



**Region One Flash –
Volume 6, No. 8 August, 2008**

**Texas Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association
Region One
P. O. Box 741515, Houston, Texas 77274-1515**



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President – Calvin Walker, Dickinson (281-339-1107) Vice President – Carroll Bagley, Liberty County (936-334-3398)
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Directors – Leo Waltz, Webster (281-316-2255); Delores Gant, Pearland (281-997-1015); Richard Melvin, Dickinson (281-337-8623)
Past President – Tom Lane, Houston (713-771-0016)

The August Region One meeting will be in Sugar Land on Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sugar Land Police Department, 1200 Highway 6, Sugar Land. The Police Department is located on Highway 6 in Sugar Land between US 59 and US 90A. Going South on US 59 (Southwest Freeway) from Houston, turn right on Highway 6. Going South on US 90A from Houston, turn left on Highway 6. Going West on Highway 6 to Sugar Land, go past US 59 to the Police Station. Call Jeanne Canales at 713-447-3773 if you have trouble. Come early for refreshments and fellowship.

The September Region One Meeting will be in Montgomery County on September 13, 2008.

Please make plans to attend as many Region One meetings as possible. Exciting things can happen in Region One and in Texas if we all participate. Attendance at meetings and participation in activities is the lifeblood of any organization. Please make an extra effort. This is particularly important in view of the sponsorship of the 2009 convention by Region One.

Members in good standing. Angleton, Brenham, Dickinson, Galveston, Galveston Sheriff, Harris County Constable Precinct 4, Houston, Humble, Kemah, Lake Jackson, League City, Liberty County, Montgomery County, Pasadena, Pearland, Santa Fe, Sugar Land, Texas City and Webster. Your Association's dues are \$30.00 for 2008. You may pay at the August meeting or mail to Georgie Benavides, 522 Cole Ave. W., Webster, Texas 77598-4902. Individual memberships are available for \$10.00 a year. If you haven't paid your 2008 dues, you will not be in good standing and will not be eligible to vote.

Schedule for 2008:

January 12 - Webster

February 16 – Lake Jackson (**Note change from Second Saturday**)

March 8 - Angleton

April 12 - Dickinson

May 10 - Pearland

June 14 - Pearland

July 12 – No Meeting. Convention.

August 9 – Sugar Land

September 13 – Montgomery County Sheriff

October 11 – Brenham

November 8 – Texas City

December 13 –

On June 14, 2008, Galveston Police Sgt. Jeff Wyers and his new wife, Crystal, were involved in a tragic accident that took Jeff's life. Crystal has been seriously injured and will require months of medical attention and rehabilitation. Please join us in celebrating the life of Jeff Wyers and help us in raising money to assist the families in their time of need. The Jeff and Crystal Wyers Memorial and Benefit Fundraiser will be held on August 16th at the Galveston County Fairgrounds. Many events and activities are planned at this all day celebration. Go to www.blueknightstx31.org/wyers.htm for further information.

2008 TCPAAA CONVENTION – WICHITA FALLS

The Convention in Wichita Falls went very well. One of the most noticeable perks we received was a breakfast buffet every morning. The buffet included eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, cereal, juice, milk, coffee, pastry, muffins.

The ice breaker the evening before the convention was a buffet, band, and about 30 pilots from Sheppard Air Force Base in their flight suits as they had been training during the day. One from Italy had his two small children with him. They do the training at Sheppard for the U.N. - had pilots from USA, Holland, Germany, Italy, and France. Since I have been to each of the countries, it was great having a conversation with them.

One evening a bus from one of the Indian Casinos in Oklahoma picked us up and took us to the casino (10 minutes from the hotel), where they gave each of us a plastic card with \$10 on it to gamble with, and also fed us with a buffet (there's that food again). I found a penny slot machine and played that. Won \$7.26, put \$2.00 back in and immediately lost it so decided it was time to stop and take \$5.26 back with me. One of the ladies from Lake Jackson won over \$800.

The last evening was the final banquet and awards and Phyllis Elmore turned the rubber chicken over to the Region One People for next year in Galveston. After the banquet we went over to the concert. The band that had played at the Icebreaker played for a while and then the Bellamy Brothers provided 2 hours of music. The Wichita Falls group had decided to open up the concert to the people in town at \$10 a ticket. Someone bought 1,000 tickets and gave them to the airmen at Sheppard Air Force Base.

This was a great convention. The attendance was low but the quality of the seminars and extra events were at the top.

When I got back home, I realized the only time I spent any money on food was on the way up there when we stopped for a snack and then on the way home we stopped at a chocolate candy store for the best chocolate candy.

Two exhibits that I found extremely interesting was one from Mesquite Police Department. They had a vehicle (through drug money) and about a \$50,000 grant for the equipment on the vehicle. Mesquite website states "This vehicle is equipped with the latest Plate Scan Technology that captures the images of license plates of passing and parked vehicles, running an instant status check of the vehicle, and notifies the department of any stolen vehicles, Amber Alert vehicles, and persons that have outstanding warrants. The information is relayed to the department via the police wireless intranet that covers the city. The notification also logs the exact location with GPS, the date, and the time that the vehicle information was captured, as well as a picture of the vehicle." I have since found out that Houston PD has a vehicle with the same equipment.

The second exhibit was from the Texas Department of Transportation. It is a post card that can be filled out by anyone who observes an obvious violation of the Texas child passenger safety law. The post card requires the Texas license plate number, Date sighted, Time, Approximate age of child (ren), Location of vehicle (street, city), then there are 7 items that can be checked. Your name is not required. The post card does need a 1st class stamp on it. Drop it in the mail. There are three people in the state who send out letters to the owners of vehicles that have been observed to permit children not to be restrained.

Reported by Margaret Hooper, Harris County Constable Precinct 4

Editors Note: Thanks to Margaret for a good report on short notice.

You can join the **National Citizens Police Academy Association** for \$25.00 by going to their web site at www.nationalcpaa.org for an application or if you don't have access to the web site, call Charles Billingsley at 713-729-1546 and he will send you one. You will receive their newsletter and other communications which you will find interesting. Region One area alumni who are members of the national association are Ralph Balzano, Kemah CPAAA, Charles Billingsley, Houston CPAAA, Amelia Collins, Galveston CPAAA, Stan Defenbaugh, Dickinson CPAAA, Norma DeWeese, Angleton CPAAA, Tom Lane, Houston CPAAA, Chief Ron Morales, Dickinson Police Dept., Robert J. Nelson, Galveston CPAAA, Lt. Mark Pierce, Beaumont Police Dept., Evalyn B. Phillips, Liberty Co. District Attorney's CPAAA, Stan Simpson, Angleton CPAAA, Officer Tony Valdez, Dickinson Police Dept., Calvin Walker, Dickinson CPAAA, LaVonne Walker, Dickinson CPAAA, Leo Waltz, Webster CPAAA.

ALUMNI NEWS

Send news to robertduby@sbcglobal.net and to charl.bill@yahoo.com via e-mail. You can send your news in for publication even if you aren't able to attend the meeting and present it there. We would like to know what is going on in your alumni association, but if you don't send it in, we won't know.

Brenham. The Brenham CPAAA had a general meeting on July 14th. Assistant Chief Jay Petrash attended and informed the members about the plans for the new building and other current activities at the PD. Kids Day was held on July 16th at the Brenham High School and several members were on hand to fingerprint the kids. The summer Guns and Hoses Blood drive was on July 26th and there was an excellent turn out. The Citizens on Patrol had a busy month. Every Saturday night in July the downtown association had Hot Nights Cool Tunes on the square with food and music. COPs patrolled the area along with the parking lots. They also helped at the MDA Lockup on July 23rd at Design II and the First Baptist Church Youth Conference (parking lot security) the 21st to the 25th.
Reported by Chris Pieper

Galveston. The Galveston Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association did not have a regular meeting in July due to the new Liaison's and Chapter President attending the TCPAA Convention in Wichita Falls. However we do have a little bit of news - The City of Galveston has hired a new Police Chief who comes to us with lots of experience, has been Police Chief in North Carolina, and Denton, Texas, and is a native Galvestonian. A BOI (Born on the Island) as we are called here. His name is Chief Charles Wiley and everyone is very pleased. He has Great Plans for the Future of the Police Department. Graduation for the 28th Class of the Citizens Police Academy was held on July 16, 2008. Graduating 13, we are hoping that they will all join the Alumni Association.
Reported by Amelia Collins

Houston. During the week of July 14th through July 19th, Houston participated in the 2008 Airborne Law Enforcement Association Conference at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. 26 Houston Alumni members contributed 778 hours. Four members of the Harris County Constable Precinct 4 Alumni contributed 78 hours to this endeavor and we are grateful to them for that. The ALEA Conference organizers commented that the HCPAAA organization set the bar for all future ALEA Conferences as to how all volunteers should be organized and assigned. Charles Billingsley was a special guest at the Alumni meeting of the Harris County Constable Precinct 4 on July 29th and spoke to them about Region One after which they confirmed their membership in Region One.
Reported by Charles Billingsley

Lake Jackson. At the July 10 general meeting, Maurice Cook, Instructor/Department Chair, Criminal Justice at Alvin Community College and former Texas Ranger, was the guest speaker. Mr. Cook recounted the 11-day Huntsville Prison siege when prisoners, led by Frederico Carrasco, took hostages in the prison library. Saturday, July 12, Child ID was open to the public at Wal-Mart from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Fourteen children had their fingerprints and pictures put into the data base. A Disabled Parking Marathon was held July 22 from 8:30am until 10:00pm with nine certified members patrolling. Eighteen citations were written. Citizens on Patrol (COP) continue to patrol on Friday and Saturday nights. Warnings are being written for cars or trash blocking sidewalks to enforce the city ordinance. They also do disabled parking while on patrol.
Reported by Joyce Allen Beeson

Montgomery County Sheriff. The annual Red White and Blue Festival at The Woodlands Mall on July 4th was a busy time for many of our members. Annually we collect money for the Marriott Parking Garage and the Town Center very graciously gives us 50% of what is taken in. This year we collected about \$2600 and we were given \$1300 for the Alumni. Everyone was busy collecting money and passing out sheets of information to everyone. The group worked from 5pm to about 9:30pm. We had a number of new members that came out to help. We will do this again in late November for the Town Center. A group of seven worked at the Jail helping our officers do their paper work at booking in drunk drivers. While the officers do most of their report on the computer, we are able to write up their personal property. This takes about an hour off of what the officers have to do. They look forward for us showing up to help them out on these DWI Stings. They have about four of them per year. Not only do we do this paper work for them but we also provide them with sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit and drinks. This is something else that they really look forward to. We not only do it for the many officers out on the roads but also for the booking people in the jail. We were there from 5pm until 5:30am Saturday. We had 2 people that went to the convention in Wichita Falls. August 21st, we will start our second CPA Classes. We have about 20 people signed up to attend. August 23rd, we will be helping with the annual Shots Across Texas. August 31st, we will be at the Jail helping with another DWI Sting again helping officers with paper work and serving food.
Reported by Jeanette Graff

Sugar Land. Some of our members participated in the first of 3 parts of the Ft. Bend Medical Corp Classes. 2 are online. We are also having a BBQ benefit for Peggy Spears, Chief Griffith's Secretary, who was involved in a terrible 4-wheeler accident; Our group is still working on the Trading Card Program to kick-off on Saturday, September 20th, 2008; Two of our members attended the Convention in Wichita Falls.

Reported by Jeanne Canales

Boring but important!

The following items have been in the Flash almost every issue and the reason we keep repeating them is because they are important, so pay attention if they apply to or affect you.

State merchandise is now on sale at the Region One meetings. See Tom Lane for shirts, patches, etc.

If anyone has any ideas for obtaining funds for the **scholarship fund**, please contact one of the officers or directors.

TCPAAA DUES. . If you did not attend the 2008 convention in Wichita Falls, your annual state membership dues (\$10) are now due. Membership application forms can be found on the state web site. Send to Texas Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association, 815-A Brazos #208, Austin, TX 78701-9996.

Don't miss a communication! *If you change your e-mail address and don't notify us causing delivery of the Flash to be denied, you are dropped from our e-mail list. Be sure to notify us at Charl.Bill@Yahoo.com immediately if your e-mail address changes or if you don't get a Flash each month..*

Region One Officers and Directors always welcome suggestions about how to make the Region One meetings better and more interesting. Call any of them with your suggestions.

When you sign in at a meeting, please print your name. There are always names on the sign in sheet that are unreadable and you don't get credit for attending.

WEB SITES AND ADDRESSES.

The state convention web site is <http://tcpaacconvention.org>.

The Texas CPAAA state web site is <http://TexasCPAAA.org>.

The web site for the National CPAA is www.nationalecpaa.org.

The Web Master's e-mail is Leo@TexasCPAAA.org.

The address for the 2009 Convention is Convention 2009, P.O. Drawer V, Dickinson, Texas 77539-2022. The co-chairs for the convention (for which we are eternally thankful and grateful) are Charles Suderman, Dickinson, csud2@comcast.net and David Miller, Pearland, sdmillers@yahoo.com.

IF YOU HAVE A FUNCTION COMING UP, OR HAVE SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO REGION ONE MEMBERS, SUBMIT IT AND IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE FLASH. SEND TO CHARL.BILL@YAHOO.COM.

That wasn't so bad, was it?

CC: Snail mail: (If you are receiving this by snail mail and have an e-mail address, **please send it to us at Charl.Bill@Yahoo.com**. We are converting as much as possible to electronic mail to save on postage and assure rapid notifications).

Tom Lane – Houston

Rita Crosby – Montgomery County Sheriff

Evelyn Phillips – Liberty

Vickie Butler – Tomball

Ralph Balzano – Kemah

Rosamond Landry – Houston

Debi Hyde - Alvin

Lynn Bryant – League City

Charles Wilson - Pasadena

Robert Bertrand – Matagorda County

Craig Lauck – Galveston

Billy Boelke – Santa Fe

We don't like short newsletters. This one could have been a couple of pages longer if everyone would send in their news or anything else that Region One readers would be interested in. We need news! We also like comments about what you like or don't like about the Flash. Send items for publication and comments to Charl.Bill@Yahoo.com.