

THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XXVIII, No. 1

Winter 2024



Robert "Bob" Wilson Patterson III
February 4, 1957 – August 19, 2023

Winter 2024 Edition

Past President's Passage



TJA Members,

I hope you all are doing well. I want to take a moment and thank the entire TJA Board for all their hard work. The Jail Management Issues Conference was great, they did an outstanding job.

I know that they are busy preparing for a great conference in May. If you have employees that are not members, please encourage them to join TJA. I have been involved in TJA, for many years, and I cannot think of another organization that focuses only on their members, the way TJA does.

2024 is a new start, may you all continue to strive to be the best corrections professional you can be. Times may get tough, but you are strong, resilient and have a whole lot of fans in your corner.

Stay safe and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Becky', followed by a long, horizontal, looping flourish.

Becky Caffey
Immediate Past 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

Summer Issue
June 1, 2024

Fall Issue
October 1, 2024

SEND SUBMISSION TO

Sharese Hurst
sharese@shsu.edu

Message from the President



TJA Members,

We are fast approaching our 38th Annual Conference to be held once again at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos on May 6th – 10th, 2024. I am looking forward to serving each of you for my final conference as President of the Texas Jail Association. We are looking forward to having a great lineup of instructors and training provided throughout the conference. The week will also include the Jerry Baggs Golf Tournament along with the 3rd Annual BBQ Cook-off.

I would like to express my appreciation to you all for helping us make the Jail Management Issues conference in Galveston another successful year. The week began with our annual Fishing Tournament and ended with dinner and a casino night at our banquet. Our Training Committee created an outstanding week of training that included assistance from our partners with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. A special “thank you” to Sheriff Ray DelBosque for closing out our training session with Drug Cartels, Gangs, and the New Trends of Human Trafficking and Border Violence.

As we reflect on 2023, I would like to take a moment to thank each of you personally for the job you do daily. Those of us in the Corrections profession understand the hard work and dedication you put forward to ensure the safety of your fellow brothers and sisters as well as those in your custody. It is my hope that each of you continue to remain optimistic as we endure the many challenges in Corrections but also embrace the opportunity for personal development.

The Texas Jail Association stands ready to assist in any way that we can through our training or by assisting with a network of responses on our list serve to provide answers for an SOP, policy, or to provide best practices.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Jackson'.

Edwardo Jackson
President, Texas Jail Association

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Membership Report

Being a member of The Texas Jail Association has always had an esteem reputation, which provides great networking opportunities and training. Regardless of the size your jail, we all have something in common and can provide assistance to all. By being a member of this professional organization, you can attend the Annual Conference or Jail Management Issues Conference. We also offer regional training where we can come to your facility to provide a wide range of training. We give our members an opportunity to share ideas and exchange information on the membership list serve. Membership benefits include access to Key Issues Newsletter, a discounted rate to conferences, State Legislative updates and voting privileges. If you are a current member, I encourage you to recruit your peers.

Membership for a year is \$30 and if you have been a member for a while, you may consider becoming a lifetime member for \$300. As always, we look forward to meeting each of you and having the opportunity to assist you in your growth.

Rowdee Edwards, 3rd Vice-President	Ryan Braus, Director
Shane Sowell, Director	Nathan Ervin, Member-At-Large

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Bob Patterson & the Three C's

by: Billy Bryan, TJA Past President 1992–93

As the photos show, Bob was the person at the microphone for so many conferences throughout his jail career.

Bob had a great law enforcement career, serving his country proudly in the army as an MP. He travelled to pick up AWOL's across the country, and it was a nice gig! In 1978, he came to work for the Sheriff's Office in Bell County. Starting as a jailer, he rose through the ranks and was a very good criminal investigator. I worked with him and again he wanted to do more. In 1987, he transferred into the jail as a Lieutenant over operations, which I supervised. We had some great times! But that was not enough, and he left to become a state jail inspector, travelling one of 3 regions at the time and gone most weeks. Some golf was involved back then, and he had a nice gig.

Returning when I retired in 1995, Bob took over the Bell County Jail and again – it was a great gig. In that role, he went on to be elected President of the American Jail Association, having served in that role for TJA back in 2000. Travelling nationally and leading that group was another good Gig but he could do more! But more to come as he was a driving force in launching the National Jail Leadership Command Academy which has now graduated 48 classes. However great the "gig" was, Bob was not complacent and wanted to do more pushing others along the way.

In this writing, I want to honor him through his greatest strength. That was educating us throughout his years, making this profession better, and in fact early on making it a profession! With his training legacy, the "Three C's" came to mind; Calling, Competence, and Character.

The Calling was certainly there.

He initially thought it would be in the ministry, but he went to the Army and served our Country, which led him to Bell County where he served the county. From there, he served the state and ultimately the nation again as President of the American Jail Association. His calling, serving his county, state, and country, made him a true servant. To have the calling is simply not enough. Some may feel a calling to be an airplane pilot, but the next "C" has to figure in.

Competence

The simple fact of the matter is Bob knew what he was talking about. And he had the ability to convey his knowledge. As he was on the ground floor of building TJA and training throughout this state and nation, Bob excelled at his role in training, leadership, and mentoring. Seeing the success of many of you that he had mentored and helped, his competence is reflected daily across this state, if not the nation.

And the third "C"

That is Character and what can I say here. He damn sure was a character! But seriously of the three C's once you have some with the calling and the competence, they need to have good character. Some might put honesty at the top of that list. And he was that – to a fault!! You did not have to wonder what his opinion was or where you stood! But there are other character traits that we each have in mind.

So, I would leave you with the three C's to apply as a Bob Patterson lesson and tribute.

To Bob, loving and devoted to the bride Anna, his three-man cubs, and 8 Grandkids. You have enriched thousands with your service and leadership – we shall miss you.

The Chaplain's Corner

Veronica Mancias, Travis County Sheriff's Office

You got through it! What did we get through? We got through the stress of work, of life, of family. We got through the hardships of our everyday life. 2023 has been a very tough year for all of us. From being short staffed, to high turnover rates, to working tireless hours. But we got through it.

However, we didn't get through it alone. We are truly grateful to the Texas Jail Association and their conferences and trainings that have helped train us on how to cope with stressful situations and how to better equip ourselves on how to do our jobs better. TJA is a family that cares. It is a family that is here for you.

What we are also truly thankful for is our Heavenly Father. He gives us the strength, grace, and peace we need every single day to get through the stressors of life. Every day that we wake up we need to ask God to help us get through the day, to get through the storms and to get through the trials. We definitely need His help, His guidance, and His direction on our everyday choices and decisions. The more we rely on His help, the easier our steps will be.

As we go into the new year, let us stay reminded that we can't go through life

alone. We need God, we need our family, and we need our friends to help us live a happier and stress-free life.

Stress can affect our physical body and our mental health. It is important that we take time for us, to keep our bodies and minds healthy. Some of the things we can do for this is make time for regular or moderate exercise. It's one of the best stressbusters, and it can improve our mood and keep our bodies healthy. Spend some time doing things you enjoy. Go see a funny movie, spend time with your family, or go eat dinner with a friend. We can learn some relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or meditation. Treat yourself well. Make time for healthy meals and getting enough sleep.

The better we take time to take care of our physical bodies and mental health, the better we will be to do our jobs and the better we can be the best version of us!

Let's come into 2024 expecting to have the best year yet!

— **Veronica Mancias**

Chaplain of the Texas Jail Association





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2023 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES **BLOOD DRIVE**

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

The Texas Jail Association Jail Management Issues Conference Blood Drive was another overwhelming success. Our members never disappoint when it comes to giving blood. We had projected around 15 donors based on the on-line signup sheet. However, on the day of the drive, we kept directing prospective donors to the blood drive collection area. Our members kept showing up throughout the entire process. We ended with 27 overall donors. We had four members who donated (super red cells) that means in layman terms they count double. We at Southern Health Partners have been sponsoring the blood drive for the last 11 years at this conference and several oth-



ers. Working with our great association we have been able to donate collectively over 600 units of blood to save lives. The Blood drive staff was very impressed and complimentary of our members and their attitude while donating.

In keeping with a long tradition, we give \$100.00 in cash away to one lucky donor. The winner from the donor list this year was Nichole Bevers of Dallas County Sheriff's Office. Big Congratulations to Nichole and thanks to all who donated.

We at Southern Health Partners are proud to partner with TJA and its great membership.

12TH ANNUAL **BLOOD DRIVE** AT THE 38TH ANNUAL TJA CONFERENCE

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 • 11:30am–5:00pm • Parking Lot Blood Bus



TEXANS HELPING TEXANS



The Early Years of the **TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION**

by: Abby Belangeri, Lieutenant, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

The Texas Jail Association (TJA) was established on June 4, 1986, in Austin, TX, with the primary objective of providing a unified voice for corrections officers working in local jails across the state. The founding members recognized the importance of creating a professional organization that could address the specific needs and concerns of jail administrators, corrections officers, sheriffs, support staff, and other professionals in the corrections field.

The inaugural officers of the association at its inception in 1986 were:

- President: Jerry Baggs
- 1st Vice-president: Ben Wright
- 2nd Vice-president: Michael Hartgraves
- 3rd Vice-president: Tommy Morgan
- Treasurer: D.L. Young
- Secretary: Sherri Quillen

In the years immediately following its inception, TJA faced challenges associated with leadership turnover and the need to define the roles and responsibilities of its board members. These challenges, however, were met with a determination to establish a solid foundation for the association's future endeavors. Through collaborative efforts and a shared vision among its leadership, TJA successfully navigated these early hurdles. Despite these challenges, the leadership remained commit-

ted to advancing professionalism in the field of corrections in the State of Texas.

The first milestone for TJA was the organization of its inaugural annual training conference, held in May 1989 at the Ramada Inn Aggieland in College Station, TX. This conference laid the foundation for future gatherings and became a crucial platform for achieving the association's goals.

In 1989, the board decided that officers of the association should be administrative-level jail personnel, reflecting the association's focus on administrative and mid-management professionals. Training efforts were directed towards individuals capable of implementing changes within their departments, and administrative roles were deemed to have better resources for travel and statewide contact, essential for developing professionalism in corrections. The decision to have administrative-level jail personnel as officers underscored the association's strategic focus on promoting professionalism in correctional administration. This emphasis on leadership roles within local jails was pivotal in shaping the direction of TJA's training programs and conferences. The association recognized that by targeting individuals with the capacity to influence change within their respective departments, it could have a more significant impact on the overall landscape of corrections in Texas.

The 1990 Texas Jail Association training conference marked the introduction of topics

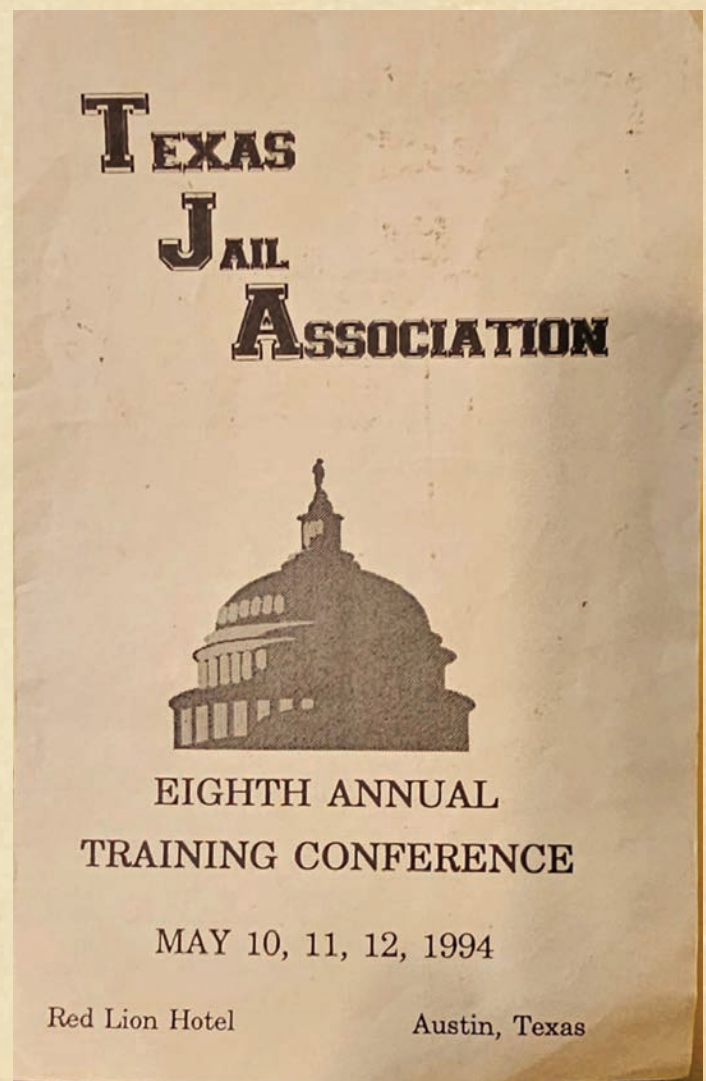
such as jail suicide, food service, medical liability, population management, updates from the Texas Department of Corrections and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, a tour of the Travis County Boot Camp, and discussions on grants for smaller counties. This conference also saw the first awarding of TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) training credits. This training conference marked a crucial turning point for TJA, as it not only expanded the scope of topics covered but also introduced the awarding of TCLEOSE training credits. This move not only elevated the status of the association within the corrections community but also highlighted its commitment to providing practical and recognized training for its members. The inclusion of diverse topics such as jail suicide, food service, medical liability, and updates from relevant agencies showcased TJA's dedication to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by jail personnel.

In 1991, TJA received a \$32,000 grant from the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Assistance Division to fund training, expand key issues and research, including regional training seminars, longer quarterly newsletters, and a research program to assess statewide training needs. This grant allowed TJA to expand its training initiatives, conduct regional seminars, and delve into research programs assessing statewide training needs. The infusion of funds facilitated the realization of TJA's vision to be at the forefront of professional development in the field of corrections.

Despite facing challenges, including a ruling from the Attorney General's Office regarding TJA as being considered a trade commission affecting service of Texas Commission on Jail Standards employees on the board, the association continued to thrive. Board members from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards were forced to resign from board representation due to this ruling. Despite shifts in rep-

resentation, such as the resignation of board members employed by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in 1992, TJA persevered. This ruling did not diminish the commitment of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to supporting TJA's efforts in training and advocating for the needs of Texas County Jails.

This collaboration serves as a vital resource for TJA in staying abreast of current trends in Texas county jails. The TCJS plays a pivotal role in advising the membership on regulatory and legislative changes, offering crucial insights that enable the association to keep its membership informed and compliant. The expertise provided by the TCJS is instrumental in supporting TJA's membership base in running efficient and effective jails. The partnership



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REGISTRATION

The conference registration fee is **\$60.00** for anyone that pre-registers by April 22. The fee for all registrations received after April 22 and at the door is **\$75.00**. On site registration will begin on Monday, May 9, at 4:00 p.m. Registration will continue on Tuesday, May 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you are in need of more information, contact the TJA office at (409) 568-3991.

HOTEL

The Red Lion Hotel is located at I-35 and U.S. HWY. 290, 5 minutes from the airport. Surrounded by numerous eating establishments and shopping, the hotel is minutes from Downtown and The State Capitol. The Red Lion Hotel offers many features such as:

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CONFERENCE AMENITIES

The conference fee includes Conference materials, President's Reception, Coffee Breaks, Fish Fry, Apron Lunch, the Awards Luncheon, and 1994-95 Texas Jail Association membership dues. There will also be drawings for Door Prizes, a TJA Golf Tournament and a Shopping Extravaganza.

TCLEOSE CREDIT

The TJA Training Conference in conjunction with Collin County Community College Law Enforcement Academy, will provide Texas Commission On Law Enforcement Officer Standards Education (TCLEOSE) classes for credit to conference participants. The Law Enforcement Academy staff will be on hand to assist all participants with TCLEOSE registration. Certificates of attendance will be provided at the end of the conference.

SPECIAL AWARD

The first TJA Correctional Officer of the Year Award will be presented during the Awards Luncheon. Nominations for this prestigious award are accepted through **March 31**.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

The opening session will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom - Salon E. The Conference will offer numerous break out sessions and conclude on Thursday, May 12, with a general meeting and Awards Luncheon. This year's conference offers expert advice from experienced correctional personnel as well as new regulations that affect Texas jails. Here are a few of the many topics offered during the 1994 TJA Training conference:

Jail Commission Update

Jack Crump, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Managing the Over Crowded Jail

Melissa Caldwell, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Current Jail Management Issues

Debbie Filmore, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Inmate Rights

Bob Dearing, Deputy Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Update

Carl Jefferies, Deputy Director of Program

Kathy McVey, Assistant Director for Program Services

Larry Miller, Admissions Coordinator, T.D.C.J.

Update on State Jails

Dimitria Pope, Division Director, Community Justice Assistance Division

Update on Parole in Absentia

Prison Gangs and many more topics of interest

NOTE: The TJA Exhibit Hall has been expanded this year in order to provide you with a variety of exhibitors that service the correctional industry.

goes beyond a regulatory framework, fostering a collaborative environment where TJA and TCJS work hand-in-hand to address challenges, implement best practices, and contribute to the continuous improvement of jail operations statewide. The shared commitment to excellence and adherence to standards make this partnership a cornerstone in TJA's mission to elevate the standards of correctional management in Texas.

Recognizing the need for stability during times of significant board turnover, the TJA established a Council of Past Presidents in 1993, contributing invaluable experience and guidance to the association's operations. The establishment of the Council of Past Presidents in 1993 marked a proactive step to ensure the

stability and continuity of TJA during times of board turnover. This council, comprised of experienced past leaders, provided valuable insights and institutional knowledge, contributing to the association's long-term success.

In May 1994, TJA achieved another milestone by issuing its first Correctional Officer of the Year award at the annual conference. This acknowledgment not only celebrated outstanding contributions but also serves as a testament to the association's commitment to recognizing and promoting excellence in the corrections profession. Additionally, the association initiated an annual golf tournament during the same conference, a tradition that continues to this day. The initiation of the annual golf tournament further enriched the association's offerings,

providing a platform for networking and camaraderie among its members.

To enhance its services, TJA sought a college affiliation, leading to a partnership with the Department of Continuing Education at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, in May 1990. This collaboration provided essential services such as newsletter development, membership support, and conference planning. The collaboration with Stephen F. Austin University was established to further strengthen TJA's infrastructure. The university's Department of Continuing Education was set to play a vital role in supporting the association's activities, from managing the newsletter to handling member dues and conducting surveys to determine training needs. Unfortunately, SFA University resources were not sufficient to meet the growing needs of TJA and they were unable to allocate sufficient resources to the partnership which ended in 1997.

In 1997, the Texas Jail Association (TJA) underwent a significant transition in its association management, marking a pivotal moment in its history. The transition involved moving the association's management from SFA University to Sam Houston State University (SHSU). This shift set the stage for immense growth and development, establishing a foundation for the flourishing association that exists today.

One of the key catalysts for this transition was the strategic partnership formed with the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) at Sam Houston State University. This collaboration proved to be invaluable for the Texas Jail Association, bringing together expertise, resources, and a shared commitment to advancing the field of correctional management. The synergy between the TJA and CMIT became a driving force behind the association's growth.

A notable outcome of this partnership was the

establishment of the executive director role for the Texas Jail Association. This position has played a crucial role in the continuity of achieving association goals, providing strategic direction, and ensuring effective management. The executive director became the linchpin in the collaborative efforts between TJA and CMIT, overseeing the implementation and continuation of programs, initiatives, and educational endeavors benefiting the association's members. The partnership has facilitated the exchange of best practices, research findings, and educational opportunities, elevating the association's standing within the corrections community. The joint efforts of TJA and CMIT created a platform for networking, professional development, and the exchange of ideas among correctional professionals.

As a result of these collaborative efforts, the Texas Jail Association experienced unprecedented growth. The association has become a hub for professionals in the correctional field, attracting members from across the state and beyond. The expanded reach and influence of TJA are reflective of the dedication of its leadership over the years, the support of its members, and the resources made available through the partnership with Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas.

Networking and professional development serve as the backbone of the Texas Jail Association (TJA), constituting the most significant membership benefits for its members. These pillars are integral to the association's mission of fostering a community of correctional professionals committed to continuous learning, growth, and collaboration.

Networking provides members with a platform to connect, share experiences, and build relationships with fellow correctional professionals. The association facilitates conferences and regional training where members can

interact, exchange ideas, and establish valuable connections. The networking opportunities offered by TJA extend beyond the confines of professional events, creating a supportive community that thrives on shared knowledge and camaraderie.

TJA is dedicated to advancing the knowledge and skills of its members through targeted professional development initiatives. The association collaborates with experts in the field, including academic institutions like Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, to deliver high-quality training, conferences, and educational resources. Members have access to the latest developments, best practices, and research in correctional management, empowering them to stay at the forefront of their profession. These resources cover a broad spectrum of topics relevant to the field of corrections, including legal updates, emerging trends, and innovative practices. Members can leverage these resources to enhance their expertise and contribute to the continuous improvement of their institutions.

The association fosters a culture of peer mentoring and collaboration, recognizing the value of shared experiences in professional growth. Members can seek advice from seasoned professionals and contribute their insights to the collective knowledge pool. This collaborative environment not only benefits individual members but also elevates the standards of correctional practices across the state.

Networking and professional development are not just benefits offered by TJA; they are the lifeblood of the association. By fostering a community of engaged and informed professionals, TJA ensures that its members are well-equipped to navigate the challenges of the correctional field. The emphasis on continuous learning, collaboration, and access to resources makes TJA a dynamic and indispensable

resource for correctional professionals seeking to excel in their careers and contribute to the improvement of the broader corrections community.

In conclusion, the Texas Jail Association (TJA) stands as a testament to the enduring impact of networking and professional development in fostering a thriving community of corrections professionals. From its inception in 1986 to its current stature, TJA has navigated challenges, forged strategic partnerships, and consistently prioritized the continuous growth of its members. The commitment to hosting impactful training conferences, strategic collaborations with institutions like Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, and the invaluable partnership with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards underline the pivotal role of networking and professional development in TJA's success.

By creating a platform for members to connect, share experiences, and access cutting-edge training and information, TJA has become a dynamic hub for professionals dedicated to the highest standards in correctional management. The association's evolution highlights the transformative power of collaboration and continuous learning, emphasizing that the strength of TJA lies not only in its organizational structure but, more importantly, in the collective expertise and camaraderie of its members. As TJA continues to flourish, it serves as a compelling example of how prioritizing networking and professional development can elevate an association, empowering its members and advancing the entire field of corrections.

Training Report

Thank you to everyone that attended the Jail Management Issues Conference, it was a huge success. The training committee has been working hard to give the members of the Texas Jail Association the best training opportunities available. We have the agenda for the Annual May conference almost done and it will be another great week of training and networking. A lot of work goes into these conferences with so many wonderful folks that are passionate about the field of corrections. I would like to highlight two of the training committee members. We will be hosting regional training across the state in 2024. Information will be posted on the list server and Texas Jail Association website.

Frances Dembowski, 2nd Vice President	Jess Christensen, Collin County	Jonathan Ede, Travis County
Abigail Belangeri, Brazos County	Ryan Braus, Lubbock County	Jason Davis, McClennan County
Erica Hernandez, Hays County	Patricia Ramirez, Hays County	Sheleana Davis, Robertson County

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Our 3rd Annual Fishing Tournament in Galveston was a success. Thanks to our sponsors and members that participated in the event. With their support we were able to raise \$5600!

Our partnerships with the 100 Club of Central Texas and Jim Harrison at Clear Lake & Galveston Charter Boats have assisted us in making this event happen. It has been a new bonus to our conference agenda!

If you have not attended this event, we look forward to seeing you in Galveston in 2024!





BUILDING KNOWLEDGE:

Attending the Jail Administration - Management and Operations Course

by: Edwardo Jackson, TJA President

Last November I had the pleasure and opportunity to attend the Jail Administration Management and Operations Training (JAMO), provided by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT). JAMO provides expert insight on topics such as Human Resources, Legal Liabilities, Fiscal Issues, Professionalism and Ethics, Leadership Motivation and Development, and Duties of a Jail Administrator. One of the many highlights of the class is networking with current and future Jail Administrators across the state of Texas.

The class is a platform for individuals aspiring for growth in senior leadership in the Corrections environment. With the many challenges that we currently face in our facilities we were able to gain valuable knowledge on how to better prepare ourselves and our agencies.

The weeklong course was taught by a cadre of Instructors and Leaders from our Corrections

and Law Enforcement field. Texas Commission on Jail Standards provided great training on the Sunset Review process and were with us during week to assist with answering our questions and giving guidance as needed. Special thanks to Ryan Braus and Sharese Hurst for facilitating the training!





November 12 – 17, 2023 ★ Huntsville, Texas



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2023 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2023 • GALVESTON, TX



Vendor Report

As spring quickly approaches, we are excited for the 38th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference. Please encourage anyone that you are sending to the conference to visit with the exhibitors and get familiar with the products and services available to county jails around the nation. As we look back on the 2023 Jail Management Issues Conference, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support. We had a great turnout this year hosting a record number of participants and exhibitors. There was nothing but positive feedback from everyone regarding the quality of classes, experiences from the tradeshow, and of course, time well spent with fellow correctional family!

The 38th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference will be held May 6-10, 2024, at the Embassy Suites, San Marcos Texas. 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 the vendor representatives, please use us as a resource with any questions or concerns for the upcoming TJA Conference. Please help us continue to spread the word about all TJA event opportunities. Vendor exposure with TJA and TJA events are unrivaled in this industry. Your experience with the Texas Jail Association is our ultimate priority. We hope everyone had a great winter and we are looking forward to an outstanding conference in May!

Blake Taylor, Keefe Group
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Larry Lynch, ICS Jail Supplies
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Education At the Lubbock County Detention Center

*A look into the Inmate General
Education Diploma program at the
Lubbock County Detention Center*

by: Tammy Smith Russell
*Originally published by Lubbock County
Sheriff's Office in August 2023*



LUBBOCK COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



*I have been with
the Lubbock
County Detention
Center since 2014.
I have a Master's
in education with
over 25 years
of experience. I
have a passion
for making a
difference to
help individuals
obtain their
education.*

*Tammy Smith
Russell*



**“Education is not received,
it is obtained.”**

— Albert Einstein

General Education Diploma (GED) Testing in a Detention Center

Lubbock County Sheriff's Office | Lubbock County Detention Center

In July 2015, the Lubbock County Detention Center (LCDC) pioneered one of the 1st General Education Diploma (GED) testing sites in a detention setting. LCDC started this initiative with the hope that it would create a stepping-stone for inmates and future success upon their release. Our testing site doesn't require internet; therefore, security is not compromised. This process allows inmates to test on four independent sub exams (modules) in Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. The modules are taken separately without a specific order. Once all four modules are taken and successfully completed, the inmates receive the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency.

The GED passing score is 145 on a 100-200 scale, and this counts for all four subtests. GED scoring is as follows:

100-144: Below passing score

145-164: Passing score
(high school equivalency)

165-174: College-Ready score

175-200: College-Ready Plus
College Credit Score

LCDC created an Education Pod, where inmates are housed together who are working to obtain their GED. The Education pod provides an environment where inmates encourage and support each other through the process. This housing unit is driven by motivation and a drive for success, especially when they see their peers' graduate!

Since piloting the GED program, LCDC has had over 200 GED graduates, with a recidivism rate of 10 percent.

The interest continues to grow with over 100 inmates on the waitlist. Inmates range in age from 20-65. We have volunteers and retired teachers from the community who come out and teach preparatory classes in the Education Pod. GED testing is given in both English and Spanish. Once admitted in the Education Pod, inmates are expected to attend daily classes and complete all homework assignments. Inmates who are on the waitlist are given GED practice test. For inmates who are accepted into the Education Pod, they are given a GED practice test within the 1st 48 hours of being in the pod to measure what areas they may need assistance in. Each inmate must turn in one module within 14 days. After an inmate receives a GED practice test; they can turn in Module one or the whole test. Tests are graded, if the inmate fails the module, they are given work to bring up their grade. All 27 Pods, which includes both male and female

locations receive GED materials. Material is from Kaplan, McGraw-Hill Education and GED Prep. We work with inmates who have learning disabilities, for example, colored overlays for inmates with dyslexia, noise-cancelling headphones for inmates with ADHD. After an inmate passes all four modules, we have a graduation ceremony to celebrate their accomplishment! For many inmates, this is the first time they have had a major accomplish-

ment in their lives. At the graduation, we recognize the inmates for all the hard work they invested in their education. The inmate wears a cap and gown to their graduation ceremony. Officers and family members are present during the ceremony to show their support. The ceremony provides an opportunity for inmates to share their thoughts on their dedication to success. It is so rewarding to see the families so proud of the graduate!

**“You’re never too young
or too old to learn.”**

— *Tammy Smith Russell, Education Coordinator,
Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office*



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214-549-5845
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Nominations Report

As you know, the Texas Jail Association represents jail staff across the state. We rely on qualified jail professionals to lead this origination into the future. These are critical times. As jails everywhere have struggled with issues such as staffing, mental health, etc., we need leaders with a passion and vision for the future. Is that you? Do you have a desire to serve? If not you, then who?

If you are interested and have the support of your Sheriff, the 2024-2025 Call for Nominations is posted on the website and explains the process for nomination submissions. You can also nominate an eligible member. We have several opportunities including 3rd Vice President, Treasurer, and two Director positions.

Additionally, the 2nd Vice President position will be up for election. This summer, 3rd Vice President Jason Davis retired and vacated his position. Director Rowdee Edwards was appointed by President Jackson to fill the vacancy. Since this is an elected position on the Executive Board, Rowdee Edwards must be elected by the members to continue service on his succession to the Presidency. Any qualified member may also compete for this position as a write-in.

Serving as a member of the Board comes with many responsibilities. I am sure any board member, past or present, would tell you that it is very rewarding. If you have questions, please contact me or any member of the Nominations Committee listed below.

Johnny Jaquess, Committee Chair
1st Vice President, TJA
Collin County Sheriff's Office
972-547-5208 (work)
214-578-4078 (cell)
jjaquess@co.collin.tx.us

Frances Dembowski
2nd Vice President, TJA
Travis County Sheriff's Office
512-854-5391 (work)
512-924-6384 (cell)
frances.dembowski@traviscountytexas.gov

Kevin Stuart
Member-At-Large
Past President, TJA
Brazos County Sheriff's Office
979-361-4846
kstuart@co.brazos.tx.us

Nominations are Now Open and Will Close March 1, 2024
Visit www.texasjailassociation.com for full information.



Texas Jail Association

2024–2025 OFFICER CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

The person elected will serve progressively through the vice presidential chairs to become your president. Only voting members of the Association who are in good standing shall be eligible to hold office. The member must have completed at least one full year of service on the Board of Directors to be eligible for this position. The member elected to the position serves as the Training Chairman and is responsible for planning both the Annual and JMI Conference for 2024-2025.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

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

TREASURER

The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of all financial dealings of the TJA. This position requires not only Board meeting attendance but to otherwise be available for audit, tax, and routine payment purposes. This person should possess financial acumen and have a thorough working knowledge of the Association. They serve on the Executive Commit-

tee in addition to the Finance Committee. The member must have completed at least one full year of service on the Board of Directors to be eligible for this position. Members elected to this position shall serve a three-year term in office.

DIRECTORS – Two positions are open

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

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. Individuals must be professional members in good standing as specified in the by-laws at the time of nomination.
2. Nominating Committee members shall not be considered for office.
3. Only hard copies of nominations will be considered. Self-nominations are acceptable.
4. The office being sought shall be identified in the nomination.

1. The endorsement of the affected agency head must accompany the nomination. Nominations lacking the agency head's endorsement will not be considered for office.*
2. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the by-laws.

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

**Successful nominees should have the support of their Sheriff because the positions require significant time and travel away from the office. The duties may include teaching throughout the*

State, conference preparation, speaker introduction, class moderation, registration, reconciliation of monies, and inventory. If you possess the skillset, knowledge, dedication and commitment to service, TJA is looking for you. Be an integral part of an Association whose mission is advancing the professional career of corrections.

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

Nominations Committee Chair
Johnny Jaquess, 1st Vice-President

**Nominations must be received
by March 1, 2024.**

NOMINATION FORM (may be sent as a separate document, as long as following information included)

Position (choose one)

☐ 2nd Vice-President ☐ 3rd Vice-President ☐ Treasurer ☐ Director

Full Name _____

Current Occupation _____

Official Title _____

Business/Agency Address _____

Contact Phone _____

Biographical Sketch (150 words or less), a letter of endorsement from the agency head and a photo MUST be included in nomination.

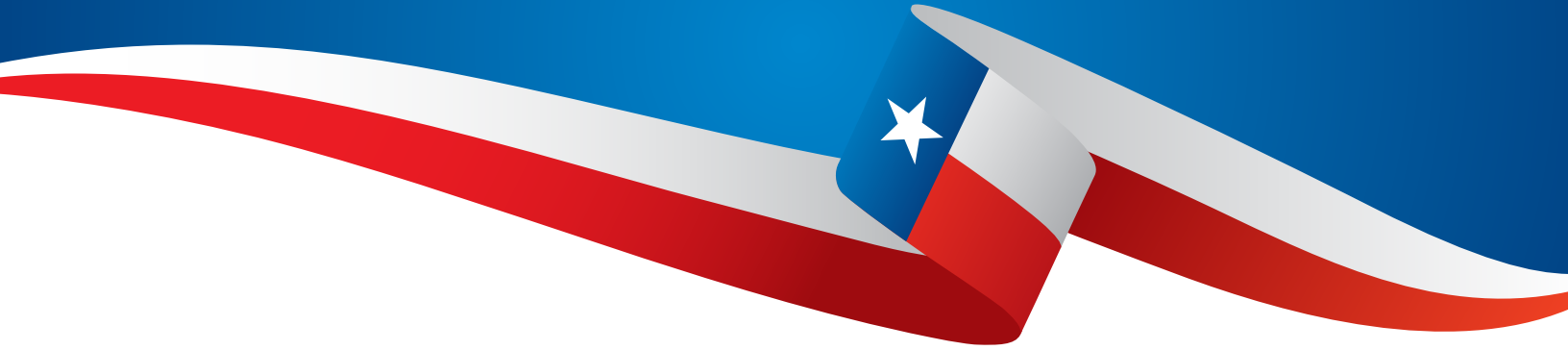
Send form and additional information to:

TJA Headquarters, Attn: Sharese Hurst, Box 2296, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296
or you may email all information to: sharese@shsu.edu

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Texas Jail Association

2024-2025 AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

The nomination process is simple. Please complete the nomination form and submit it to the Awards Committee by March 1, 2024. A person does not have to be a member of TJA; however, they must be eligible for membership. These awards will be presented at the 38th Annual TJA Conference, May 6-10, 2024, in San Marcos, Texas.

Recipients will receive complimentary conference registration and hotel accommodations at the Annual Training Conference. The recipients will also be presented with a commemorative plaque and will be recognized in the TJA newsletter.

Any nomination MUST have the written endorsement of the agency head.

Nominations will be accepted for the following:

Detention Officer of the Year – Professional Service

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

Detention Officer of the Year – Valor

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

Hall of Fame Award

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

Jerry Baggs Leadership Award

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

TJA Lifesaving Award

The Lifesaving Award is given to an officer/s working within county corrections who has displayed extraordinary performance in their duty to save the life of a person who would likely have died if not for the action of the officer/s.

It shall be awarded only after the awards committee confirms the following circumstances:

- 1. The officer took direct, immediate, and positive action to preserve the life of another human being who was in danger of dying.
- 2. The action taken did prevent the loss of a human life.
- 3. The circumstances of the act were such that any delay in providing assistance would, in all probability, have resulted in the person's death.

Bob Patterson Award

This award is presented to a leader who has demonstrated a passion for the advancement of corrections by working to develop professionals serving jails across the State of Texas. The recipient should demonstrate successful management of day-to-day jail operations, such as crowded conditions, mental health, personnel shortages, and fostering innovative ideas.

Nominations must be received by March 1, 2024.

NOMINATION FORM (may be sent as a separate document, as long as following information included)

Person Nominated _____

Official Title _____

Business/Agency Address _____

Contact Phone _____

Nominated By _____

Endorsement by Agency Head _____

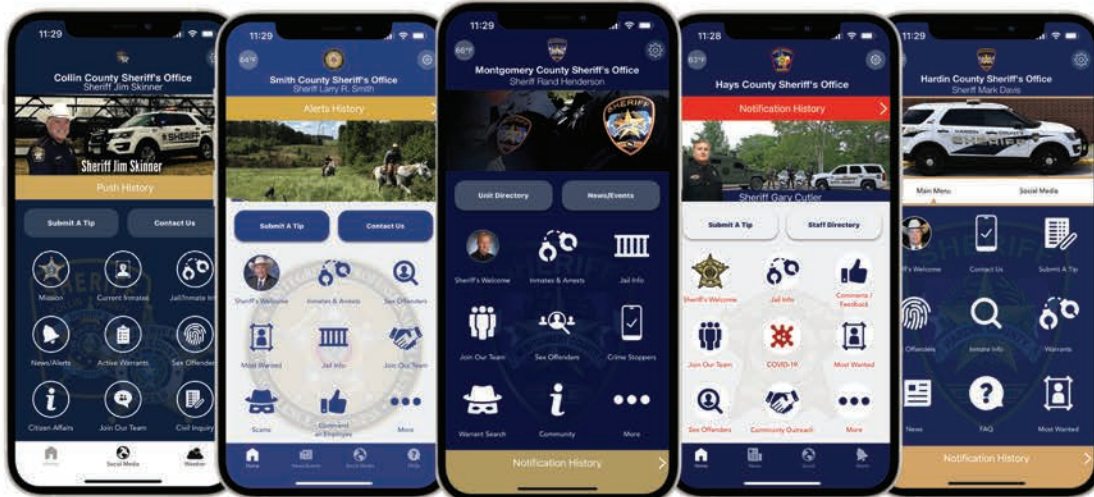
Please describe in detail how this nominee meets the criteria for the award. Attach additional pages if needed. Attach supporting documentation such as offense reports, statements, newspaper clips, and letters of recommendation.

Send form and additional information to:
TJA Headquarters, Attn: Sharese Hurst, Box 2296, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296
or you may email all information to: sharese@shsu.edu



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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

Fall 2024 Semester - July 1, 2024
Spring 2025 Semester - December 1, 2024

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.



ALEXIS HACKETT

Alexis Hackett was awarded a TJA Past President Scholarship for Fall 2023. Past President and Smith County Chief Deputy **Gary Pinkerton** along with TJA Editor and Smith County Training Lieutenant **Aimee Crockett**.

LOGAN DEMBOWSKI

Logan Dembowski, daughter of **Frances and Shane Dembowski**, received the TJA Past President Scholarship for the Fall 2023 semester. Logan attends Sam Houston State University and is currently a sophomore. Captain **Edwardo Jackson**, President of the Texas Jail Association, presented Logan with her scholarship check.





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What's Happening Around the State?

Collin County

Collin County Sheriff's Office DRT Week "Mission First. Team Always."

In the heart of the Collin County Detention Facility, a dedicated team known as the Detention Response Team (DRT) stands tall, embodying the motto, "Mission First. Team Always." This past week marked the culmination of their rigorous training during what we call DRT Week.



So, what makes the DRT so exceptional? They are the vanguard, meticulously trained detention officers who confront the most challenging situations within correctional facilities. From quelling disturbances and handling riots to executing cell extractions, conducting mass searches, and addressing high-stress scenarios involving uncooperative or violent inmates, these individuals are our guardians of order behind bars.



Throughout this arduous week, these brave men and women demonstrated unparalleled dedication by pushing their physical and mental boundaries to refine their skills. The journey begins with the "Held's Course", a grueling two-mile obstacle course named in honor of a fallen team member. This course, lasting up to three hours, serves as a crucible for testing teamwork, problem-solving, trust, and raw physical strength. While this training and team



What's Happening Around the State?



building are pivotal in forging an elite team of detention operators, we don't stop there.

The pinnacle of DRT Week is a simulated emergency callout, where approximately 20 rebellious inmates (played by actors) take control of a housing unit. This real-life scenario challenges our DRT members to demonstrate their expertise and teamwork under immense pressure.

When you step into their world, you can't help

but feel an electrifying energy in the air. It's an environment where the dedication and passion of each member are not only palpable but also infectious. What truly sets this team apart is their remarkable camaraderie and unwavering support for one another. They don't just work together; they push each other to their limits in the best possible way. It's this collective determination that enables them to accomplish so much more than any individual could on their own. In the world of the Collin County Sheriff's Office Detention Response Team, success isn't just a goal; it's a shared journey driven by mutual encouragement and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

DRT Week isn't just about honing individual skills; it's about fostering camaraderie, strengthening teamwork, instilling accountability, and elevating an already elite unit to new heights. We salute their unwavering dedication and commitment to preserving the security of our detention facility. These guardians, bound by their shared mission and unwavering teamwork, embody the spirit of "Mission First. Team Always."



What's Happening Around the State?

Kendall County

5-year Service Awards



Corporal **Evan Profeta**



Officer **Joshua Conley**

Travis County

Promotions to Lieutenant on October 26, 2023



Lieutenant **Tess Toney**

Lieutenant **Pamela Paz**

What's Happening Around the State?

Robertson County

Texas Crime Stoppers Lifetime Achievement Award Sheriff Gerald Yezak

Gerald Yezak commenced his career in law enforcement as a deputy in Robertson County, Texas, back in June of 1985. Following an extended tenure as a deputy, he attained the esteemed position of Robertson County's Sheriff and took the oath of office on January 1, 1997. It's worth noting that Sheriff Yezak holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Sheriff in Robertson County's history.

In May of 1989, Sheriff Yezak assumed the role of coordinator for Robertson County Crime Stoppers, a role he continues to fulfill to this day. Throughout his time as the Crime Stoppers coordinator, he has served as the community's front face, actively encouraging citizens to participate in solving crimes. He has spearheaded the introduction of numerous programs within his county and has played a pivotal role in aiding neighboring programs to establish their own Crime Stoppers initiatives.

One of Sheriff Yezak's most remarkable contributions has been his involvement in safeguarding the interests of all Crime Stoppers programs at the state level. He took the lead during two recent legislative sessions when the Crime Stoppers statute faced potential changes that could have been detrimental to programs statewide. During these sessions, Sheriff Yezak engaged with state representatives, actively advocating for amendments that would benefit all Crime Stoppers programs. Moreover, he rallied the support of fellow Sheriffs through the Sheriff's Association of Texas to further the cause of Crime Stoppers.

Sheriff Yezak is an active member of numerous local and state boards and has previously served as the President of the Sheriff's Association of Texas.

He and his wife, Lisa, have shared over 35 years of marriage and are lifelong residents of Bremond, Texas. They have raised three grown children and manage a small ranch where they engage in commercial beef and hay production.



What's Happening Around the State?

Wichita County

Badge Pinning



Matthew Fortunas

Presentation of Special Badge



Jail Captain Lisa Patterson

Sheriff's Certificate of Merit

On August 14, 2023, Corporal Tidwell notified the Criminal Investigation Division Investigators of what he believed to be criminal activity being discussed by a Wichita County Inmate and a person not in custody. The ensuing investigation revealed a criminal conspiracy to conduct a home invasion and commit a capital murder offense.

With this early notification and diligence to duty, a successful investigation was conducted, and the incident stopped before harm could occur to a Wichita Falls Citizen.



Corporal Jim Tidwell

What's Happening Around the State?

Fallen Deputies and Volunteer Fire Fighters of Wichita County Memorial Dedication



This beautiful Memorial was the project of the Wichita County Sheriff's Citizen's Academy Alumni Association since it was founded in 2010. The first Alumni group wanted to honor fallen deputies and volunteer firefighters who gave their lives in service to our County.



For over a decade volunteers from each Academy joined with the original core group to bring their vision to a reality. They worked tirelessly for over a decade to raise the funds and secure an appropriate site for the Memorial by writing grants, organizing fundraisers, meeting with architects, and selling memorial bricks to finally bring this Memorial to its completion and final home at the Wichita County Law Enforcement Center.



Wichita County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard

What's Happening Around the State?

Wichita County Fallen Deputies

Photo
Unavailable

Sam Abbott Mosely, Deputy Constable

EOW August 23, 1898
Mosely was the first known lawman to have died in the line of duty in Wichita County. Information is scarce because of the lack of newspapers and county record sources during that time.



John A. Staley, Deputy Sheriff

EOW December 6, 1910
Staley was called to respond to a domestic dispute between a husband and wife. He was fatally shot when he arrived at the scene and opened the door of a nearby shed where the suspect was thought to be hiding in.

Photo
Unavailable

William Marvin Caple, Special Deputy Constable

EOW September 30, 1920
Constables Caple and Toney were shot in the line of duty while carrying out a raid on a gambling house in Kemp City.

Photo
Unavailable

William Sherrod Toney, Special Deputy Constable

EOW September 30, 1920
When additional officers arrived on the scene of the raid both Caple and Toney were found laying on the floor of the gambling house.



William Walter Garrett, Fort Worth and Denver Railroad Police

EOW September 12, 1927
Garrett died from injuries received from a hit-and-run driver while he was directing traffic away from a train that was unloading circus animals.



William I. Garland, Burkburnett Police Chief

EOW May 18, 1935
Garland was attempting to help people stranded due to heavy rains and flooding on the Red River bridge, at the time a two lane wooden structure. The bridge collapsed as he was crossing. His body was recovered the next day.



Guest Speaker, Texas State Representative
The Honorable James Frank

Wichita County Fallen Fire Fighters



Earl Virgin, Jr., Iowa Park VFD

EOW September 2, 1968
Virgin was killed while responding to a grass fire south of Iowa Park near Kamay Road. The fire truck he was riding on struck a horse and rolled over. His injuries were fatal.



Richard A. Hogan, SAFB Fire/Wichita West VFD

EOW June 11, 1995
Hogan and Rezac both responded to a fire caused by a lightning strike that ignited a 55,000 barrel of crude oil, east of Addington, Oklahoma.



AIC Christopher Rezac, SAFB Fire

EOW June 11, 1995
They were at the scene of the fire when burning oil spilled onto the road and engulfed the pumper truck they were driving. Both men died while attempting to escape the flames on foot.



Travis Lyn Wiens, Wichita West VFD

EOW August 12, 2002
At the young age of 28, Wiens died in the line of duty while fighting a grass fire. As he was attempting to contain the fire, a civilian truck hit the fire truck he was on, fatally injuring him.



Assistant District Attorney **Dobie Kosub**
Sheriff **David Duke**

What's Happening Around the State?

Lubbock County

Promotion to Detention Assistant Chief

Sheriff Kelly Rowe promoted Detention Captain Gordon Goldhammer to Detention Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Goldhammer has over 15 years of experience with the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office. He began his career as a Jailer in 2008, and was later assigned as the Inmate Programs Coordinator, and Inmate Re-Entry Coordinator. He then promoted to Sergeant followed by a promotion to the rank of Captain. Goldhammer served 23 years in the Army where he later retired as a Sergeant First Class.



Detention Assistant Chief
Gordon Goldhammer

Promotion to Chief Deputy

Sheriff Rowe announced the promotion of Assistant Chief Ryan Braus as the new Chief Deputy over operations at the Lubbock County Detention Center. Braus has been employed at the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office since September 1, 2008, where he started as

a Detention Officer. In August of 2021, he was appointed to Assistant Chief Deputy for the Detention Center where he currently serves.



Assistant Chief Deputy **Ryan Braus**

Retirement

After working for the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office for 36 years, Chief Deputy Cody Scott has retired from law enforcement. Scott is looking forward to retirement with his wife of 33 years, Dee, and his extended family, which includes two daughters Jordon Robison, her husband Jason, and their son Cohen: daughter Karli Gabriel and her husband Grant. Chief Scott has been an asset to the Sheriff's Office and will be greatly missed.



Chief Deputy **Cody Scott**

What's Happening Around the State?

Shackelford County

Sheriff's Administrative Assistant

As of July 1, 2023, Arla Jarvis will fully transition to the position of Sheriff's Administrative Assistant with the Shackelford County Sheriff's Office.

Mrs. Jarvis will also continue in the administrative role as Shackelford County Sheriff's Office Jail Administrator and will continue Supervising Jail operations and managing Texas Commission on Jail Standards policy

and compliance of the SCSO Jail, until other jail employees become eligible to fulfill the states requirements of licensing and gain the experience to take over the duties of SCSO Jail Administrator in the future.

Good luck, Arla! Your plate now runneth over!

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8:32 am
Exchange messages
with girlfriend



11:15 am
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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 music tracks by
Lecrae

Corby Kenter

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Cheryl White Mynar

Senior Account Manager
(713) 898 7090

Lesley Hernandez

Account Manager
(512) 739 8652

Linda Boracci

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TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION

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Austin, TX 78757
Phone: (512) 854-5214

edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.gov

Johnny Jaquess, 1st Vice President

Collin County Sheriff's Office
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