THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION
KEY ISSUES

Vol XVIII, No.4 Fall 2014

Fall 2014 Edition

Message From The President

Greetings to all,

I want to take a moment and share with you some of the highlights of our Jail Management Issues Conference held in Galveston, Texas. We had a record setting attendance of 258 at the conference. Our vendor space was sold out, and unfortunately we had to turn away a few vendors who were interested. With such vendor support, the attendees were able to view the latest information and technologies available to our field. Participants received a diversified array of courses they could select from and even the weather cooperated (for the most part). We can count the day of rain received as a blessing. The power outage on check-out day provided a story we won't soon forget. At least, the elevators continued working throughout the outage, so we were able to get our luggage and head home!

Thank you to Sheriff **Henry Trouchesset** and the wonderful staff of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office for hosting the conference. They were great ambassadors and represented Sheriff Trouchesset with the highest degree of professionalism. In addition, Galveston County Sheriff's Office provided a free shuttle service so the participants could enjoy the island in their free time and not have to worry about being in an unfamiliar area.

The "Boots and Badges" dinner and dance was quite a success in large part to Sheriff **Daniel Law** leading the festivities. It made the evening when the trio of Sheriff Law, Sheriff Trouchesset and Sheriff Rowe sang "Friends in Low Places" and really rocked the house. The karaoke was enjoyable as we discovered so many hidden gems in our own membership that graced us with their gift of song.

I would like to extend a big thank you to our Executive Director, **Sharese Hurst** and the staff at CMIT for putting together the logistics. I would also like to welcome the newest addition to the CMIT staff, some of you will recognize her name since she has worked tirelessly in our field and for our Association, Ms. **Carmella Jones**. Her knowledge and experience will be a great addition to their team.

Thank you to 2nd Vice-President, **Brent Phillips**, and the Training Committee for bringing such quality instructors and trending topic material to the participants. We appreciate all of the comments and feedback given to the Training Committee. The evaluations will assist us in choosing topics and future events.

The Texas Jail Association is proud to collaborate with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards as regional training is brought to an area near you. The Commission is presenting a new course entitled "Current Trends and High Impact Areas of Jail Operations." Information that had been presented in "The Basics" and "What to Expect During An Inspection" will be highlighted in addition to items that are trending in our field. Look for additional information through the list serve and be sure to register your staff. We appreciate Executive Director, **Brandon Wood**, and the entire staff of the Commission for providing technical assistance

KEY ISSUES DEADLINES

December 1, 2014 for January 2015 Publication
March 1, 2015 for April 2015 Publication
June 1, 2015 for July 2015 Publication
September 1, 2015 for October 2015 Publication

Send your articles on CD or via email to
Sharese Hurst, Texas Jail Association
Correctional Management Institute of Texas
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296; sharese@shsu.edu.

and training in order for all facilities in the State of Texas to be in compliance.

I want to tell the Board how much I appreciate every one of them. I was under the weather throughout the conference, but due to their dedication and commitment every aspect of the conference was covered. It ran as a well-oiled machine and was the greatest example of teamwork that I have been blessed to be a part.

In closing, please keep in your prayers those service men and women as they continue to fight the fight, ensuring that we at home continue to have the freedoms we so cherish.

All my best,

Kim Howell

SAVE THE DATE.....

29th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference

May 11-15-2015

Austin Renaissance Hotel, Austin-Texas

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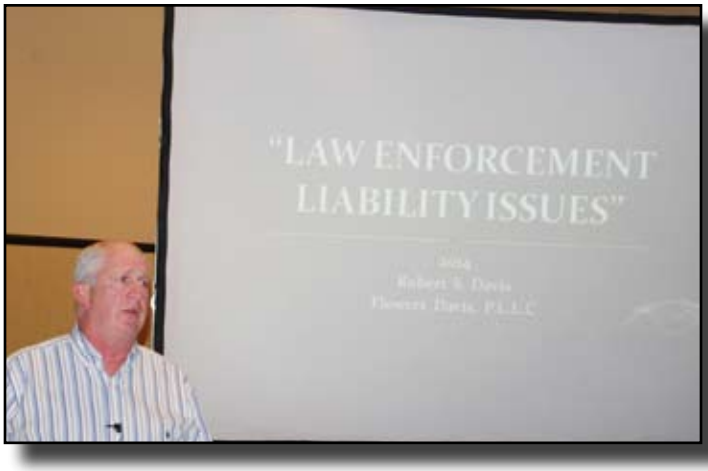
TCJS
HOT TOPICS
&
ESCAPES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Vendor Report from Sunny Galveston Texas August 2014

By Tim Quintana, Vendor Board Member

Thanks to all who attended the conference! The vendor hall was packed with fellow vendors and visited quite often by conference attendees. We always have great visitation at TJA conferences, but when you put the conference in a beach town the call of the ocean could be a tempting reason not to visit the business hall. We proved that theory incorrect! I, along with **Kyle McNew**, my fellow board member and the newly positioned **Carmella Jones**, checked with all of the other people from booth village. I am happy to report the business colleagues I spoke with were pleased with the conference, the visitation, and the size of the hall. The TJA board members encourage all vendor attendees to please fill out the evaluation forms and turn them in. We want and need the input to continue to improve our conference and satisfaction for all. We are having a board meeting in October at the Mental Health Conference in Montgomery. We as a board will be discussing your input. Please feel free to call me or any other member of the TJA board to express your thoughts on the Galveston Conference.

Thanks to all attendees of the conference for your service in law enforcement and corrections. The board was able to welcome, new faces, experienced faces, and most importantly, the faces of new and old friends. We want to thank all of our business partners who sponsored the conference and offered some great door prize giveaways! This year's conference set an attendance record! Thanks to all the Sheriffs who were in attendance and continue to support TJA.

Exhibit packets for the 29th Annual Conference will be posted on the TJA website in mid-November. Please encourage your providers to participate.

JMI CONFERENCE

The Staff of God: Hear Me Talkin Atcha?

Have you ever had someone walk up and tell you…”Hey, God told me to tell you…”? Believe me, I have. I often refer to those times as a “hug from God.” It always makes me feel like the creator of all stepped up to me and wrapped His arms around me and gave me a big squeeze. To me, a hug is one of the best ways to express positive feelings toward someone, either to comfort or to give reassurance that you have their back. I especially feel this way when I hear the voice of God’s Spirit speak to my conscience. He is usually telling me…”Now aren’t you ashamed of yourself?” or, “Now you know better than that.” In either case, I know it is coming from my Heavenly Father and for that I am truly grateful. You might say it lets me know I belong to Him.

The Bible says in John 8:47 that “He that is of God hearth God’s Words…”KJV. So many people believe that God does not speak to people and that it is all made up and never really happened. Look around, the atheists are getting louder and louder…another sign of the times, but anyway, they are wrong. When you belong to God through faith in Jesus Christ, you have the Spirit of God living inside you. He communicates with your conscience. This is how you feel conviction when you sin, or fall short, or miss the mark. Before I accepted Jesus into my heart, I didn’t feel conviction when I pulled some dastardly deed. That all changed when I cried out to Jesus.

I’ll share a true story with you. Just the other day my wife gave me some tasks to perform…easy ones, or at least she thought. I was to simply take a check over to a local business to pay our bill. Still sound simple? Maybe for you but, anyway... I put the check and the invoice in the pickup…county issued…and went to work. I drove past the business, but didn’t stop because it was early and they had not yet opened. I went on to the jail and that day I had some of the guys (trustees) that take care of our vehicles check something out in the truck. Well, you know me I never forget anything. I just went right on with my day. The next morning I thought about that check I forgot to take by to pay a bill. I thought, “oh no, I left it in the truck at the mercy of those trustees!” I rushed out to the truck and looked inside it, but, it’s gone…”the !@#$%$#@! check is gone.” Okay, I was mad, I confess. Did I really cuss a blue streak? Well, let’s go on here. Anyway, I got in that truck and headed to Crockett thinking I am about to come unglued on my trustees. If I find out one has got his hands on my checks with my account number, I’m gonna…

I was just a few miles out of Crockett and I am fuming when I heard in my spirit…”why don’t you just trust me?” My heart was pricked. In other words I felt conviction shoot through me. I pulled off my hat and asked God to forgive me for acting like I did over this situation and just gave it to Him. I went about another quarter of a mile and for some reason I took my badge holder out of my shirt pocket. You’ll never guess what I found….

I am always having to be reminded by the Spirit of God that when issues arise, stop and just say “Lord, this is yours. I trust you.” If we will always listen for His Spirit we will hear Him. He gave us the Holy Spirit for this very reason. The Holy Spirit will of course convict us when we fail. Comfort us when we are hurting and lead, guide and direct us if we will only let Him. It’s all part of ‘walking in the Spirit’.

Open the ears of your heart. You’re liable to hear Him say…..”Hear me talkin atcha?”

Be Blessed,
Jerry Baker
Jail Admin, Houston County Sheriff’s Office

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

ATASCOSA COUNTY

Recently the Atascosa County Jail received its annual inspection by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. For the second year in a row under Sheriff **David Soward**, the jail passed inspection without any problems. It is the 34th consecutive year the county jail has passed inspection dating back to former Sheriff **Tommy Williams'** tenure.

Pictured with the State Compliance Certificate are, (left to right) Maintenance Supervisor **Richard Cordova**, Jail Lieutenant **Mike Benavides**, Sheriff Soward, Jail Administrator **Martin Gonzales**, Corrections Sergeant **Kenny Martinez** and Corrections Corporal **Felix Herrera.**

BRAZOS COUNTY

POST/CREW 973 COURT OF HONOR SPONSORED BY THE BRAZOS COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Sheriff **Chris Kirk** proudly presented the Bronze Award to three members of the Post/Crew 973 at their Court of Honor held on July 9th, 2014. **Omar Cantu** was recognized as President, (Captain) and Alex Ramirez as Vice President, (Lieutenant) for the Crew. **Edward Jacob Venegas** also received a Community Service Award.

The five different Venturing Bronze Awards are Arts and Hobbies, Outdoor, Sea Scouting (Ordinary Award), Sports, and Religious Life. All five Bronze Awards contain the common elements of experience, learning a skill, and sharing your experiences and skills with others. Earning at least one Bronze Award is required for the Venturing Gold Award. The Bronze Award is designed as the entry-level award for a Venturer so that they can acquire usable skills that will carry them along the trail to the Venturing Silver Award.

Pictured Left to Right: Omar Cantu, Alex Ramirez, Edward Jacob Venegas, and Sheriff Chris Kirk

COMMENDATION

On July 30, 2014, Brazos County Sheriff's Office Livestock Deputy's **William Kristof** and **Jason Wager** were commended for potentially saving the life of a Brazos County resident who had been bitten by a rabid kitten.

On Friday, May 3, 2014 Deputy **Jason Wager** was visiting with the victim in this case. During his conversation, the victim asked him about trapping an animal that needed a rabies vaccination. Deputy Wager became aware that the victim had come into contact and had been bitten by a kitten that was acting strange and later died.

Deputy Wager was concerned since the rabies virus often times presents itself with symptoms as described by this victim. He contacted his supervisor, Sergeant **Kris Fraley**, to make him aware of the situation. Fraley advised him to contact Deputy Kristof, and have him take possession of the carcass of the kitten so that it could be tested. Deputy Kristof delivered the carcass to the Humane Society for testing. The results indicated the kitten had been infected with the rabies virus.

The initiative of Deputy Wager, coupled with the due diligence shown by Deputy Kristof, allowed the victim to begin a post exposure series of vaccinations to prevent contraction of the disease. By recognizing a potentially life threatening situation and responding as a team, these deputies likely saved the life of an individual who had been exposed to the rabies virus.

In recognition of their efforts, Deputies Wager and Kristof were presented with a Sheriff's Office challenge coin. Their performance of their duties exemplifies the mission of the Brazos County Sheriff's Office of "protecting the wellbeing of persons within our community."

Pictured from left to right: Chief Deputy Jim Stewart, Deputy Jason Wager and William Kristof.

NEWLY APPOINTED RESERVE DEPUTIES

Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** recently appointed two individuals as Deputy Sheriff's in the Reserve Division, **Robert Kirk** and **Kyle Thigpen**.

Deputy Robert Kirk graduated from the CAPCOG/ BVCOG inaugural Basic Peace Office Academy in Brazos County on January 24, 2014 and was appointed on May 1, 2014. Robert is the Admin. Director of the Lab at the College Station Medical Center

Kyle began his career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a Park Ranger, he transferred within the agency and he is a Wildlife Biologist, Kyle was appointed on July 15, 2014. Both newly appointed deputies hold a Basic Peace Office License with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Pictured from left to right: Robert Kirk and Sheriff Chris Kirk (No relation)

Pictured from left to right: Sheriff Kirk, Kyle Thigpen, Captain John Simek and Sgt. Harold Moore

LUBBOCK COUNTY

Sergeant **Michael Daniel** and Deputy **Walt Bushey** were recognized for employee of the month for June. *Left to Right, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Sgt. Michael Daniel, Deputy Walt Bushey.*

Officer **Cody Baker** was promoted to Corporal. *Left to Right, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Cpl. Cody Baker.*

Administrative Assistants **Kim Ammons** and **Tammy Elliot** Participated in the 2014 Buffalo Battle, way to go ladies!

Sheriff **Kelly Rowe** welcomed the following new hires to the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office family: **Valerie Lucio, Chelsie Young, Norma Casias, Dustin Tyler Jasper, Paul Landrum, Savanna Garcia, Aaron Reyes, Nicholas Sena, Callee Heitz, Peggy Villarreal, Jaime Rodriguez, Edgar Garcia, Orlando Luna, Christopher Speegle, Matthew Jimenez, Greg Coffman, Josh Juarez, Trinity Flores, Crystal Sanchez, Natalie Grant, Gabriel Reyna, Nicholas Larsen, Doug Moyer, Charles Wall, Paul Gonzalez, Renee Wagner, Miriam Huerta, Marcelino Hernandez, Jonathan Holmes, Jeffery Bailey, Alejandro Torres, Micah Van Meter, Stephen Arellano, Joseph Patridge, William Reeder, Oliver Te'o, Miguel Guerrero, Laura Bristow.**

On June 28, 2014, **Brenda Hassell, Patricia Holbert, Edna Moya** and **Trena Reeves** represented the LSO participating on the Texas Team for the 2014 Cops on Top Summit for Heroes. Each year on the same date officers from all over the United States climb to the highest point of the summit in memory of the peace officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer **William Thetford** was recognized for employee of the month for July. Left to Right, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Officer Thetford.

Clerk **Nancy Zuniga** was recognized for employee of the month for August. Left to Right, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Nancy Zuniga.

Congratulating some of LCDC's finest detention officers who graduated from South Plains College Peace Officer Academy (SPC) and South Plains Association of Governments Peace Officer Academy (SPAG). **Jeana Townsend, Mary Jane Gonzalez, Chris Buford, Sylvia Hernandez, Bonnie Cardenas, William Thetford, Rudi Gonzalez, Manuel Sanchez, Jonathan Saylor, Jamie Ponce, Derek White, Gerardo Rodriquez, Ricardo Ruvalcaba, Gilbert Ramos, Shaun Benitez, Samuel Garcia, Melissa Cruz, Cody Clark, Michael Manus, Kenneth Alley, Emilio Rubio, Dominic Rocha, Joshua Johnson, Shawn Ingram, Tanner Garcia, Francisco Reyes.**

Sergeant **Shaun Benitez** received the Valedictorian Award and Officer **Chris Buford** received the Salutatorian Award from SPC. Officer **Jeana Townsend** received the Salutatorian

Sheriff Kelly Rowe held his annual Employee Appreciation Picnic for the LSO employees and their families. Everyone spent the day enjoying good food, games, prizes and water events.

Sheriff Kelly Rowe made a surprise appearance for a special little cowboy's birthday party. Sheriff Rowe presented the little cowboy with a special badge as he made him an honorary junior deputy.

Officer **Juan Galvan** was recognized for employee of the month for September. Left to Right, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Officer Juan Galvan.

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El Paso County Sheriff's Office Hosts Fire and Safety Fair

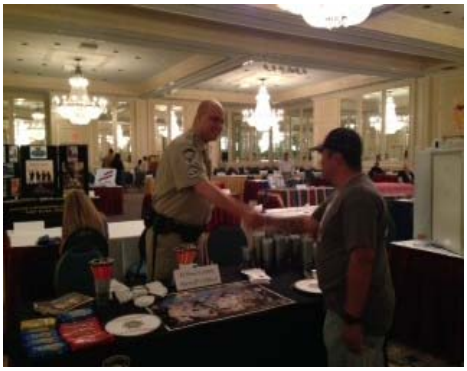
Jails and Jailers are often portrayed in a negative light, but not the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Jail Annex Division who hosted its first Fire and Safety Fair. Purposely scheduled to take place during weekend Children's Visitation, the families of inmates were greeted with balloons, and cotton candy. Safety Fair participants included a variety of agencies such as three Fire Departments, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Explorers and the District Attorney's Office. Native Air provided a helicopter for the children to explore. Members of the El Paso County Sheriff's Officers Association, to include the President, participated by barbequing hot dogs which were passed out to fair attendees. Fair attendees also received smoke detectors and fire extinguishers donated by neighboring businesses as door prizes.

This was not just an occasion to provide important safety tips to the public, but it was an opportunity for the community to see the jail and its staff in a new context.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Participates in Women Veterans' Symposium

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office was proud to participate in the 2nd Annual Women Veterans' Symposium held at the Camino Real Hotel. Because El Paso is home to the Fort Bliss military installation which employee over 8000 soldiers it is important to prepare them for the end of their service tour. During the symposium Women Veterans learned about community resources and participated in breakout classes. In addition to networking, participants were able to meet other women who have served.

Members of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Human Resources and Jail Annex Detention Facility staff educated veterans on the various job opportunities within the Sheriff's Office to include participating in the Volunteer Programs such as the Jail Ministry Program.



El Paso County Sheriff's Office Program Recognized by Cesar Milan

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office Pets Advancing Wellness and Success in Detention (PAWS), an inmate vocational program where inmates rehabilitated "Last Chance Dogs" through intensive retraining, received a wonderful endorsement from Cesar Milan – the Dog Whisperer.

Cesar Milan used PAWS staff not only backstage, but as assistance during his "Cesar Milan Live" show at the Cesar Chavez Special Events Center in El Paso. PAWS Officers assisted him in demonstrating his dog training techniques to the audience using shelter dogs up for adoptions. PAWS officers not used during his performance were given front row seating to ensure they enjoyed the show.

The PAWS in Detention program was started by Sheriff **Richard Wiles** on February 14th, 2012. Since its inception, 23 inmates have graduated from the program. The program has provided 12,846 hours of vocational training.

Nominations Committee Report

Howdy TJA Colleagues!

Whew! The 2014 Jail Management Issues Conference is in the rearview mirror. Not to sound cliché, but it actually was our biggest and best yet with the promise of an even greater conference on tap for next year. A special thanks to all the members of the Training Committee, Directors, Officers and volunteers that made it all happen. In particular, I want to thank **Sharese Hurst**, **Carmella Jones**, **Jan Halverson** and the rest of the TJA/CMIT staff that made it an outstanding learning and networking experience.

If you are anything like me however, you are wondering where the heck the year went. As you read this edition of *Key Issues*, we will not even have three months left before Christmas and a New Year! This brings me to the point of this column—nominations for next year's elections to the TJA Board of Directors.

Professional organizations like the Texas Jail Association do not just happen on their own. TJA exists because of YOU! It takes the support of the entire membership and the service of dedicated individuals willing to give of their time, energy and experience as a member of the Board of Directors. We've been blessed with outstanding individuals stepping up to the plate to serve ever since our founding president, **Jerry Baggs**, took the helm in 1986.

If you have ever given thought to serving on the TJA Board, or would like to nominate an eligible member, now is the time to start getting your nomination packet in order. You will soon be able to find details about the 2015-2016 nominations process, positions and requirements on the TJA website at http://www.texasjailassociation.com/nominations.html. We will be voting for two Directors and the 3rd Vice President's position.

Key to your nomination and service is the support and approval of your Sheriff, so start that conversation now. The elections will take place at the 29th Annual Conference in Austin, so be prepared to campaign! Along those lines, if you have never run for the Board before, I strongly encourage you to contact one of the Directors or Officers on the Board who have been through a TJA election. Their insight will be invaluable to you as you go through the process, and they will be able to give you first-hand information as to what being a Board member entails. I can tell you that my personal experience as a Board member, working for you with some of the finest people I've ever met, has been one of the most rewarding opportunities of my career. You'll find everyone's contact information here: http://www.texasjailassociation.com/about/board.html . If you have additional questions about the process, please feel free to contact a member of the Nominations Committee.

Your Nominations Committee members this year are:

Shane Poole, 1st Vice-President
shane.poole@traviscountytx.gov

Brent Phillips, 2nd Vice-President
dbrentphillips@hotmail.com

Kevin O'Farrell, member-at-large
Kevin.Ofarrell@traviscountytx.gov

In addition to chairing the Nominations Committee, I also serve as chair of the By-Laws Committee. We don't anticipate significant changes this year, but I do want to remind you all that suggestions for by-law changes can come from any member, so please contact me with any questions or proposals you may have. "Any motion to change the by-laws of this Association shall be made in writing to the First Vice-President." You can view the up-to-date TJA By-Laws document at http://www.texasjailassociation.com/about/documents/TJAProposedRevisedBy-LawsAugust2010.pdf .

The challenge has been made, now it is up to you!

Best Regards,
Shane Poole

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Election time is coming and we need good people from around the state to continue the tradition of dedication and commitment set by current and past officers and board members. Become involved; submit a nomination now. The Nomination Committee of the TJA will be selecting a slate of candidates for the following positions:

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

The person elected will serve progressively through the vice presidential chairs to become your president. Give some serious thought to this nomination and present yourself, or someone else, to the Nomination Committee. The eligibility for this elected office is contingent upon active "**professional**" membership in good standing with the Association for a period of one year prior to election. The member must have served at least one year on the Board of Directors in order to be eligible for this position. The member elected will be required to attend approximately four meetings per year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Two Positions Available

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Association. The President shall be the presiding officer at all board meetings. The Board shall be empowered to authorize expenditures for the general business of the Association, authorize additional expenditures, and set appropriate charges. The Board may enter into any agreement or contract with other personnel or organizations for the advancement of the Association. Eligibility for this elected office is contingent upon active "**professional**" membership in good standing with the Association for a period of one year prior to election. Members elected to this position shall serve a three year term in office.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations with an attached resume, picture, and letter of endorsement from the agency head are to be returned to **TJA Headquarters, Attention: Sharese Hurst, Box 2296, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296.** All packets will be sent to the Nomination Committee Chair for verification of eligibility and distribution to committee members.

Guidelines for nominations

1. Individuals must be **professional** members in good standing as specified in the by-laws at the time of nomination.

2. Nominating Committee members shall not be considered for office.

3. Only hard copies of nominations will be considered. Self-nominations are acceptable.

4. Office being sought shall be identified in the nomination.

5. Endorsement of the affected agency head must accompany the nomination. Nominations lacking the agency head's endorsement will not be considered for office.

6. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the by-laws.

Nominations must be received by March 10, 2015. All nominations shall contain the following for consideration: **Full Name, Current Occupation, Official Title, Business Address and Phone Number, a brief biographical sketch (not to exceed 50 words), letter of endorsement from the agency head, and a picture to be included on the ballot.** Nominations received after the deadline cannot be considered.

Nomination Committee
Chair:
Shane Poole
1st Vice President, TJA
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(512) 854-5326
Shane.poole@co.travis.tx.us

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2014-2015 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE

Date	Workshop Title	Location
October 6-17, 2014	Basic County Corrections Course[1]	Bryan, Texas
October 27-30, 2014	Mental Health Conference: Bringing Calm to Choas[2]	Montgomery, Texas
October 27-28, 2014	Advanced Effective Communication Skills for Supervisors[1]	San Antonio, Texas
November 3-19, 2014	#1007 Basic County Corrections Course[1]	Livingston, Texas
November 9-14, 2014	National Jail Leadership Command Academy[1]	Huntsville, Texas
November 16-21, 2014	Mid-Management Leadership Program[3]	Huntsville, Texas
February 8-13, 2015	Mid-Management Leadership Program[3]	Huntsville, Texas
February 15-20, 2015	Jail Administration: Management & Operations[2]	Huntsville, Texas
March 1-6, 2015	National Jail Leadership Command Academy[1]	Huntsville, Texas
March 8-13, 2015	Senior Level Corrections Leadership Development Program[3]	Huntsville, Texas
March 30- April 2, 2015	Women in Criminal Justice Conference[1]	San Antonio, Texas
April 12-17, 2015	Mid-Management Leadership Program[3]	Huntsville, Texas
May 11-15, 2015	29th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference[1]	Austin, Texas

1 Contact Sharese Hurst at 936-294-1687 or sharese@shsu.edu, or visit www.cmitonline.org.

2 Contact Carmella Jones at 936-294-1668 or carmella@shsu.edu, or visit www.cmitonline.org.

3 Contact Jeff Marton at 936-294-1640 or jeffmarton@shsu.edu, or visit www.cmitonline.org.

For additional training opportunities visit www.texasjailassociation.com.

Thank You to Galveston County

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION
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