



Texas

DPSOA

#2 2023

Magazine



The Stars are Bright

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Texas DPSOA



Issue 2, 2023

Magazine

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On the Cover: The cover photo is a Chevrolet Tahoe taken by Trooper Nathan Parent outside of Balmorhea, Tx.

ATTN: Readers

The Texas DPSOA greatly appreciates its advertisers and the support they have given throughout the years. We hope that you will utilize their services and products. However, some products and services may not be right for certain individuals. Therefore, please consider every product or service and make sure it is right for you, the consumer. Thank you, again, to every advertiser and reader of this publication.

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WRITING FOR THE MAGAZINE

DPSOA encourages its members and any other persons in the law enforcement community to write articles for publication in DPSOA Magazine. We are looking for articles related to law enforcement, and especially related to the Texas Department of Public Safety or any of its divisions. Articles relating to sporting or professional experiences are welcome, too. You could be read by readers across Texas, as well as by numerous agencies across the country. Below is a list of guidelines for articles to be submitted to DPSOA Magazine. Pick up your pens and start writing. The magazine needs your input.

Submission Guidelines

Manuscript Specifications

Length: 1,000 to 3,000 words on 5 to 12 pages double spaced.

Format: All manuscripts should be in MS Word format. Please include your name, address and subject/title on each page.

PUBLICATION/BASIS FOR JUDGING

Manuscripts:

Manuscripts will be judged on the following points: factual

accuracy, style and ease of reading, structure and logical flow, length, relevance to audience, analysis of information.

Query Letters:

The Editor suggests that authors submit a detailed one- to two-page outline before writing an article. This is intended to help authors but does not guarantee publication of the article.

Author Notification:

Receipt of manuscript will be confirmed. Letters of acceptance or rejection will be sent following review. Articles accepted for publication cannot be guaranteed a publication date.

Copyright:

Articles are copyrighted individually by the authors and rights are transferred to DPSOA Magazine for one time printing.

Editing:

DPSOA Magazine reserves the right to edit all manuscripts.

Submission:

Authors may contact the district representatives in their areas or manuscripts may be forwarded directly to: **editor@dpsoa.com**.

ABOUT THE TEXAS DPSOA . . .

The Texas Department of Public Safety Officers Association is a non-profit Association organized under the State of Texas.

Purpose: The purpose of the Association shall be: To cooperate with the Administration in ensuring the best law enforcement agency in the state; to assist all Department personnel in improving their educational achievements; to promote professionalism within the Department and to work in all regards for the betterment of all Department personnel and the citizens of the State of Texas.

Membership: Membership in the DPSOA is as follows: All DPS Commissioned Officers, including retired personnel, and members of the DPS Communications Service where TCLEOSE Certification is required by DPS, including retired personnel and including Charter Members, Polygraph Operators, Chemists and Chemist Technical Supervisors in the DPS, including retired personnel.

DPSOA Change of Address Form

NAME _____

LAST FIRST M. INITIAL _____

TITLE _____ SERVICE _____

DOB _____ DISTRICT _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHYSICAL HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PH: _____ OFFICE PH: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

****Please note: You may also visit www.texasdpsoa.com under the Members Only Area to submit any address changes.****

THE ONLY WAY WE KNOW IF YOU HAVE MOVED IS IF YOU SEND US A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM BY EMAIL (**members@dpsoa.com**), FAX (**512-451-0709**), PHONE (**800-933-7762**), THE WEBSITE (**www.texasdpsoa.com**) OR YOU CAN SEND CHANGES BY MAIL (**DPSOA, 5821 Airport Blvd., Austin, TX 78752**).

PRESIDENT

*Richard Jankovsky, III,
President, DPSOA*

Howdy from the Coastal Bend!

The 88th Legislative Session has come to an end! We are thankful that the Legislature was so aware of our needs. Some of the highlights from this include: \$900,000,000 infusion in to the main ERS Fund. This is in addition to the \$500,000,000 per year that was appropriated last session in SB 321. This is a huge step in getting the main fund closer to being declared actuarily sound. Once the fund is deemed actuarily sound, and remains sound for 18 months, the legislators can begin processes to enhance retirement benefits. We are hopeful that the fund is deemed actuarily sound by September of this year.

\$750,000,000 infusion into the LECOS Fund. This is a one-time infusion to the fund that will make it actuarily sound. In addition to this infusion, the state is going to pay a higher percentage rate into LECOS to ensure that it remains sound. This is great news as it ensures stability for the fund and state employees are not being required to pay a higher percentage rate.

Our insurance costs are not increasing. We are extremely grateful for this. The Legislators have taken steps to ensure our insurance costs remain the same. As we know, this has not always been the case. By ensuring that our insurance costs remain the same, the legislators have made certain that any salary increases are not minimized by increased insurance costs.

Funds allocated for Corporal pay to be increased from \$50 per month to \$250 per month. This is the first time this pay has been raised.

10% ALL State Employee pay increase. This is huge and is much appreciated. This pay increase is broken in to 5% this year and 5% next year. The legislators even took it a step further. Through SB 30, funds were appropriated so ALL state employees would begin to see the pay increase in their July paycheck. We appreciate this step being taken!

Despite our best efforts and our partnerships with several other associations, we were not able to see successful legislation to provide a thirteenth check for our retired state employees. As much as we wanted to see this come to fruition this session, it simply did not. However, the steps taken this session to make



the ERS Fund actuarily sound will certainly pose a better scenario for the next session. This is a topic that we will be engaged in throughout the interim and during the next session. I am hopeful that the Legislators will provide the same relief to retired state employees next session that they provided to retired teachers in previous sessions.

We have seen our members responding to the needs of the citizens of Texas in a variety of ways. Operation Lone Star has been at the forefront of missions. Recently, these deployments stretched from Brownsville to El Paso. We also found ourselves assigned to the Capitol to ensure that the Legislators and visitors were provided the security they deserve. The Austin area found us combatting violent

crime through intelligence-based patrol efforts in high crime areas. All three of these missions happened simultaneously!

One component of these missions that is sometimes overlooked is our members of the DPS Communication Operators team. These folks find themselves being deployed across the state in the same manner as commissioned folks. They are the calm in the storm and the voice behind the scenes. Not many people know but communications is dealing with vacancies just as all of us are. With over 40 vacancies statewide it is hard to imagine the strain they must be dealing with. Hopefully these positions can be fully staffed soon! If you are able, drop by your local comms station and say howdy to your lifeline that is always there for you! The fact of the matter is this, technology is great when it works, but the computer is not able to check on you or send you back up when you need it! WE depend upon these folks and cannot do our job without them!

The first half of 2023 saw two of our members involved in very serious line-of-duty crashes. Both were out of their vehicles and struck by vehicles. Thankfully, they survived and are on the mend! We were happy to help them and their families through their difficult times. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to mend.

I would like to highlight our legal team's ability to respond to critical incidents. We are extremely proud of Bob Gorsky and his team! They have been the go-to legal group for DPSOA for over 30 years. Their experience and expertise are second to

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continued

none. If you are involved in a critical incident all you must do is dial the on-call attorney number (it's a standard number that we have readily available through our cell phone app for 24-hour convenience) and they will respond. They WILL also respond as needed, IN PERSON, to the scene regardless of where in Texas you are.

I would like to make mention of one of our new supports/sponsors. Clay was recently contacted by Mr. Cook of Trophy Trucking. Mr. Cook expressed an interest in helping raise funds for the DPS Troopers Foundation. This interest has turned in to a mission for Trophy Trucking. I cannot begin to write what they have done and are doing to help our mission.

What I can do is extend an invitation to ALL of you to attend the next event! PLEASE come join us in Poteet on October 06 and 07 for the First Annual DPS Troopers Foundation Burn and Turn BBQ Cook-Off and Team Roping! Friday October 06 will have a chef's choice BBQ event and a margarita contest with live

music and a live auction. Saturday 07 will have a State Championship BBQ Cook Off sanctioned by Champions Barbecue Alliance and team roping (hearing \$10,000 added money to the BBQ Cook Off and the same for the roping). Stay tuned for more details and follow us on Facebook for updates!

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through 2023. It will be Christmas before you know it! In my next article I plan to highlight some of the events that we have been able to support. I think you will be amazed to see the impact that the Association is having across Texas! Remember, the Association does not have to exist and without members it won't exist! I am proud that you allow me to represent you and tell your story!

May God Bless each and every one of you and God Bless Texas!

Richard Jankovsky, III
DPSOA President



VICE PRESIDENT

*Jarrad Williams,
Vice President, DPSOA*

Greetings!

I hope everyone is enjoying the great benefits we all received from this past Session. I for one am still super appreciative for the back-to-back pay adjustments which is a first in our history to my knowledge.

There are many new opportunities in this Department that a lot of individuals have been able to take advantage. I for one, was blessed enough to promote and take advantage of a new challenge. It has been very rewarding and stressful at time where it's felt like almost starting a whole new career. We are all super lucky to have great mentors within our divisions as well as the top tier training in our career field. I encourage everyone to strive to challenge themselves and grow as an individual. I am thrilled to be in my new position but will never forget the foundation that gave me the ability to get here.



The future of this Association will be changing as well, and we are constantly looking to gain new individuals to help us prosper. Please reach out to your Regional Reps or myself on how you can be further involved in keeping this Association growing and taking care of its members. The DPS Officer's Association is constantly looking at different ways we can provide different services as a benefit. We encourage any ideas to be submitted and we will see if they are a possibility.

I hope everyone gets to enjoy their limited amount of time off and spend it wisely with family and friends. This career is very demanding, and everyone needs to take the necessary amount of time to make sure their mental well-being is taken care of above all else.

Jarrad Williams
DPSOA Vice President



**EVEN TEXTERS AND DRIVERS
HATE TEXTERS AND DRIVERS.**

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SECRETARY / TREASURER

*Veronica Gideon,
Secretary / Treasurer, DPSOA*

Greetings from Austin,

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate DPS Recruit Class C-22 on your graduation (May 5, 2023), and best of luck on your new beginnings. As an association member, I hope we can serve you in many ways throughout your career.

This year marks the Texas Ranger's Bicentennial (1823-2023). The Texas Rangers were formed in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas, and are the only law enforcement agency to serve under five national flags.

Since 1935 The Texas Ranger Division within the Texas Department of Public Safety has been responsible for criminal investigations for the following: major incident crime investigations, unsolved crime/serial crime investigations, public corruption and public integrity investigations, officer-involved shooting investigations, and border security operations.

Today, the Division is comprised of 234 full-time employees; including 166 commissioned Rangers and sixty-eight support personnel; including administrative staff, Border Security Operations Center, Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers, and the Special Weapons and Tactics team.

Since January 2023, the Texas Ranger Division participated in the year's commencements throughout the state.



Proclamation Day at the Texas State Capitol.

On February 14, 2023, the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives commemorated the Texas Rangers for their two hundred years of service.

Proclamation Day at the US Senate (Washington, DC)

On March 1, 2023, Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz honored the Texas Rangers on the US Senate floor by introducing a resolution paying tribute to 200 years of service.

On March 2, 2023, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame inducted the Texas Ranger Division into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame on Texas Independence Day.

On May 4, 2023, Texas Ranger Lieutenant Richard Henderson, Texas Ranger



Major Thomas in Washington D.C.



Flag dedication ceremony at Victoria.



Captain Jason Bobo, Assistant Chief Corey Lain, Chief Jason Taylor, Captain Wende Wakeman.



Bicentennial event dinner.



Rangers recognized at Globe Life Field in Arlington.
Lt. Mankin throws out the first pitch.



Globe Life field in Arlington.



Rangers recognized in the House.



Rangers at the National Cowgirl Museum Hall of Fame in Ft. Worth.



Rangers recognized at the Houston Live Stock Show and Rodeo.



Senator Cruz recognizing Rangers in the US Senate.



Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame inducting Rangers.

John Lingle, Texas Ranger Drew Pilkington, and Sheriff Marr attended the flag dedication ceremony marking the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Texas Rangers at the Victoria County Sheriff's Office.

Houston Live Stock Show & Rodeo First Responders Day

On March 6, 2023, Rodeo Houston honored the Texas Rangers for their 200 years of service.

On March 30, 2023, the Texas Rangers (MLB) commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers at Globe Life Field, Arlington. Lieutenant Ruben Mankin (Hurst) threw the ceremonial first pitch.

In November 2022, the National Cowgirl Museum Hall of

Fame recognized Texas Ranger Captain Wende Wakeman, Texas Ranger Captain Mebla Saenz, Texas Ranger Laura Simmons, and Texas Ranger Veronica Gideon during the induction ceremony in Ft. Worth.

Check out the lineup of events at www.texasranger2023.org. Bicentennial Events are open to the public. If you would like to learn more about the Texas Rangers visit the Texas DPS website: www.dps.texas.gov.

If you would like to submit photographs or share your story, please email the information to vg00457@gmail.com.

Veronica Gideon
DPSOA Secretary / Treasurer

DPSOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Clay Taylor,
Executive Director, DPSOA*

Greetings from the Capitol City!

The Texas Legislature is Sine Die, sort of. That lasted about two hours before the Governor ordered a Special Session. Ky Ash does a superb job of explaining what happened in this session, and Richard Jankovsky, no doubt, will address in his article. You can find both of their articles in this magazine.

The Association tried and failed to obtain a thirteenth check for retirees. We were not alone in this endeavor. DPSOA and several other associations representing ERS retired employees worked to get the Legislature to grant a thirteenth check to retirees. With the revenue surplus, \$250 million would have given every retiree a check. For whatever reason, the Legislature did not see it as a priority. They held fast on the fact that the funds are still not actuarially sound. We took measures last session by agreeing to a fourth group of employees, which in turn allowed the legislature to fund \$515 million to the large fund for the next 30 years and they did that. They also gave a one-time \$1billion dollar injection to the fund. This will, no doubt, make it actuarily sound. The problem is that it is not happening now when retirees desperately need it. It has been 22 years since a retiree had any type of COLA or 13th check!

One of our accomplishments was to get highway memorial signs for Troopers killed in the line of duty. Initial funds for the signs must come from private donations. Once erected the Highway Department maintains the signs. The legislators autho-



Trooper Tim McDermott memorial dedication in Longview.

rized passage of nine memorial signs, in addition to the five signs that are still unfunded from the 87th Legislative Session.

John Hart, retired and a former classmate of Troy Hogue, has taken it upon himself to fund the sign and has done a wonderful job. If you have a desire to assist, please visit our website, <https://texasdpsoa.com/dps-troopers-foundation/dpstf-programs/highway-renaming-projects>. Signs that were authorized but still unfunded in the 87th Legislative Session are for Trooper Moises Sanchez, Trooper Javier Arana, Trooper Troy Hogue, Corporal Willie D. Taylor, and Trooper Daniel Higdon. New memorial signs authorized by the 88th session (HB 3672, Canales) include my former classmate Trooper Russell Boyd, Ranger Stanley Guffey, Trooper Milton Alexander, Trooper Ernesto Alaniz, Trooper Hollis Lacy, Trooper Howard Jordan, Trooper Mark Frederick, Trooper William Kohlleppe III and Trooper Billy Howry.



Regional Director Sibley speaks at dedication of Trooper McDermott Memorial.



PSC Commissioner Long speaks at dedication of Trooper McDermott memorial.

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continued



Old School E Board, President Gary Chandler, Vice President Jimmy Jackson and yours truly around 2011 session.



Retired THP Lieutenant Jimmy Jackson at forum for ERS board in Austin.



C1968 recruit class reunion Billy Burfeind, Michael Campbell, Homer Cleckler, Michael Compton, Jerry Crawford, Regis DeArza, Victor Escalon, Joe Franco, David Hancock, Jerrel Jolley, Alfonso Mendiola, Jim Swain.

DPSOA had a presence at the border in hosting lunch for 175 Troopers on Memorial Day in Eagle Pass. Wagon Wheel BBQ catered the meal.

The Governor has invited state police agencies outside of Texas to assist in Operation Lone Star. Florida Highway Patrol and Idaho State Patrol have sent over 100 Troopers to assist.

The magazine cover was submitted by Trooper Nathan Parent stationed in Balmorhea. He sent the photo in February and told me to use it as we wanted. I posted it on our Facebook page, and it received almost 2 million views. This inspired other Troopers to submit photos of their patrol cars, and soon we had over 200 submissions, receiving over 9 million views. We are planning to offer a calendar and a coffee table book for purchase. The proceeds will go to help fund the highway memorial signs for our fallen Troopers.

Trooper Timothy McDermott's Memorial sign was dedicated in Longview on May 24th. He was killed on May 14, 1995, in Robertson County. We are waiting on dedication dates for the following memorial signs that we have purchased, Trooper David Rucker, Trooper Ralph Zerda, and Sergeant William Kuhnle, both killed in the same accident, and Trooper Mark Phebus.

The scholarship committee meets in June to allocate \$60,000 in grants that the DPS Troopers Foundation has authorized. The deadline to submit your application is June 15th. DPSOA and

DPSTF have funded over \$170,000 in the last three years for these much-needed grants. We could not have done that without the Wyatt Ranches Foundation! DPSOA members as well as non-members' children are eligible to apply.

DPSOA second quarter board meeting was held in Odessa in April. We also attended a fundraiser hosted by Trophy Trucking. Todd Cook of Trophy Trucking held an auction and raised over \$22,000 for the Foundation. In May, Gary, and Maurice Bledsoe of TanMar and Tanner Rentals invited us back for their 3rd Annual Crawfish Boil in Midland which raised over \$14,000. They have raised approximately \$50,000 in three years. The generosity of these companies helps the Foundation with funds that we can use to support our members in a time of need. The Midland-Odessa area is most generous in their support of DPSOA.

DPSOA also assisted in sponsoring the 2nd Annual Chad Walker Memorial Obstacle Course in Port Aransas in May. Over 100 participants were included in the event. Thanks to Retiree Rep. Wayne Williams for assisting and Sergeant Benjamin Ramirez for coordinating the event.

In January, Trooper Curtis Putz was injured while working an accident in Navarro County. Trooper Putz sustained serious injuries and spent over 80 days recovering in the hospital. DPSOA raised money to help fund the family's needs during that time, including a t-shirt fundraiser from Relentless Defender. We are happy that Curtis is recovering at home now.

C-68 recruit school had their 55th reunion in Georgetown. Eleven classmates and one counselor attended, and DPSOA was happy to provide dinner for their families.

We also had C-2022 recruit class graduate with 60 graduates in May. Be sure and welcome them to your area.

Finally, I want to wish Retiree Rep. Alex Bartee a speedy recovery. Alex had a stroke and is currently in rehab in San Antonio. Alex has been a tremendous help to me. He helps at every event, is very active with getting retirees together and is always available when asked. He and his wife Colleen are special people. Get well soon, Alex!

Until next time...

Clay Taylor, Executive Director
director@texasdpsoa.com

DPSOA Celebrates Successful 88th Session of the Texas Legislature: Strong Support for DPS Employees

By Ky Ash, DPSOA Legislative Council

The 88th session of the Texas Legislature has concluded with resounding success for DPSOA members. From significant pay increases to funding allocations for retirement systems and operational enhancements, the Texas legislature has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to DPS employees and their crucial role in protecting and serving the citizens of Texas.

Key among the achievements of the session is the passage of the new state budget, which allocates \$1.8 billion in All Funds for a 5.0 percent increase in state employee salaries. This ensures that state employees will receive a raise of at least \$3,000 per year in fiscal year 2024, followed by another 5.0 percent increase with a minimum of \$3,000 per year in fiscal year 2025. Importantly, the supplemental appropriations bill secured funding to implement the FY 2024 pay increase two months ahead of schedule, starting in July 2023.

Recognizing the significance of retirement security, the legislature took concrete action to support the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) and the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers Supplemental Retirement Fund (LECOS). Not only did the legislature maintain state contribution rates for the ERS fund, but it also appropriated \$510 million each year of the biennium in ongoing additional payments to the fund along with \$900 million for a one-time additional payment to the fund. With these additional contributions, the main ERS fund is expected to achieve actuarial soundness by the start of the next legislative session in 2025.

Legislators also increased the state contribution for the LECOS fund by 1% (for 1.5% total) to meet LECOS plan normal cost and agreed with DPSOA's request to appropriate a single lump sum of \$750 million to eliminate all unfunded liability of the LECOS plan.



Furthermore, the legislature fully funded the group health plan and maintained the current 100% member and 50% dependent state contribution. Vital provisions for DPS employees were also upheld, such as overtime pay for the 50-hour workweek and stipend pay.

To enhance the capabilities of DPS officers and bolster operational efficiency, the legislature approved significant funding for vehicle replacement, aircraft procurement, and facility expansion. The state budget allocated \$119,524,563 from the general revenue fund, along with federal funds and appropriated receipts, for vehicle replacement within the Texas Department of Public Safety. Additionally, \$21,200,000 was designated for the purchase of two helicopters and a fixed-wing

airplane. The department also received \$3,000,000 for an equine facility.

DPS received \$381.5 million for other various initiatives, including expanding the Williamson County Training Academy facility, funding for 50 additional officers (\$31.1 million) and a total of six recruit schools along with graduation recruitment bonus payments (\$35.0 million), expansion of statewide intelligence and analytics (\$27.1 million), and communication radio infrastructure improvements (\$23.7 million).

The successful outcomes of the 88th session of the Texas Legislature underscore DPSOA's efforts and the unwavering commitment of state leaders to support the brave men and women of the Department of Public Safety. It is essential to show appreciation to your state elected officials for their investments in state employee pay and benefits. Furthermore, please continue to communicate with DPSOA about the issues that are important to you as we work towards the next legislative session in 2025. Together, we can ensure that DPS employees receive the support they deserve as they continue their vital mission of protecting and serving the people of Texas. □

REGION 1 – NORTH TEXAS

*Oscar Villarreal,
DPSOA Region 1 Representative*

Howdy from the North Texas Region. Winter has come and gone. It brought snow, ice, long cold shifts from road closures, to multiple vehicle crashes along with countless hours of checking on stranded motorists.

Winter was cold and brutal on our Region. One of our own troopers became a crash victim while investigating a weather-related crash during a winter storm. Trooper Curtis Putz's patrol unit was struck by another vehicle causing his own unit to strike him and pin him underneath. Trooper Putz was in the hospital for 81 days and underwent multiple surgeries. Thankfully he was released on April 21, 2023 and could return to his home with his family. He continues to recover, and we are thankful and blessed for his recovery and the support of so many for him and his family.



Lt. Ruben Mankin.

Patrol stories.



Sgt. Adam Albritton 10 years.



Sgt. Scott Prater 10 years.



Trooper Frank Bless 10 years.

When Troopers weren't freezing in the cold weather, they spent time in our local schools promoting safety, education, wellness, and fostering community relationships. They even partnered with Patrol Stories and had a blast with the kids. They might have felt like kids again from the pictures – you be the judge.

During a staff meeting at the Tyler office, Captain Webb presented 20-year service awards to the following: Trooper Colby Hobbs, Corporal Sandy Taylor, Trooper Stephen Nichols, and Trooper Josh Sneed. Captain Webb also presented 10-year service awards to Trooper Frank Bless, Sergeant Scott Prater, and Sergeant Adam Albritton.

In February, Regional Director Hank Sibley and several North Texas Troopers met the Louisiana State Police in Bossier City, Louisiana, to continue maintaining a partnership with our neighboring state to meet shared objectives.

As the weather changed and things warmed up, a different kind of season arrived. Baseball. The department was honored to have a Texas Ranger be invited to the Texas Rangers Baseball season game opener with Ranger Lt. Ruben Mankin throwing the first pitch. That is a North Texas Original.

The North Texas Region continues to support multiple operations. We are blessed to have some fantastic people in this Region from our support services in communications, facilities, and other unseen but vital team members. We are thankful for those who bear the burdens of many tasks with continuous deployments and operations. We genuinely appreciate our



Cpl. Sandy Taylor 20 years



Trooper Colby Hobbs 20 years.

[more >](#)

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THP LSP.



Trooper Josh Sneed 20 years.



Trooper Stephen Nichols 20 years.

Troopers, Rangers, and Agents' service. But most importantly, we are thankful for the love and support of the most essential individuals in this process. The loved ones we leave behind at home. Without their continued love and support, our tasks would be much more difficult, if not unbearable. Our hats are indeed off to you.

In closing, please keep all the members of our agency in your prayers. Each day they face the unknown and uncertain, yet they put their boots on and head out the door to serve the people that make Texas great.

God Bless,
Oscar Villarreal ☐

REGION 2 – SOUTHEAST TEXAS

*Richard Krenek,
DPSOA Region 2 Representative*

Greetings, From Region 2, Southeast, Texas!

Sergeant Steven Yaden, CVE Angleton 2D11 submitted some pictures taken by drone of his troopers working the International Road Check operation. Over a three-day period in May, troopers in his area completed 181 commercial motor vehicle inspections. As a result of these inspections, 54 CMV's and 9 drivers were placed out of service while working a 5a-3p shift each day. 2D11 troopers Todd Phillips, Blaine Chesser, David Harris, Dustin Howard, Edwin Lara, Matt Leighton, and Daniel Pena were assisted by League City, Friendswood, and Texas City. Thank you to Sergeant Yaden and his team of hard working and highly dedicated troopers for making the highways in southeast Texas safer.

Congratulations to all 2023 recipients of the DPSOA scholarship. Once again, this year the Texas DPS Troopers Foundation awarded the Association with \$60,000 for scholarships. This is a huge program for both the Foundation and the Association, and it has continued to grow each year. If you missed it this year, be sure to encourage your students to apply next spring or early summer. The scholarship application will be posted on the Association website soon after spring break. The deadline for submission is usually June 15th.



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While Trooper Stephen Taylor was deployed to south Texas, he was unable to attend his daughter, Mattie's, Pre-K graduation. With more and more deployments, it is likely everyone will not be able to attend an important family event at one time or another. It is virtually inevitable. While Steven was unable to be present for Mattie's graduation, Lieutenant Darren Vacek and Troopers Josh West, Randy Stavinoha, and David Sutton made sure Mattie had some of her DPS family to witness and acknowledge her achievement.

Sergeant Renita Coleman recently visited with staff and students at Thomas Middle School in south Houston. Sergeant Coleman discussed the dangers of alcohol and drugs to the

students. She also answered a lot of questions regarding how to become a Texas State Trooper. She reports she was asked a lot of great questions from many brilliant minds.

My winter and spring have been occupied by many deployments to the Texas State Capitol during the 88th Legislative Session. I am very thankful for the pay increase, but equally disappointed that our Legislature did nothing for our retirees. I cannot imagine being retired 20 or 30 years and not even being considered for a cost-of-living adjustment or at least a thirteenth check. With an estimated \$34,000,000,000 of surplus tax money, I see no reason why the Legislature could not have pumped enough money into the Employees Retirement System



of Texas and make the program actuarially sound in the immediate. Hopefully, the fund will be declared actuarially sound soon, leaving our legislators no excuses to continue to ignore our retired family. Nonetheless, I had a great time working all my Capitol deployments. It gave me time to visit with many of our DPSOA members and I met a lot of great people, including many legislative staffers. Please enjoy a few pictures from the Capitol and surroundings.

If you are using your DPS email with the Association, you

are not getting everything the Executive Board is sending out. DPS firewalls are returning a lot of Association email back to the Executive Director. Please contact the store in Austin and change your email to your personal address. This will ensure you receive all important correspondence and access to surveys. Also, don't hesitate to email me at rakrennek@aol.com with any concerns or needs. Please email me if you need my cell phone number.

Richard Krenek
Southeast Texas Region ☐

REGION 3 – SOUTH TEXAS

*Cesar Cuevas,
DPSOA Region 3 Representative*

So, here we are, welcoming the New Year as we reach the midpoint of 2023 and continuing our two-year journey with OLS Borderstar. You might be wondering what's new in our endeavors. Well, DPS has been deployed to augment Austin PD and assist in bringing law and order to neglected areas. This deployment presents fresh opportunities for everyone involved. Some may find themselves working overtime, while others might enjoy a change of scenery. It's interesting to note the contrast between the civil atmosphere of Austin and the vast rural landscapes of desert scrub, ranches, and oil wells that stretch as far as the eye can see. Each person has their own preferences; some of our city troops will feel right at home in this new environment, while our country troops may prefer to explore lesser-known paths. Although the pace of life in Austin may be faster, one thing that remains consistent is the diverse selection of food and the quick availability, albeit at a price. We know Austin is expensive, so I say thank you per-diem, keeping us fed between stops. Austin is a traffic rich environment, so plenty of work to be had for as long as we are needed.

So, what has occurred in region 3? More deployments! Amidst the limited time available for activities other than their regular duties, DPSOA (Department of Public Safety Officers Association) Region 3 took immense pride in sponsoring the Region 3 CVE (Commercial Vehicle Enforcement) Challenge held in the vibrant city of Los Indios. This event served as a valuable opportunity for the dedicated Region 3 CVE Troopers and inspectors to further enhance their skills and attention to detail when patrolling the roads. Region 3, encompassing an expansive



area, boasts the distinction of hosting the largest entry points for international commercial traffic into the state of Texas. This positioning emphasizes the crucial role played by the Troopers in ensuring the smooth and secure flow of commerce while maintaining the highest standards of safety and enforcement. By organizing the Region 3 CVE Challenge, DPSOA not only demonstrated its commitment to professional development but also showcased the importance of these Troopers in maintaining the integrity and efficiency of international trade within the region. Congratulations to the winner of the 2023 Challenge, Trooper Robert Jackson, and runner up Trooper Josh Acala.

Now, let's turn our attention to the main event that has been making headlines and buzzing in the news: the discussions surrounding Texas DPS and TMD and the topic of Title 42, particularly its impending end. You may have come across posts on social media showcasing caravans of black and white patrol vehicles making their way towards the Texas border, spanning over 1200 miles from Brownsville to El Paso, and every point in-between. These Troopers symbolize a collective effort to rein-



Conducting International Diplomacy.



New Color Schemes.



Standing Guard.



2023 Region 3 Challenge staging area Los Indios.



Hidden Trooper on the River.

force and secure the border, a crucial task that captures the attention of the nation. The presence of these Troops serves as a visual representation of the dedication and commitment shown by the authorities to address the challenges and complexities associated with border security. It is an unmistakable sign that significant efforts are being made to safeguard the integrity of the border and ensure the safety of the communities that reside within and alongside it.

When I requested images of the ongoing operations for the magazine, one striking detail remained consistent in every photograph: every single Trooper was positioned off-road and in close proximity to the mighty Rio Grande River. It was evident that the Troopers were strategically stationed to address the unique challenges posed by the border region. Despite the rugged conditions and demanding terrain, there was an undeniable sense of pride in maintaining the pristine appearance of the patrol vehicles. However, it was hard to ignore the captivating effect of the black, white, and mud combination that adorned each vehicle. This color palette not only ensured their visibility, making them stand out against the natural surroundings, but it also allowed them to blend seamlessly with the environment when necessary. It was a visual representation of the delicate balance they strive to achieve—being both a noticeable presence and seamlessly integrated into the border landscape. The juxtaposition of the clean, uniformed Troopers and their vehicles coated in mud spoke volumes about the challenging nature of their mission and their unwavering dedication to the task at

hand. In one of the images, you may see only one patrol unit, would you believe that there were 11 more right behind it?

Amidst the myriad of ongoing priorities scattered throughout the state border, DPS managed to carve out a special moment of significance. In the month of February, a dedication ceremony was held in the Edinburg aircraft hangar, marking the commemoration of a helicopter: 824TX, an Airbus model. However, this dedication held far more weight than a mere celebration of a new machine; it was a poignant tribute to the fallen Trooper Moises Sanchez, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty back in 2019.

Gathered at the ceremony were not only Moises' family and friends, but also a profound representation of support and respect from retired and current DPS brass, Director McCraw, Troopers, and members of the public. The atmosphere was filled with a mixture of pride and somber reflection, underscoring the bittersweet nature of the occasion.

As the attendees assembled, there was an undeniable sense of unity and shared grief. Moises' loved ones stood tall, their hearts burdened with the loss of a cherished family member, while the presence of the DPS community showcased their unwavering solidarity and support. The dedication ceremony served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers and the lasting impact they leave behind.

In this moment of tribute, the spotlight shone upon Trooper Moises Sanchez. The naming of the helicopter in his honor served as a symbol of remembrance and reverence for his selfless service.

The pride felt by those in attendance was palpable. Yet, intermingled with that pride was an indescribable somberness, as the memory of Moises' sacrifice weighed heavy on their hearts. It was a reminder of the risks faced by law enforcement officers every day, a solemn recognition of the price they sometimes pay in their unwavering commitment to protect and serve.

In that dedication ceremony, time seemed to stand still, allowing the participants to reflect on the valor of a fallen hero and the profound impact he had on their lives and the community at large. It was a moment that brought solace, unity, and a renewed sense of purpose to those present—a moment that honored the memory of Trooper Moises Sanchez and reaffirmed the unbreakable bond shared by the DPS family.

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Region 3 2nd Place winner Trp. Alcala 2023.



Moises Dedication.



Region 3 1st Place winner Trp. Robert Jackson 2023.



R & L Carrier appreciation plaque.

The DPSOA store has recently introduced some amazing features that are sure to enhance your shopping experience. If you've ever visited our store, you've probably noticed the new and innovative additions we've made.

Firstly, we're thrilled to announce that we now offer Tap-to-Pay and Apple Pay as convenient payment options. This means that checking out has become even more seamless and hassle-free. Whether you prefer to tap your card or use your Apple device, you can now complete your transactions swiftly and securely.

In addition to the new payment methods, we have also revamped our checkout process to make it more efficient. We understand the importance of providing personalized experiences, which is why we now offer custom receipts tailored to your specific purchase. You'll receive a detailed receipt that reflects the items you've bought, making it easier for you to keep track of your purchases.

Furthermore, we're introducing SMS receipts for your convenience. Instead of relying solely on printed receipts, you can now choose to receive your receipt via text message. This way, you'll have a digital copy of your transaction that you can

easily access and refer to whenever needed. We're also working on enhancing our online presence. Our website, DPSOA.store, is currently undergoing a significant upgrade behind the scenes. Soon, you'll be able to explore our wide range of products, enjoy a seamless browsing experience, and make online purchases with ease. Stay tuned for the official launch, as we can't wait to bring the DPSOA shopping experience to your fingertips.

As a token of our appreciation for your continued support, we have a special offer for those who have read this message until the end. By using the discount code **DPSOAMAG** during your online shopping experience, you'll receive a fantastic 15% off on your purchase. It's our way of saying thank you for being a valued customer.

We look forward to serving you with our improved in-store features, upcoming website upgrade, and exclusive discounts. Thank you for choosing DPSOA as your preferred shopping destination, and we can't wait to enhance your retail experience even further.

Cesar Cuevas,
South Texas Regional Representative 

REGION 4 – WEST TEXAS

Justin Baker,
DPSOA Region 4 Representative

Hello West Texas,

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing" - Theodore Roosevelt

Picking up with where 2022 left off, it appears as though 2023 will be just as eventful. Title 42 just came to an end and the 88th Legislative Session will be going into a Special Session. With all the deployments and all that is requested of you, I'm happy to say the 7th Annual Row Race had the highest participant turnout to date. We had 123 participants this year which made up 27 teams and 69 individuals competing against each other.



Monument dedication for Special Agent Anthony Salas and Sergeant Paul Mooney.



[more >](#)

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Javier Arana Jr. Annual 5K Run.



Myrta Cortez proudly shows off her new rower, donated by Concept 2.

Here are this year's results:

Individual Results:

Group 1

1st Place – Jaelyn Edwards - 866,549 meters
2nd Place – Konor Gengler – 558,224 meters
3rd Place – Alex Wyanne - 302,604 meters

Group 2

1st Place – Jesus Garcia – 684,179 meters
2nd Place – Christian Cruz – 353,909 meters
3rd Place – Nolan Doss – 303,725 meters

Group 3

1st Place – Jeremy Rowland – 1,321,355 meters
2nd Place – Rusty Weatherby – 1,321,375 meters
3rd Place – Jose Sanchez – 533,857 meters

Group 4

1st Place – Matt Mull – 831,857 meters
2nd Place – Joe Dennett – 819,088 meters
3rd Place – Christine Cenicerros – 249,728 meters

Group 5

1st Place – Marco Marquez – 311,115 meters



Lieutenant Elizabeth Carter and Sergeant Eliot Torres at the U.S. Capitol.



415 pounds of Marijuana seized on U.S. 285.



2023 Texas Truck Challenge – Champion – Dustin Henderson – DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement – San Angelo.



Retirees, Charles Franklin, and Alvin Hale at the 2023 San Angelo Retiree Shoot.



Patrick Gonzales, Roland Solis, and James Sissom organized an effort to raise money via a Valentine's Day "Candy Gram" program.



Anthony Salas on the Memorial Wall in Washington D.C.

Team Results

- 1st place - Team 20 "The Outlaws" Vilma Cobos & Jaime Aburto – 1,657,990 meters
- 2nd place – Team 2 "New World Order" Rito Renteria & James Sissom – 817,461 meters
- 3rd Place – Team 4 "L.A.W." Sergio Robles & Andy Nunez – 693,451 meters

Raffle Prize Winners

- Rower
- Myrta Cortez (Midland)
- \$600 Academy Gift Card
- Jaelyn Edwards (El Paso)
- \$250 Academy Gift Card
- Christian Cruz (El Paso)

Thank you to everyone that participated.
Justin Baker
West Texas Regional Representative



TMU Boat Dedication for Trooper Javier Arana Jr. and Special Agent Anthony Salas which was held on April 15th at Ascarate Park in El Paso.

REGION 5 – NORTHWEST TEXAS

*Johnny Bures,
DPSOA Region 5 Representative*

Howdy from the Northwest Region. I hope this article finds you doing well as we push through springtime and head into the summer. We have had many functions and programs these last couple of months since coming out of the holiday season. It's been busy so far this year, and time has flown by. It's hard to believe that we are half-way through the year.

As we wrap up another school year, Troopers have been busy with Safety Programs in the area. Troopers remain present in our local NW schools and participate in various programs and talks. Our troopers are fantastic at serving as positive role models and mentors for our young Texans. Included in the photos are Sergeant Seth Manney (Childress) and troopers from his area. The troopers assisted two freshmen students from Quanah High School with a Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) project. FCCLA freshmen members Bentlie Manney, Sgt. Manney's daughter and Mari Meza created a multi-step project to build positive interactions between Troopers and students. Bentlie and Mari's project took first place at a Regional competition in Lubbock in February. At the end of March, they traveled to Dallas, where they won first place at the State level. They will travel to Denver, Colorado, this summer to compete at the National level and hope to bring home the gold.



Our NW Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Troopers, specially trained Highway Patrol Troopers, and compliance review investigators participated in the annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's Roadcheck by conducting multiple inspections on commercial vehicles where drivers were checked for compliance with state and federal laws. Roadcheck 2023 focused on anti-lock braking (ABS) and cargo securement and took place from May 16-18. The operation is designed to help reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities through increased driver safety, education, and law enforcement activities throughout North America.

Our NW employees are great at helping and integral to our communities. During National Police Week, Texas DPS Troopers and Texas Rangers stopped by Lubbock Meals on Wheels to help deliver meals to our neighbors. DPS Troopers also participated in a Special Olympics event at City View High School. The Troopers and various other Law Enforcement officers walked with the children and torch for each opening ceremony event.

Before I wrap up, I would like to congratulate the following for the awards they received these last few months.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Troopers participated in the 11th Annual Javier Arana, Jr. Top Trooper Competition held at the Texas DPS Tactical Training Center in Florence.

The competition tested the Troopers in job knowledge, physical health and endurance, firearms proficiency, and driving.

Congratulations to NW Trooper Trevor Topper (Archer City) for winning Top Male Trooper.

On April 28, 2023, the Crime Victim Coalition of West Texas honored individuals during their 2023 Awards Ceremony for going above and beyond serving victims of crime in our communities.



Texas DPS Drill team at Iwo Jima Memorial Monument in Arlington, VA.



Trooper Topper, Archer City, 2023 Top Trooper.

[more >](#)

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Roadcheck 2023 Amarillo.



Trp. Moer at Evans Elementary in Burkburnett.



Texas DPS Drill Team wins First place and receives the Steve Young Honor Guard Award.



Roadcheck Brownwood.



Manney and Meza FCCLA project along with Sgt. Manney, Cpl. Furgeson, and Trp. Churchill.

Trooper Melissa Flanigan (Tahoka) was recognized at the ceremony for helping victims of crimes in her area.

Special Agent Roy Basham was honored as the 2022 TX DPS Unsung Hero by the Metropolitan Lubbock Rotary Club for all the dedicated work he's done to serve not only the folks of the South Plains but the citizens of the Great State of Texas.

Congratulations to our Texas Inaugural Drill Team, who brought home 1st place in the Steve Young Honor Guard Tribute and Exhibition

The Steve Young National Honor Guard Exhibition & Tribute provides an opportunity for law enforcement organizations to perform ceremonious and patriotic tributes for public view-



Meza and Manney FCCLA 1st place.



Trooper Flanigan receives Crime Victim Coalition Award.



NW Troopers and Ranger delivering lunch to local Lubbock citizens for Meals on Wheels organization.



DPS Communications Operators Blair and Gonzalez participating in Trooper Chad Walker 5K Memorial.



Sgt Valencia at Hamlin Collegiate Elementary.



Trp. Woodard reading at Kidwell Elementary.



Special Olympics event held at City View High School.

ing. These teams are a highly dedicated group of law enforcement officers representing organizations across this great nation and Canada. They converge on the Nation's Capital yearly for National Police Week, where peace officers are honored for their dedicated service to protecting our communities.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.

Johnny Bures
DPSOA Region 5 Representative



REGION 6 – CENTRAL TEXAS

*Monte Carroll,
DPSOA Region 6 Representative*

Howdy from Austin!

I trust everyone is doing well. As I take up my keyboard to put thoughts to computer, the 88th Legislature is nearing Sine Die. I trust that someone with more knowledge will have provided everyone with a good legislative update. I will leave it to our Retiree Representatives to speak about a Cost of Living Adjustment. I know that a COLA is long overdue for state retirees and an increase is needed to help them deal with the high inflation rate that is affecting all of us. I want to remind our retired members that they need to get personally involved by contacting their state representatives concerning this matter. I am personally saying “Thank You” to everyone that made the increase of the pay for the Corporals possible. It was well deserved and appreciated by the Corporals around the state. By every indication I am seeing, there will be an across the board, state-wide pay raise for state employees. I believe that the pay raise is needed, and I know it is appreciated.

Region 6 has been very active since the last time I wrote. We have stayed engaged in OLS deployments until a little over a month ago. We are now sending personnel in support of a task force in Austin and we have been providing personnel in support of a heightened DPS uniform presence throughout the Session inside the Capitol and around the Capitol grounds. I feel com-

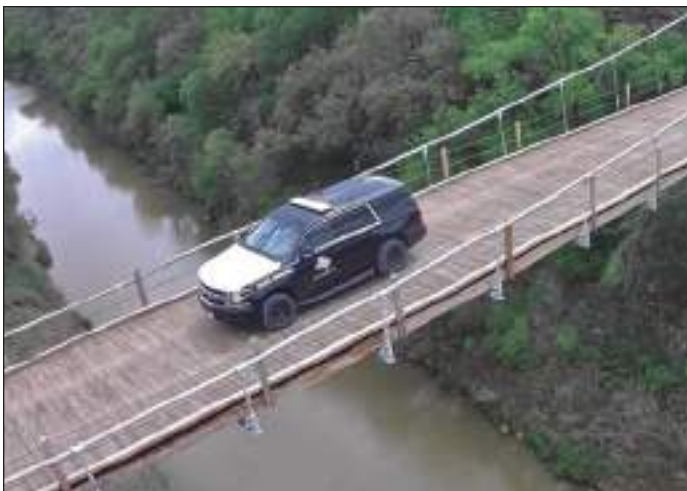


fortable in saying that the vast majority of Austinites appreciate our efforts in Austin. We have been busy attending In-Service, ALERRT, and ERASE training, to name a few of the training we are receiving. We continue to send Field Instructors to assist with the training of Trooper-Trainees in a wide assortment of areas, that include Arrest and Control Tactics, High Risk Stops, and Patrol Procedures.

I start this article with another “Thank You” to all the members of our Department, our Association, and to their family members, all of whom continue to sacrifice for the State of Texas. We continue to respond to any and what seems like all requests for our Department to respond to an assortment of “extra duty assignments”. I recently heard one Trooper, who has been with the Department since 2017, describing that since he has been us, except for just a few months, he has been deployed somewhere. This includes OST, OLS, Capitol, FFO, and VCTF to name a few. Is it any wonder that we have an increase in alcohol related crashes and still have not had a day without a fatality since



Class C-2022 JTFX Training at Florence.



2016 Chevrolet Tahoe on the Regency Bridge between Mills and San Saba County over the Colorado River.



Damon Allen Tactical Marine Unit Dedication.

[more >](#)

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Class C-2022, one week before graduation, getting briefed on DPSOA Membership.



Retiree Qualification in San Saba.

November 7, 2020. There was a 15.2 percent increase in traffic fatalities from 2020 to 2021, when 4,489 people died in traffic crashes. We, as a Department, can do our part to “End The Streak” by being visible, patrolling the highways and bi-ways across the State, stopping violators when we have the chance.

We have also conducted qualification days for our retirees. DPSOA has continued to support these retiree firearms qualification days in various ways. Many times, it is with the meal that the retirees have following their qualification, which serves as a great time of fellowship and memory sharing. The DPSOA Scholarship Committee will be meeting soon to review scholar-

ship applications. I say this to remind everyone that if they have a child going to college soon, don’t forget our scholarship benefit.

I have included pictures of the Department’s dedication ceremony of a Marine Tactical Unit held on May 2, 2023 in memory of Trooper Damon Allen, who was shot and killed while making a traffic stop on IH-45 in Freestone County on November 23, 2017. Which is a reminder to all of us that there is no such thing as a “routine” traffic stop.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of C-2022. Welcome to the Department. I am fully confident that you will represent your class, our Department, and the State of Texas in fine fashion. By now, the Classes of A-2023 and B-2023 have been in training since January and April. The Department is scheduled to have a Supplemental Peace Officer Class start August 7, 2023 and graduate on September 1, 2023. This will be called “C-2023A”. It is a 4-week pre-certification class for out of state peace officers and federal agents. It will be followed by the 14 week Academy for Class C-2023 Advanced Peace Officer School. I wish all trooper-trainees well in their endeavors to join our Department, know that you are needed and welcome.

Be safe and watch your six.

Until next time,

Monte Carroll
DPSOA Region 6 Representative ☐

REGION 7 – CAPITOL

*Tyler Warner,
DPSOA Region 7 Representative*

Howdy, from Region VII! I hope everyone is doing well. The past few months in Region 7 have been extremely busy. Recently our Region 7 Troopers participated in the annual Peace Officers Memorial located at DPS Headquarters. What a great way to keep the memory of a fallen officer alive, and also representing DPS in a positive manner. This was a special time to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while honoring them along with their families. Region 7 members participated in the Honor Guard, Motors, Mounted Patrol, and Bikes, during the event. Troopers have been recently deployed to the Capitol for legislative duties.



It's important to recognize the visiting Troopers who have protected the Capitol on multiple occasions. These Troopers have done an exceptional job balancing duties within their duty stations, at the border, assisting Austin Police Department and the Capitol. Region 7 is grateful for their assistance during these times. During this session, DPSOA has ensured the Troopers enjoyed coffee during their stay by providing each visiting team with a constant supply of coffee on a full time basis. We worked to keep our Troopers as comfortable as we possibly could. Legislative Session is winding down as we speak at time of this writing with only a few days left. I had the opportunity to attend session over the course of the past few months and visit with many Troopers who were deployed for these duties. Many Troopers endured long days and long nights but did an exceptional job. I think it's very important to take the time to recognize the visiting Troopers for their efforts and positive attitudes. Without their help and assistance, a successful session on our part would be even more difficult. DPSOA leadership was extremely busy advocating on our behalf during this period. I believe it's important to take the time to recognize their efforts and what they have accomplished. While they might not always have been seen, they can regularly

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be found testifying on our members behalf. As always, they have dedicated their efforts to advocate on our behalf. In addition to regular session duties, our Troopers were busy participating in other events in and around the Capitol as well. Sgt. Victor Taylor was asked to participate and represent Region in 7 in the Click It or Ticket Campaign. This campaign was the 21st anniversary and emphasized the importance of seatbelts. K9 "Fetha" served as a Explosive Detection K9 for the Capitol Region and was re-

cently retired. During this time, she logged over 80 searches in the Capitol Complex. Our mounted patrol unit participated in the 35th Annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. This was held in Washington DC. They did an excellent job representing the Region. On May 10, 2023 Capitol Region members participated in the 2023 Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. The run began downtown and concluded at the Texas State Capitol. These

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Region 7 Troopers did a great job “Carrying the Flame” and being involved in their local community. The month of May was also historic as we retired the colors at the former DPS Capitol Regional/District Office located at 1500 Congress. The flags were presented to Regional Director Scotty Shiver. The building has since been demolished. A new five-story state office building is going to be erected in its place. The expected completion date for that is 2026. The Capitol Region called the building home since 1992. The DPS Capitol Regional office is currently located in the George H.W. Bush building. On April 25, 2023, K9 and Bike Troopers gave brief presentations to students visiting the Capitol complex. They enjoyed a tour of the Capitol and getting to visit

with our Troopers. I look forward to providing more information as the year progresses and keeping our members informed of the Region’s happenings. Until next time, Take Care!

Tyler Warner,
DPSOA Region 7 Representative



RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

*Wayne Williams,
DPSOA Retiree Representative*

Hello from the Coastal Bend!

I know some of you are wondering how the Legislative Session is progressing. By the time you receive this magazine, the session should be over, and we will have a better understanding of how it affects the state retirees.

Right now, there is a huge surplus of money in the state's coffers. There are billions of excess dollars in the state budget. I know the ERS is hoping that the bills filed to fund this money for 2024-2025, then we should see a one-time cost-of-living adjustment for those who have been retired for 20 years or more. That is how the bill was written. This is why we need everyone to call, visit, text, write or email their legislator and express their support for COLA for all state employees. The legislators had the money this session, plenty of it. Someday these legislators and





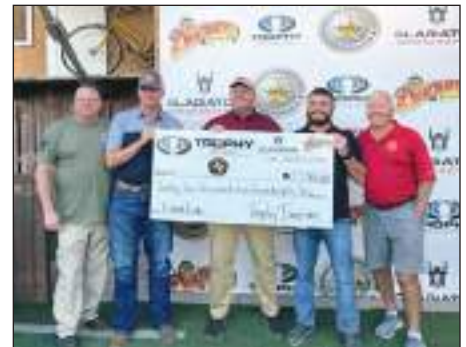
their aides will be retired and experience what all state retirees are enduring. Every state retiree association, including DPSOA, has been lobbying to get funding for COLA. Yes, the 20-plus year state retiree needs the COLA the most. I hope they get it, but legislators, please don't forget about the other retirees.

The good news is there should not be an increase in health insurance. This is an item that DPSOA monitors very closely, so the cost increase does not trickle down to the members.

The DPSOA Board and the Foundation Board would like to thank Fred Owens, Vice President of Trophy Trucking and his crew for the invitation to Odessa, Texas for their 4th Annual Crawfish Cookoff, benefitting the DPSOA Foundation. They gave us over \$22,000 for the Foundation. We all had a good time with live music, crawfish, and meeting the great people of Odessa. Thanks again to Fred and all the employees of Trophy Trucking.

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On April 29th, I attended the 2nd annual Trooper Chad Walker Obstacle Course. Every year this is hosted by Sgt. Ben Ramirez and his crew in the Corpus Christi office. The run is held on the beaches of Port Aransas where men, women, and children participate in various exercises. This event is also in partnership with DPSOA. Trooper Chad Walker was shot on March 26, 2021, and later passed away from his injuries. He is survived by his wife, son, and three daughters. The sun was out, but a strong cool wind met the participants who had a great time. The money raised at this event was going to the Trooper Chad Walker Memorial sign. Among the support efforts, DPSOA raised \$389,464.97 for the Chad Walker family. As you can see, DPSOA takes care of its members.



As I close this article, the legislative session is still going strong. It is my hope that they listen and understand the real issues facing retirees and active DPS employees, and do the right thing.

Wayne Williams
Retiree Representative
wcw4114@gmail.com
C - 808.690.6000



A
little
high
is still
too high
to drive.

If you feel different,
you drive different.





Reach out to a friend about
their mental health.

Find more ways to help at SeizeTheAwkward.org

SEIZE THE AWKWARD





Don't Wait.



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