



Region One Flash – Volume 6, No. 2 February, 2008

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

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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 Region One meeting will be held in Lake Jackson on February 16, 2008 at the Lake Jackson Police Department. **Note the change from the second Saturday.** From **Highway 288 into Lake Jackson**, when you come into Lake Jackson you will go over an overpass for County Road 2004 and then another overpass for Oyster Creek Drive. As you pass the second overpass, you will pass through a signal light. The second signal light is Oak Drive. (You will see the city water tower on the left). Turn left on Oak Drive. The Police Department is the First building on the left. (Highway 288 becomes Highway 332 in Lake Jackson). If you come down **FM 2004 to Highway 288**, turn left on Highway 288 to Oak Drive. Turn left on Oak Drive. The Police Department is the first building on the left. **If you are going east on Oyster Creek Drive from Highway 288**, turn right on Oak Drive. The Police Department is the last building on the right before reaching Highway 288. Lake Jackson has some **cameras on their signal lights**. Please remember to stop completely before making a right turn in Lake Jackson. If you need directions, **LJPD phone is 979-415-2700**. **Joyce Beeson's cell phone is 979-239-8153**. **A full breakfast will be served at 9:30AM**; meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. .

The March meeting will be on March 8, 2008 in Angleton.

The Program at Lake Jackson will be presented by Bill Ray of the Homeland Preparedness Project. The following is from their web site www.homelandpreparedness.org .

“The Board of The Homeland Preparedness Project is led by Executive Director Bill Ray. Bill has an extensive background in public safety working in law enforcement, for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and through many years of involvement in Search And Rescue. Bill's experience also extends to the corporate world. He has owned and operated his own technology consulting business in the Houston area with his wife Lynne for over ten years. Bill has an extensive public safety and volunteer organization resume' with emphasis on management, development and planning. Bill is currently the President of SARQuest Search Specialists, an all-volunteer Search Team serving the Texas Gulf Coast. Bill acts as the Team Leader, Search Manager, and as a Canine Handler with his K-9 partner Abby. Bill also has extensive training in Weapons of Mass Destruction and search management. Bill is a CERT Trainer. Bill has been involved in volunteer organization development and management for most of his adult life serving as President of LA Capitol City Obedience Club, serving on the Board of Galveston County K9 Search and Rescue, and as Executive Director of Child Rescue Network's South Texas office”. **Don't miss this special event!!**

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.

There is a proposed amendment to the bylaws, properly published, to be approved in February. According to our bylaws, it takes a 2/3 approval to adopt. That means 12 member associations must approve. Please attend the February meeting so we will have enough member associations present to adopt.

The bylaws amendment is as follows:

ARTICLE 12 - AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Amendments to Bylaws

12.1 These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed. New Bylaws **or amendments** may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Member Associations **present**. At least ~~30~~ **25** days notice, ~~in writing~~ **by electronic means** or by written notice, shall be given to all member associations of an intention to alter, amend or repeal these Bylaws.

Members in good standing. As per our bylaws, members have a 3 months grace period from January 1 to pay their 2008 dues before losing their good standing status. Member in good standing due to payment of 2008 dues are Angleton, Dickinson, Galveston Sheriff, Lake Jackson and Webster. Members in good standing due to the grace period are Alvin, Brenham, Deer Park, Galveston, Houston, Humble, Liberty County, Montgomery County Sheriff, Pearland, Richmond, Sugar Land, Texas City, Individual Harris County Sheriff Margaret Hooper and Individual Harris County Constable Larry Stegent.

Your Association's dues are \$30.00 for 2008. You may pay at the February meeting or mail to Georgie Benavides, 522 Cole Ave. W., Webster, Texas 77598-4902. Individual memberships are available for \$10.00 a year.

Schedule for 2008:

January 12 - Webster

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

March 8 - Angleton

April 12 - Dickinson

May 10 -

June 14 - Pearland

July 12 – No Meeting. Convention.

August 9 – Sugar Land

September 13 – Montgomery County Sheriff

October 11 – Brenham

November 8 –

December 13 -

<p>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.</p>

PROTECT YOUR DEBIT CARDS

A recent magazine article emphasized the fact that debit cards have a lot more exposure to theft and fraud than ordinary credit cards. A thief can empty your bank account with a debit card where your exposure to bad charges on a credit card maximizes at \$50.00. A few things to do to protect your debit card:

- Never give your debit card to someone who is going to take it out of your sight to process it. There is a hand held device that can scan your debit card and get all the info needed to make a duplicate and use it. Sometimes this is not practical, as in a restaurant, where the waiter takes it to process your bill. Use a credit card instead if you have both.
- Never give your debit card number to anyone on the Internet. Use a credit card instead.
- Make sure no one is standing close to you, five feet for example, when you input your pin. Again, this is not always practical, as in a grocery store check out line, but it is practical at an ATM machine or other places where you use your card.
- Remember, it is hard to get your money back when your debit card has been stolen and used by a thief. It is much easier when you have a credit card stolen and used by a thief due to the limitation and the dispute procedure with your credit card issuer.

Region One now has a Kroger Share Card which, when used at a Kroger store, will give a percentage of your purchases to Region One where it will be deposited in the scholarship fund. If you do not have one, you can get one from Tom Lane at the meetings or call him at 713-771-0016 and he will send you one. There was an accumulated balance in this account at the last notification of \$46.03. This is an excellent and painless way to add to the scholarship fund. Keep in mind that you must show this card at each purchase.

January Meeting. The January meeting was held in Webster on January 12th. Webster president **Barry Dietrich** introduced the speaker, **Captain Dave Myers**, who spoke on the FBI Academy. The auditing committee, composed of Mike Geiger (Humble), Norma DeWeese (Angleton), and Delores Gant (Pearland), reported that their audit concluded that the books are in order. 2009 Convention Co-Chair David Miller reported on various aspects of the convention. It will be held on August 22nd or 23rd at Moody Gardens with a hotel rate of \$124.00 a night. Alternate hotels with a lower rate are being investigated for rooms only, not a different convention site. **Sponsors are needed for the convention. Start soliciting your sponsors now so they can put their sponsorship in their 2009 budget.** President Ben Hernandez reported on the activities and concerns of the state organization, among them being a proposed concert by the Bellamy Brothers to raise funds for the **Drug Awareness Program**. **Carroll Bagley** of Liberty County was appointed and approved as Region One non-sworn representative to the state organization. **Chip Fairchild** will continue as the sworn representative. After discussion, motion was made and approved not to have a July Region One Meeting due to the convention on July 7-12 in Wichita Falls. There were not enough member associations present to vote on the bylaws amendment. A tip of the Region One cap to Webster for the hospitality and refreshments.

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Georgie Benavides):

Balance 11-30-07	\$1,976.69
Receipts:	
Dues – Dickinson, Galveston Sheriff, Lake Jackson	<u>90.00</u>
Disbursements:	
None.	
Balance 12-31-07	<u>\$2,066.69</u>
Balance in Scholarship Fund at 11-30-07	\$1,997.62
Receipts:	
Interest	<u>1.22</u>
Balance in Scholarship fund at 12-31-07	<u>\$1,998.84</u>
Note: Accrued balance in Kroger Share Program-Last Report (Will be paid when balance reaches \$100.00)	<u>\$46.03</u>

WEB SITES

There is a lot of information on the convention and state web sites. The state convention web site, <http://tcpaaconvention.org>, gives information on the 2008 convention in Wichita Falls. The Texas CPAAA state web site, <http://TexasCPAAA.org>, gives a lot of information that CPA Alumni members will find interesting and helpful. My e-mail for state-related website matters is Leo@TexasCPAAA.org

Leo Waltz, Webster CPAAA, TCPAA Web Master

The web site for the National CPAA is www.nationalcpaa.org. There you will find information about the national convention and other national news and information on how to join the national organization. The national convention for 2008 will be in Baton Rouge on April 30-May 2, 2008. The 2009 convention will be in Anchorage, Alaska. **PLAN AHEAD!**

The Mailing address for the 2009 TCPAAA convention in Galveston is Convention 2009, P.O. Drawer V, Dickinson, Texas 77539-2022.

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.

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.

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.

Angleton. Blue Santa party was December 14. There were over 100 children (under the age of 12) who received Christmas gifts. Work is being done on our memorial around the flag pole at the police station. Pavers are still available at \$55.00 each; 2/\$100.00; and \$45.00 each thereafter. CPA class 19 will begin in March. On March 3 there will be another Couthatta trip. The cost is \$20.00 per person which must be in by February 15. The \$20.00 includes the bus, drinks, water and a bag of snacks. The bus will leave from the Angleton Wal-Mart at 7am and return at approximately 11 pm. For more information contact Dottie Duby.

Reported by Norma De Weese

Brenham. January 14th was the date of the first meeting for 2008. The new Board members were installed and the calendar for the year was discussed. On January 19th, the CPAAA hosted the "Guns and Hoses" blood drive along with the Fire Department. Over 100 units of blood were collected. Class 22 of the Citizens Police Academy started on Thursday January 31st. The Citizens On Patrol Awards Banquet was held on January 22 at Nueces Canyon Ranch. Awards of certificates, keychains and shirts were presented to members for hours achieved in the program. The COP of the Year award was given to Catharine Wood who worked at almost every event the COPS had during the year.

Reported by Chris Peiper

Dickinson. Class XIV graduation was held in December. Members reported on Outreach Projects that members participated in during December and thanked everyone for their participation. The Community Thanksgiving Dinner served about 800 people and collected \$700 in donations. Other projects that members participated in were Festival of Lights, Empty Stocking, Rotary Christmas Parade, and Blue Santa. Membership is at 96 and an updated list was available. A laptop computer is being purchased for the use of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Vice President (Membership). COPS has 38 members and made 80 patrols in 2007/1610 man hours.

Reported by Marilyn Decker

Houston. We will begin our Class 39 on February 28, 2008 at the Houston Police Academy. We expect 30-35 attendees and hope to see the majority join the Alumni Association. Preliminary hours reports for 2007 indicate that HCPAAA had over 5500 volunteer hours reported including over 500 of COP Patrol and over 900 of Comida (Food) Drive. We are moving forward with our plans to present our Officer of the Year Award in April.

Reported by Charles Billingsley

Lake Jackson. A new Board for Lake Jackson Citizen Police Academy Alumni was elected on Thursday, January 10, 2008.

PRESIDENT: Lou Bertrand work 979/297-6331 cell 979/239-7769 pistol@swbell.net

VICE PRESIDENT: Reuben Neiswander home 979/480-0601 reubenneiswander48@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY: Van Kent home 979/297-8739 vkent@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Teena Walls home 979/297-8468 teena.w@sbcglobal.net

LAKE JACKSON PD LIAISON: Assistant Chief Jim Dunlap 979/415-2700 ljdunlap@brazosport.edu

REGION ONE CONTACT: Joyce Beeson home 979/297-5909 cell 979/239-8153 jmabeeson@earthlink.net

BOARD MEMBERS: Joyce Beeson, Horace Driskill, Roy McKneely, Joann Taylor

Lake Jackson. (continued) Lake Jackson Citizens on Patrol are active and continue scheduling Friday and Saturday nights to patrol. Since becoming active in 2007, COPS has logged in 432.4 hours. Disabled Parking has been active. There are 29 members on the Active Disabled Parking List, and another class will be held for enrolling new members. Since January 1999, there have been 996 citations written. We are striving to reach the 1,000 mark. Numbers aren't important, but making a difference is what has really counted. "Project ID" had a successful year. There were at least 229.4 hours spent enrolling more students in the program. Project ID went to Clute Intermediate Monday the 13th and enrolled approximately 180 fifth graders in the system. The Lake Jackson Police Department is honoring LJCPAAA with an Appreciation Dinner at the Civic Center on Friday, January 29. We all feel honored to volunteer at the LJPd and look forward the Friday night event.

Reported by Joyce Allen Beeson

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. It was suggested at the February meeting that each Alumni Association member of Region One that could afford it, donate \$100.00 to the Scholarship Fund.

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. Did you know that if you get a Yahoo e-mail address from their free service, you won't ever have to change it again no matter how many times you change your Internet provider? Go to Yahoo.Com. Did you also know that if you have high speed internet (DSL or Cable) you can get an AOL address free? Go to AOL.com.

HOW ONE CHILD SPENT HIS VACATION

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck. My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren.

Last night my sister and I were sitting in the den and I said to her, 'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of life at all; if that ever happens, just pull the plug.' So I got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out her wine.

TCPAAA dues

The Texas CPAAA wants you to continue your membership and by renewing you can provide needed funds to the state organization. If you will be attending the 2008 convention, the dues will be included in your registration fee. **If you are not going to attend the convention, your annual** membership dues (\$10) are now due.

Membership application forms can be found on the state web site www.TexasCPAAA.org and may be used for renewals. You can write "renewal" on the form and also give updated information.

Send form and payment to
Texas Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association
815-A Brazos #208
Austin, TX 78701-9996

A friend of Region One, **Joe Stilwell**, has been diagnosed with a life threatening disease and needs our prayers. Joe was at one time a member of the Houston Alumni Association and has since gone through the Webster program and is a member of their Alumni Association. Joe sends his thanks for our prayers.

Has your brain been outsourced? Following is from an article in **The Week** magazine.

“Thanks to the GPS system in my car, I no longer need to devote my brain to knowing how to get there from here. If I want to know what new music to buy, I simply log on to iTunes and it will select songs it thinks I will like. My TiVo does the same for television shows and Amazon.com can recommend every thing from books to garden furniture to fit my taste. The job of remembering names and key facts, which my aging brain finds difficult, has been outsourced to Google, Yahoo and Wikipedia. My Blackberry keeps track of anything else I might need to know”.

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

Robert Bertrand – Matagorda County

Craig Lauck – Galveston

Debi Hyde - Alvin

Lynn Bryant – League City

Charles Wilson - Pasadena

Edalia August - Beaumont

Mildred Deal – Liberty County

Captain Katherine Davis - Angleton