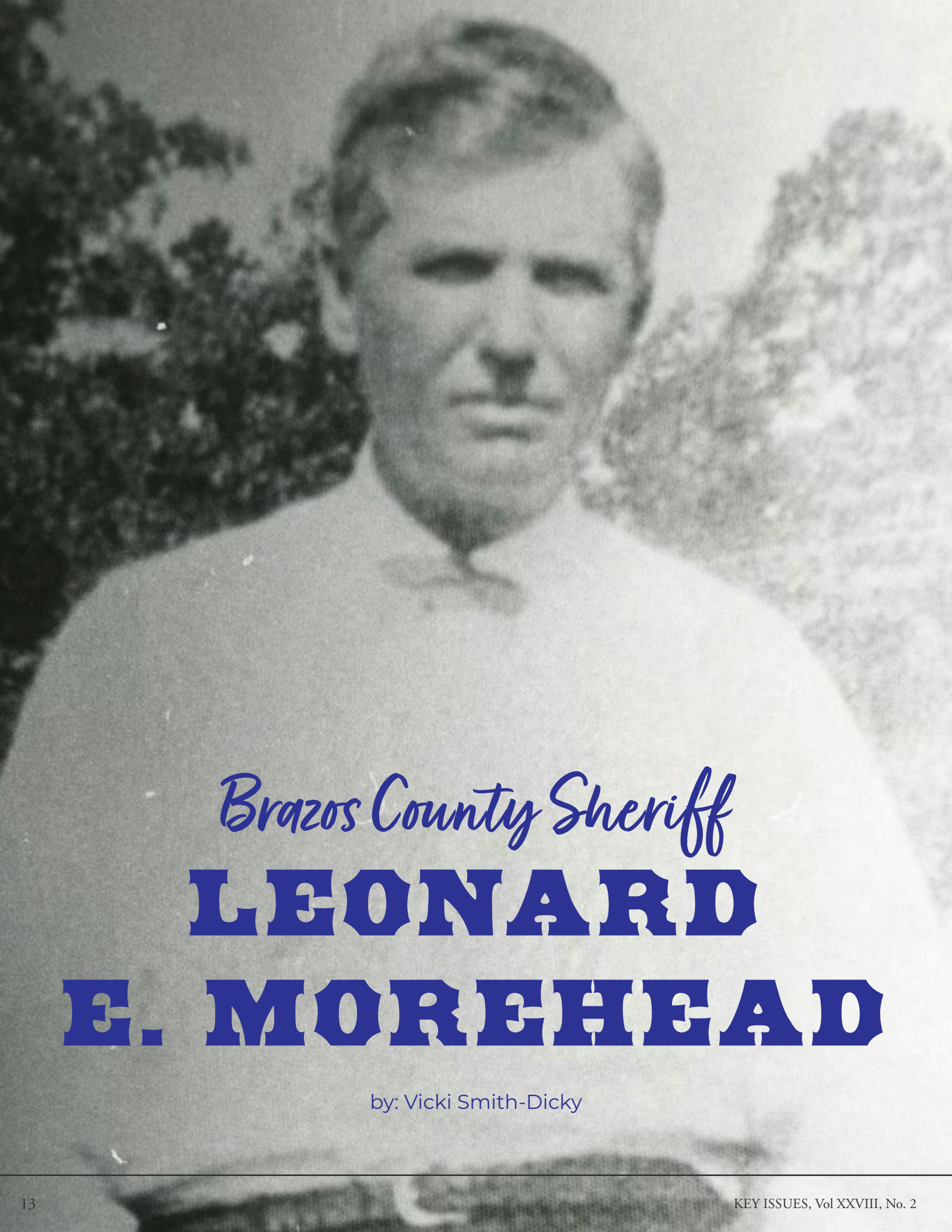
ploring the capability to offer TJA merchandise for sale online throughout the year.

Your technology committee is working diligently to ensure we provide the best quality app for your optimal experience at future conferences and enhancing your engagement with the Texas Jail Association.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

— **Lt. Justin Marinari, Brazos County**
jmarinari@brazoscountytexas.gov



Brazos County Sheriff

**LEONARD
E. MOREHEAD**

by: Vicki Smith-Dicky

Leonard Edgar Morehead was born on July 7, 1880, in Leake County, Mississippi. When he was a young boy, his family relocated to Texas. After residing in Houston County for a few years, Leonard made his way back to Brazos County. On December 4, 1907, at 7 p.m., Leonard married Lila Belle Holligan, a lady who was born and raised in Brazos County. Their wedding took place at the Steep Hollow Church. Before he started his career in law enforcement, Leonard made a living as a carpenter. He was sworn in as a deputy sheriff on July 16, 1916, and served under Sheriff T.C. Nunn for two years. In November 1918, the voters of Brazos County elected Leonard as the county's new Sheriff.

When Sheriff Morehead was in office, Brazos County certainly looked different than it does today. The population was about 22,000 compared to today's estimate of 250,000. Additionally, while the number of cars traveling on the roads might not be close in comparison, Texas A&M game-day visitors still caused congestion. Being the popular Thanksgiving game, thousands of cars would be on the once narrow road. To keep the roads safe, Sheriff Morehead appointed three special deputies to keep an eye on the road between Bryan and the university. The Sheriff published a statement warning all drivers that anyone caught driving over fifteen miles per hour in the city limits would be arrested and fined.

As was common during this time, the Sheriff and his family resided in the old county jail, which doubled as his office. Lila once stated that she often heard the squeaking and clanging of cell doors opening and closing. Living within the jail's walls proved advantageous. One night in 1921, Sheriff Morehead was jolted awake by the muffled scraping sound echoing from the second floor. Cautiously ascending the stairs, he was met with an unexpected sight: an inmate diligently sawing away at a steel bar.

During the Prohibition Era, the duties of a sher-

iff looked a little different. In an interview with the Bryan Weekly Eagle in November 1923, Sheriff Morehead shared that there was a decrease in the number of crimes committed during this period. He went on to say that prior to Prohibition, there were eleven murders within an eighteen-month period, with intoxication being involved in nine of those murders. In the article, the Sheriff was quoted as saying, "Currently, there is an average of not more than one drunken man per month. In the days of alcohol, there were between one to twenty-five each Saturday."

Although the Sheriff managed to keep drunkenness under control, he certainly had his hands full with other problems. The local newspapers frequently reported on his investigations into break-ins, stolen horses, and goods, as well as the recovery of many stolen cars. Often, he would stay up all night until he found the culprit or found the stolen items as he did when he recovered a new Hudson Super-Six in a Wellborn area ditch.

While there are many similarities and differences between Sheriff Morehead's time in office and the present, the one topic that remains relevant is mental health issues. One example of this struggle occurred in July 1923. While the Sheriff was observing the jail being cleaned, an inmate attacked him with a razor. Being armed only with a heavy jail key, the Sheriff knocked the razor from the prisoner's hand and after a single-handed struggle, succeeded in forcing him back into a cell. This inmate had been ruled insane about seven months prior. This would not be the last time Sheriff Morehead faced someone with a mental health issue.

On March 29, 1924, Steep Hollow School hosted a country wagon show and invited Sheriff Morehead to participate in the play. As an act in the play, the Sheriff was to portray a county constable and place handcuffs on a magician. Initially, he did not think he would be able to

make it to the event. As previously written, this was the era of Prohibition and he made plans to confiscate a truck of bootleg whiskey passing through Bryan from Galveston. But he finished early and was able to make the performance.

During the play, a former inmate of the Brazos County Jail spotted the Sheriff. He then went home to get a shotgun and returned to shoot Sheriff Morehead through one of the windows. When the Sheriff fell to the floor, the audience thought this was part of the play and erupted in applause. But the joyous cheers were cut short. Sheriff Morehead died instantly from a shot in the head. The bullet that struck the Sheriff was a chunk of molded lead from fishing weights. The suspect fled the scene but was apprehended later that evening and confessed to the murder. It was reported that he held an imaginary grievance against the Sheriff, even going as far as to say that "his dead sister in Heaven told him to do it." After a trial held in Marlin, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity and sent to a mental facility.

Sheriff Morehead was survived by his wife and three children, Obie, Eula Dell, and Ronald Milton, along with his mother and several siblings. An estimated 4,000 people attended his funeral at the courthouse to express their condolences for the popular Sheriff. Reportedly, it was the biggest funeral in the area, with people crammed into the courtroom and the passageways. In addition, some people waited in their automobiles or stood on the courthouse yard.

Three days after her husband's tragic death, the County Commissioners voted to have Mrs. Morehead complete the Sheriff's unexpired term of office. Despite being a grieving widow with three children at home, she accepted the appointment and put on a badge, carrying her husband's pistol. The same pearl-handled pistol that he took with him when he left the house on March 29th. Being a woman, she had just gained the right to vote a few years prior, and

now Mrs. Morehead wore a badge to protect the citizens of her county.

In a 1959 interview, Lila shared that her first official act as Sheriff was to get rid of all the liquor her husband had confiscated, which she did by pouring it down the street. She sat and poured out 718 quarts of alcohol from 11 AM until 4 PM. She poured it out until there was a constant flow from the old jailhouse to the railroad, about two blocks away. She then struck a match to it and watched it burn, along with all the shrubbery and grass around the jail.

In addition to being a gun-toting, liquor-pouring Sheriff, Lila has been described as energetic, petite, and very ladylike. Her family shares that she made wonderful homemade applesauce and never left the house without wearing her gloves. Known as "That Lady Sheriff" to the locals, Lila served nine months and one day of her husband's unexpired term. To this day, she remains the only female sheriff of Brazos County. She lived to be 86 years old and is buried next to Leonard in Bryan City Cemetery.

Perhaps one of the best descriptions of Sheriff Morehead is found when the Chamber of Commerce published its thoughts on April 15, 1924. "He was fearless in his work, possessed of courage of a high order when responsibilities were laid on his shoulders. He did not spare himself in the least when there was work to be done. While we enjoyed the comforts of our home and rested in security, Sheriff Morehead gave up his hours of rest and denied himself the enjoyment of his home and labored all through the night so that justice might be done, that those who violated the law might be apprehended."

DRIVING SIMULATOR

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TROPHY WINNERS
FROM THIS YEAR'S DRIVING SIMULATOR COMPETITION:**

🏆 **OVERALL - FIRST PLACE WINNER:** JACOB HARLESS, MILAM COUNTY

🏆 **OVERALL - SECOND PLACE WINNER:** AMBER THIEME, LUBBOCK COUNTY

🏆 **OVERALL - THIRD PLACE WINNER:** RAYMOND SANSOM, LAMB COUNTY

🏆 **FASTEST TIME IN OBSTACLE COURSE:** MISTY LEVENS, JONES COUNTY

🏆 **MOST UNIQUE DRIVER:** NAYDA SANTOS, LUBBOCK COUNTY



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Vendor Report

The 38th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference in San Marcos has come and gone. Once again, please take time to thank all those who make these events happen year in and year out. From the golf tournament to start the week to the dinner and casino night Thursday, it was truly an impressive week.

We would like to thank all the vendors for their attendance and ongoing financial support. As the board and all TJA members often point out, this support provides training and networking across Texas.

The 2024 TJA Jail Management Issues Conference will be held September 9-13, 2024, in Galveston. If not already signed up, please try to participate in the Fishing Tournament. Edwardo Jackson has worked extremely hard to make this an enjoyable yearly event for attendees, and it continues to grow. Please go to www.texasjailassociation.com to find all needed information, such as class topics, exhibitor packets, registration forms, schedules, hotel blocks, sponsorship opportunities, etc. As vendor representatives, please use us as a resource for any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming TJA Conference.

Please help us continue to spread the word about all TJA event opportunities. Vendor exposure with TJA and TJA events is unrivaled in this industry. Your experience with the Texas Jail Association is our ultimate priority. We hope everyone had a great summer and look forward to seeing everyone in Galveston!

— **Blake Taylor, TJA Vendor Representative**

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Visit the TJA Website for full information and application forms.

Past President's Scholarship

This scholarship is offered to eligible students pursuing a degree at a college or university.

Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship

The scholarship is for tuition to a class of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy.

Deadlines

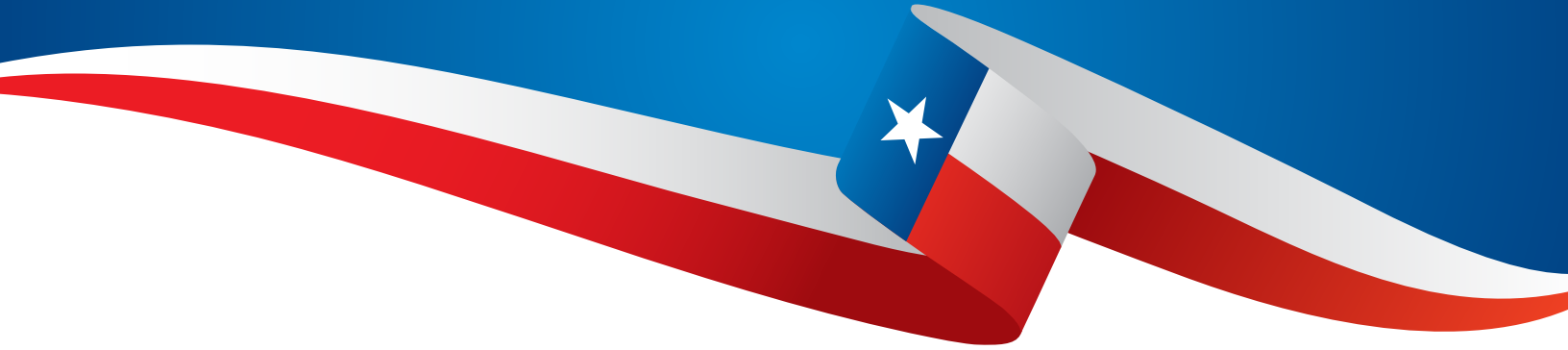
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Fall 2025 Semester - July 1, 2025

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GRIT & Grace:

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LEADING LADIES

BY: SHERIFF SALLY HERNANDEZ, TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

March is Women's History Month. I enjoyed the perfect lead-in to the month by receiving a visit from someone who became a friend from the moment I met him, Ronnie Erwin. Ronnie and his late wife, Lynn, started collecting antique sheriff badges several decades ago. That led them to what they lovingly referred to as their research adventure of a lifetime. The fruit of their labor is "Stars Over Texas," a three-volume set of books that detail the history of every sheriff who has served in each Texas county. As I opened the first volume, I was taken aback by the history of women who have served as sheriff across our great state.

I was inspired to learn that Emma Susan Daugherty Banister, appointed in 1918, was not only the first woman to serve as sheriff in Texas but also

the first woman to serve as sheriff in the United States. I'll admit it came as a disappointment to read that of 7,063 sheriffs in Texas history, only 99 are women. In the early 1900s, women were appointed sheriff to complete the terms of their husbands upon their deaths. A few of them ended up being "re-elected" when that term expired. I chose to run for sheriff. It was my dream, determination, and personal goals that propelled me into the position. What a difference that makes.

On March 27th, I had the honor of joining Austin Police Chief Robin Henderson and University of Texas Police Chief Eve Stephens for a panel discussion at the Women in Criminal Justice Conference in San Marcos. The panel was titled "Grit & Grace: Lessons Learned from Leading Ladies." My heart





Left to Right: Austin Police Chief Robin Henderson, Sheriff Sally Hernandez, UT Police Chief Eve Stephens

was full as I looked out on a room full of women who have the grit to pursue careers in criminal justice and the inclination to do this honorable work with grace.

On May 7th, I had the honor once again of joining Austin Police Chief Robin Henderson and this time, Sheriff Zena Stephens and former Sheriff Carmella Jones, for another panel discussion at the annual Texas Jail Association Conference. In addition, Sheriff Stephens and I attended the women's so-

cial event and got to enjoy inspirational conversations with the ladies in attendance.

Today, out of 254 counties in Texas, there are eight female sheriffs. Throughout the United States, only 2% of sheriffs are women. We clearly have room for improvement when it comes to women in leadership roles in law enforcement. It did my heart good to join these exceptional women in law enforcement leadership and to encourage women who will continue the legacy and forge new paths.

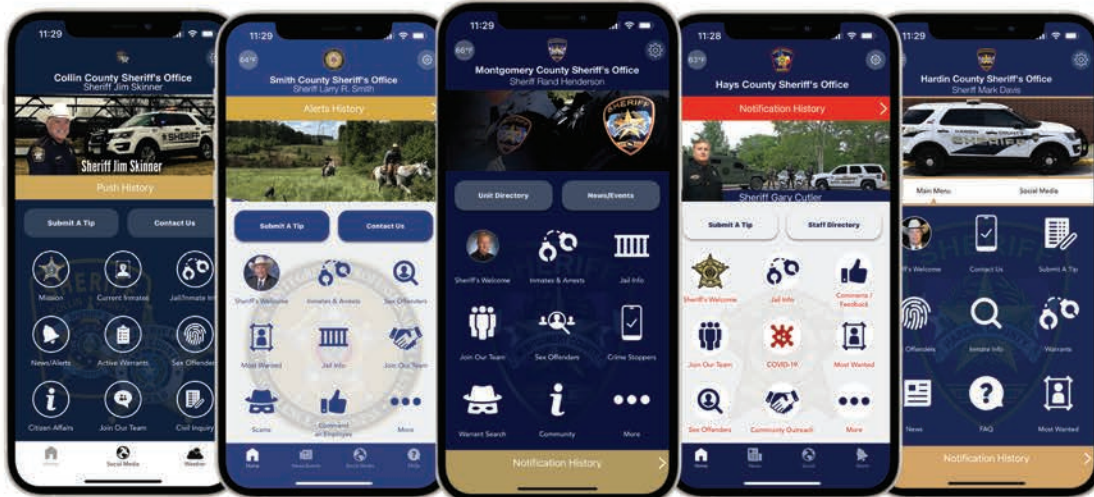


Left to Right: Former Sheriff Carmella Jones, Sheriff Zena Stephens, Sheriff Sally Hernandez, Austin Police Chief Robin Henderson



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Training Report

I would like to thank every member and agency for their continued support in our association. This past year was a huge success in the amount of regional trainings that were held. At the 38th Annual conference we had 550 attendees and offered 30 hours of training. This is a continued effort as we move to the future.

If you are interested in hosting a regional training, please get in contact with one of the Training Committee members for scheduling.

— **Rowdee Edwards, TJA 2nd Vice-President**
Collin County Sheriff's Office

Training Committee

Rowdee Edwards (Chairperson)
Jason Davis
Aimee Crockett

Ryan Braus
Jess Christensen (At-Large)
Jason Jouett (At-Large)

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Jail Mental Health Officer Course (TCOLE 5900)

August 19 - August 23, 2024 • Tyler, TX

2024 Drug Impact Conference

August 12 - August 15, 2024 • Grapevine, TX

2024 TJA Jail Management Issues Conference

September 9 - September 13, 2024 • Corpus Christi, TX

11th Annual Mental Health Conference

December 2 - December 5, 2024 • Corpus Christi, TX

2025 Gang Intelligence and Supervision Conference

January 20 - January 23, 2025 • Galveston, TX

2025 Women in Criminal Justice Conference

March 3 - March 6, 2025 • Corpus Christi, TX

Visit www.texasjailassociation.com for more information and to register.

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Jules Verne novel



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on pending case



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phone with the tablet



19:32 pm
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Lecrae

Corby Kenter

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Cheryl White Mynar

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Lesley Hernandez

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Nominations & Bylaws Report

The first Vice President serves as the Chairman for both the Nomination and By-Laws Committees for the Texas Jail Association. Listed below are this year’s selected committee members. If you are interested in running for the board, you must have the support of your Sheriff. It has been one of the best highlights of my career serving the members.

It was a very exciting election at the Annual Texas Jail Association Conference. There were many candidates with experience and knowledge in the field of corrections campaigning for 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Treasurer, and the open Director positions. It was a hard-fought race. Please congratulate your elected board members and appointed board member positions:

- 2nd Vice President Rowdee Edwards Collin County Sheriff’s Office
- 3rd Vice President Abby Belangeri Brazos County Sheriff’s Office
- Director Shane Sowell
- Director Les Karnes Brown County Sheriff’s Office
- Treasurer Aimee Crockett Smith County Sheriff’s Office
- Secretary Lynette Anderson Harris County Sheriff’s Office
- Chaplain Travis Sterling Correct Solutions Group
- Parliamentarian Billy Bryan Bell County Detain Inc.
- Historian Carla Stone Kaufman County LaSalle Corrections
- Sheriff’s Representative Kelly Rowe Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office
- Private Jail Representative Rodney Cooper LaSalle Corrections
- Sergeant-At-Arms Kevin Stuart Brazos County Sheriff’s Office
- Vendor Representative Sarah Edwards Flying Cross
- Vendor Representative Blake Taylor Keefe Group
- Editor Marcy Calnan Collin County Sheriff’s Office

— **Frances Dembowski, TJA 1st Vice President**
Travis County Sheriff’s Office

Nominating Committee Frances Dembowski (Chairperson) Rowdee Edwards Levi Vance (At-Large)	By-Laws Committee Frances Dembowski (Chairperson) Veronica Mancias (At-Large) Kevin Stuart
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September 9, 2024 · Galveston, TX

2024 TJA Jail Management Issues Conference

Cost: \$1500 per boat (4 people)

Time: 6:30am–11:30am

Fee includes: Boat, Guide, Bait, Fishing Reels, Breakfast, Drinks, Shuttle, and Gratuity

Location: Marina, Shuttle will be provided to and from San Luis and Hilton hotel.

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Tournament Regulations: Rules will be explained the morning of tournament



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