



Region One Flash – Volume 5, No. 3, May, 2007

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

Charles Billingsley, Houston, Editor and Publisher (713-729-1546) charl.bill@yahoo.com

President – Tom Lane, Houston (713-771-0016)

Vice President – Calvin Walker, Dickinson (281-339-1107)

Secretary – Dottie Duby, Angleton (979-849-4661)

Treasurer – Georgie Benevides, Webster (281-332-6390)

Directors – Leo Waltz, Webster (281-316-2255); Delores Gant, Pearland (281-997-1015); Richard Melvin, Dickinson (281-337-8623)

Thanks to our generous friends in Pearland, there will be a meeting in May. We will visit the beautiful city of Pearland in May and June. The May meeting has been changed to May 19th due to the Mother's Day Holiday. Note your calendar. The May meeting will be on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Pearland Police Department, 2703 Veterans Drive, Pearland. Going East on Highway 518 from Highway 288, take West Walnut Street and turn right on Veterans Drive. Going West on Highway 518 from I-45, turn left on Highway 35, right on West Walnut and left on Veterans Drive. Going South or North on Highway 35, take West Walnut Drive in a Westerly direction to Veterans Drive and turn South. If you get lost, call 281-652-1100. The speaker will be Sheri Teller, the Sales Manager of the Galveston Convention and Visitors Bureau. Come early for refreshments.

Please make plans to attend as many Region One meetings in 2007 as possible. Exciting things can happen in Region One and in Texas if we all participate.

Members in good standing are Alvin, Angleton, Deer Park, Dickinson, Galveston Sheriff, Houston, Lake Jackson, Liberty County, Montgomery County Sheriff, Pearland, Sugar Land, Texas City, Webster, Individual Harris County Sheriff Margaret Hooper and Independent Harris County Constable Larry Stegent.

Schedule for 2007:

January 13 - Webster

February 10 – Lake Jackson

March 10 – Houston

April 14 - Dickinson

May 19 – Pearland (Note change to 3rd Saturday)

June 9 - Pearland

July 14 - Brenham

August 11 - Sugar Land

September 8 – Montgomery County

October 13 – Texas City

November 10 - Angleton

December 8 –

Sometimes we fail to recognize the heroes among us and we take this opportunity to salute those 25 or 30 regular attendees who attend all (or most) of the Region One meetings and some serve as officers, directors and committee chairs. Just by being there, you are appreciated.

Region One dues for 2007 are due. You may pay your dues for 2007 of \$30.00 at the May meeting or mail to Georgie Benevides, 522 Cole Ave. W., Webster. Texas 77598. Individual memberships are available for \$10.00 a year.

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.

State CPA Head Calls for Proactive Anti-drug Interdictions

DICKINSON -- Ben Hernandez, State President of the Texas Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association, recently called for CPAA groups across Texas to become more proactive against drugs and drug dealers by adopting an anti-drug theme for the coming statewide convention in Austin. And he urged CPAA chapters who have been complacent in being involved with their regional and statewide organizations to get involved.

"We have CPA's out there that are not participating. We need to contact them, visit them, send out a special invitation to get them involved in regional activities," he told members at the Region One meeting in Dickinson.

"And we want to set themes for our conventions. Themes that are representative of our communities. Themes that we as citizens want to do. An example is "Citizen's Against Drugs".

"Now we need to address issues that are going on in our communities, our regions, our areas and our state and address what we can do about them. How can we help our police departments identify some of these things and make it happen? What do we as citizens need to take charge of?"

Hernandez suggested to the more than thirty gathered for breakfast and an all day workshop, that "Citizens Against Drugs" could be a theme. "Citizens against drunk drivers; everybody talks about drunk drivers. Everybody talks about things that are already on the radar screen," he said.

"What we want to do as an association, as an alumni, is take something that no one else is really addressing that is really broken and needs to be fixed. We need to identify drug dealers for example."

Delegate Dottie Duby told about activities taken by the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association in Angleton when a group of members there gathered in front of a known drug house carrying signs and chanting in an effort to make it known to the community that the house had been identified as a location of frequent drug activity.

"Crystal meth and how it is produced is an example of things that our citizens should be more knowledgeable of. It's what's killing our communities. It's throughout the whole State of Texas. It's throughout the United States and you can turn on the TV and see it everywhere," said Hernandez.

"When the Mayor of New York City is popped for doing cocaine like happened four or five years ago, that means we've got a problem," he commented to the gathering.

"Sex offenders have to be registered. That's great. I want to know where they are, but I also want to know where the guy is that's dealing those drugs to our kids. I want to know where HE lives also, but HE doesn't have to register. He may be on parole after his fifth felony and that's what we need to know.

"We're concerned citizens, and by increasing awareness, and by education, we can make decisions and we can work with our police officer's. Their lives as well as ours are in jeopardy if we don't get these people off the streets, and we can help," concluded Hernandez.

For more information about the statewide organization, log onto www.TexasCPAAA.org.

From an article in the Gulf Coast Police News of April 14, 2007 edited by Breck Porter

APRIL MEETING. Region One met on April 14th in Dickinson. An interesting and informative talk was given by Ben Hernandez, the President of the State Organization and a member of the Dickinson CPAAA. His talk covered things going on at the state level and also the convention coming up in Austin in July. If you missed this, you missed a great talk and discussion. Thanks to Dickinson for their cordial welcome and excellent refreshments.

Have you made your hotel reservations and sent in your registration for the state convention in July?

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.

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Georgie Benevides):

Balance 2-28-07	\$2,509.98
Receipts:	
Refund of Bank Charge	3.00
Dues	40.00
Disbursements:	
Returned Check	(10.00)
Bank Charge	<u>(6.00)</u>
Balance 3-31-07	<u>\$2,536.98</u>
Balance in Scholarship Fund at 2-28-07	\$1,235.37
Receipts:	
Interest	<u>1.01</u>
Balance 3-31-07	<u>\$1,236.38</u>
Notes:	
Accumulated Balance in Kroger Share Fund	\$ 1.28

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 2007 convention in Austin. The Texas CPAAA state web site, <http://TexasCPAAA.org>, gives a lot of information that CPA Alumni members will find interesting and helpful. My email 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.

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.

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

ALUMNI NEWS:

Angleton. Angleton Alumni members are working on our Annual Garage Sale slated for June 21 & 22. Set up will be on the 20th. TURN-AROUND-ANGLETON march was held in March. As soon as the weather clears we will march again. We chanted in front of several drug houses known to be drug houses/hang-outs. One arrest was made. We chanted around the police car after the arrest was made. We are still working on our Memorial pave project. One paver is \$55.00, 2/\$100.00. Each paver after that is \$45. We gave one scholarship to an alumni member who is now attending the Police Academy at Brazosport College. The Alumni has purchased a FEMA trailer to be used as a command center when needed. It will also be used by the Alumni during fundraisers, public awareness and education. We will loan it to the PD. A pad and cover will be built to house the trailer. Relay for Life is May 4th and 5th. CPA is supplying sandwiches and cookies for the walkers. Several of the Alumni will be walking. Class 17, consisting of 20 students, will graduate May 24th. Nat'l Police Wk is May 14-18. Angleton will hold open house on May 14th. We are working with the Angleton community to bring the program, Shattered Lives, to the Angleton High School in 2008.

Reported by Norma DeWeese

Brenham. April 7th was the Blue Bell Fun Run in Brenham. The COPS did traffic control for this event. April 23rd was the Shattered Dreams program at the High School. COPS and CPAAA members helped at this re-creation of an accident which is always a very emotional experience for the kids. Class 21 finished out the last 3 weeks of the Academy. Week 10 began with 2 scenarios created by the Brenham Police Department Explorer Post. The class played the "bad guys" and the Explorers were the police. During the same night they learned about hostage negotiations and what a SWAT team is and does. Week 11 was spent at the Range. Everyone took a turn at shooting different weapons and experiencing a "flash bang" and "gas". A fun night. And the last week of class was 3 hours of Police Games. After breaking into groups the class went to 6 different areas for fingerprinting, burglary identification, shoot don't shoot, a computer game, written questions and a driving course. The 3 people with the best scores overall won prizes and everyone had a good time.

On April 27/28 the CPAAA had a team at Relay for Life called the Jailhouse Rock, the theme being the 50's! Citizens on Patrol helped with security.

Reported by Chris Pieper

Dickinson. Annual Police Awards Banquet was Saturday, 4/14. We are sponsoring a Garage Sale on 4/21 with the proceeds allotted to purchase tables for the P.D. training room. Citizens on Patrol now has 33 members. There will be a class on Handicapped Parking and the members will be able to issue citations for illegally parked vehicles. On 4/28, we will be assisting with parking for the Grand opening of our Historical Railroad Museum. We will participate with several other organizations on May 4-5 for the Relay for Life Cancer Walk. We will be celebrating National Police Week, 5/12 – 5/19, with a reception on 5/15 for our officers and their families. Our Class XIII has 25 participates who will be graduating on 5/29, with a graduation banquet. We are continuing to purchase toys for our Blue Santa Program through Discovery Toys so each child, next year, will receive at least one educational toy. Our Officer of the Year is Jim Johnson.

Reported by Carolyn Suderman for Calvin Walker

Lake Jackson. A Project Identification demonstration was given for the Adult Lifelong Learning Program (ALLP) at Brazosport College on April 12. ENVIRO-Fest will be held April 21 at the Brazos Mall in celebration of 25 years of Lake Jackson being "Tree City USA". There will also be environmental displays and booths. LJCPAAA will participate in the event by providing free child ID's. The COP program is underway. Captain Dunlap plans to inform the public about the COP program with pictures and information in the newspaper and on the local TV. The Citizen on Patrol car is also used for Disabled Parking. All citations written by the Certified Disabled Parking Team are entered into the Lake Jackson PD system. Since December 1999, there are 860 citations written. Blue ribbons are being assembled for National Police week. These ribbons are distributed to the public to show their support of the police by flying them from the antennas of their vehicles. Corporal Joe Sturdivant began working for Brazoria PD in 1999. He suffered a massive heart attack in January and is now on the heart transplant list. Fay Burke asked for volunteers of LJCPAAA to bake cakes and cookies, donate money or raffle items for the fundraiser being held in Brazoria on Sunday, April 22. Meal tickets are \$6.

Reported by Joyce Beeson

Montgomery County Sheriff. We have completed 2 more Shattered Lives Programs. These were at Magnolia High School and a first time at New Caney High School. We will be helping again at the annual C.A.S.A. Picnic. Kidz Fest is an annual event to raise money for kids with Cancer. Some of our alumni will be help on the 2 day event. All money raised during this event is for Charities with kids with cancer. This money is kept in Montgomery County to help our kids. Last year over \$60,000 was raised and divided between 3 local charities. All money taken in at the events is given for the charities. There will be games, rides and information for parents. One crowd drawer is the Grand Prix Mini Car Race. You must be 18 plus years old to enter this race. One of our alumni members has a mini racer that she races each year. Several members worded the trailer at the Fair Grounds with the Auto Thief Group. A plaque will be presented to Sheriff Tommy Gage for his support to our Alumni Class we had in 2006.

Reported by Jeanette Graf

Pearland. Class 24 is in its 10th week – Handicap parking is on-going also. An advanced APA Class will start April 24. Classes on County Judge, County ADA, US Postal Inspector and ICE Special Agent. May 11th CPA Class 24 Graduates. May 12th Pear Run. May 17th Pearland Police Dept. Awards Banquet.

Reported by Delores Gant

Webster. Webster Police Department Open House Date: April 21, 2007. Address: 217 Pennsylvania St., Webster, TX 77598. Location: Webster Police Department. Hours: 12pm-4pm. Contact: 281-332-2426 ext. 5. Email: TCO Tiffany Swanson tswanson@websterpd.com. Handicap Accessible: Yes; Cost: Free; Details

City of Webster Police Department open to visitors. Here is your chance to see some of the behind-the-scenes activities at the Webster Police Department. An Open House will be hosted by the Telecommunications Officers on April 21, 2007, from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Webster Police Department. Citizens are invited to gain knowledge about what happens when they call for help by touring the Communications Center and receiving information from the 9-1-1 booth. This will also be a great opportunity to learn about gun safety, ID theft, residential alarms, and to have your child finger printed. A patrol car, fire truck, and ambulance will be on-site for tours and car seat technicians will be providing car seat installation demonstrations. Refreshments will be provided by the Webster Citizen Police Academy Alumni. For more information, call the Communications Department at (281) 332-2426, ext. 5.

Texas “Castle Doctrine” Passed and signed by Governor Perry on March 27, 2007. Senator Jeff Wentworth and Representative Joe Driver were responsible for guiding the bill through the legislature. Texas Castle Doctrine has three important parts: (1) create a presumption in law that a person who is unlawfully and forcibly attempting to enter your occupied home, occupied car or occupied business is there to cause you serious bodily harm or death. There is no duty to retreat and you may use deadly force. (2) If you are in a place you have a right to be, not doing crime, you’re not the initial aggressor, and you are in imminent danger of physical harm, you can stand your ground and use deadly force. (3) If you have acted within the law, you have civil immunity.

From the Texas State Rifle Association Legislative Report. Submitted by Tom Lane.

**Please note Charles Billingsley’s new e-mail address:
CHARL.BILL@YAHOO.COM**

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.

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

Debi Hyde - Alvin
Lynn Bryant – League City
Charles Wilson - Pasadena
Edalia August - Beaumont
Rita Nicolaidis – Texas City