

# THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XX, No. 4

Fall 2016



Fall 2016 Edition



# Message From The President



Good day to all TJA members!

We have just finished another exciting Jail Management Issues (JMI) Conference in Galveston, Texas, at the Galveston Island Convention Center. And what a conference it was!

A special thanks goes out to Galveston County Sheriff **Henry Trochesset** and his staff for their assistance with our conference by providing the Galveston County Jail tour, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office courtesy shuttle, and security at the Galveston Island Convention Center. Our conference would not be the success it was without Sheriff Trochesset's and his staff's hospitality.

I can't say enough about our vendors. Our vendor hall was packed once again with all the latest in technology, medical care, pharmaceuticals, commissary, food service, inmate telephones, jail supplies and more. Without our vendors we would not be able to provide the quality of training and networking that is afforded to you at our conferences. Thanks Carmella, you did a fantastic job.

Our theme this year was Mardi Gras. The Swamp Poker Run and our Wednesday night banquet featuring Jerome Batiste and The Zydekoplayers was a complete success. Our sponsoring vendors for the Swamp Poker Run contributed \$2,500.00 to the Jerry Baggs Scholarship Fund and they were:

- Southwest Correctional Medical Group
- NETDATA
- Crown Correctional Telephone
- Lone Star Commissary
- RHYAN Technology Services
- RIPCO & Associates
- Correct Care Solutions
- ICS Jail Supplies, Inc.
- ATMIS
- Keefe Group

We thank you for your continued support!

The winners of the Swamp Poker Run game

were: First Place winner of \$250.00, **Terri Gonzales**, Coryell County, Second Place winner of \$150.00, **Michael Gravitt**, Tarrant County, Third Place winner of \$100.00, **Michelle Velasquez**, Calhoun County. The two winners of the hand made portfolios were, **Anthony Hardee**, Caldwell County, and **John Phillips**, McLennan County. Everyone had a great time playing the game. Thanks to our vendor representatives **Kristen Pedigo** and **Richard Sparkman** for putting the game together.

Your Training Committee, chaired by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **Todd Allen**, put together a fantastic group of trainers and topics for this conference. I spoke with many of you at the conference and received great reviews regarding the training. We appreciate The Texas Commission on Jail Standards presenting "What to Expect During a Jail Inspection." Thanks to Executive Director **Brandon Wood**, Inspector **Phillip Bosquez** and Inspector **Shane Sowell** for your guidance and direction. The partnership between the Commission and TJA provides tremendous training opportunities for conference attendees in addition to the regional trainings occurring year round.

Our Wednesday night banquet, Mardi Gras, was a huge success. The food was exceptional and the entertainment provided by Jerome Batiste and the Zydekoplayers kept everyone moving. The Chef's at the San Luis Resort prepared a Cajun meal everyone enjoyed. We thank Global Tel-Link and the Texas Association of Counties for sponsoring the event. The party favors and photo booth were a big hit at the banquet.

Our Technology Committee chaired by **William Pharris** did an exceptional job on our app for the conference. Everyone was able to track any and all events at the conference and communicate with their peers 24/7. If you haven't already, please complete the evaluations on the app to give us a clear picture of the topics and presenters, and what topics you would like to see in the future. We depend heavily on your input.

The Dynamic Trio from Sam Houston State University, **Jennifer Sexton**, **Melina Gilbert**, and

**Joseph Lovewell** have completed a total makeover of our website. If you haven't seen it, please take a moment and let us know what you think. They have worked very hard to make it user friendly for our membership.

The Board of Directors is working very hard on our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Austin next May. If you have any suggestions for topics or presenters please contact **Martin Gonzales**, chairman of the Training Committee, and pass on that information.

I want to personally thank our Executive Director, **Sharese Hurst**, and her CMIT staff, **Carmella Jones**, **MichaelAnne Teeters**, and **Spencer Copeland** for the hard work they put into JMI 2016. Without their dedication and commitment to TJA our conferences would not be the success they are.

The best part of serving as President of the Texas Jail Association is working with the TJA Board of Directors. You, the members, are very fortunate to have a committed group of individuals working for you everyday to assure you receive the best training available, and the opportunity to network with your peers from all over the state. Their goal is to make TJA the finest association of its type.

D. Brent Phillips



President, TJA



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From The President.....	3
Membership Report.....	4
TCDRS Benefits Three Generations of Texans.....	5
Training Report.....	6
The Chaplain's Corner.....	7
Mental Health and The Criminal Justice System.....	8
Vendor Report.....	9
JMI 2006.....	10
JMI 2016.....	11
Be the Best You, You Can Be .....	12
A New Battlefield - Series 2 .....	13
What You Don't Know Can Hurt You The Big Fish .....	14
The Commission's Corner.....	15
Thank You... <i>Captain Ricky Armstrong</i> .....	16
What's Happening Around the State.....	17
Board of Directors.....	19



## KEY ISSUES DEADLINES

**December 1, 2016**  
for January 2017 Publication

**March 1, 2017**  
for April 2017 Publication

**June 1, 2017**  
for July 2017 Publication

**September 1, 2017**  
for October 2017 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](mailto:sharese@shsu.edu)

# Membership Report

Thank you all for a great year. We have more great things in store moving forward. Our goal this year is to continue to increase our membership. Bringing more and more corrections professionals together improves the operations of all Texas jails. Having more and more great minds working together, sharing innovative ideas, and sharing best practices allows us to continuously grow and stay ahead of commonly shared problems.

Please be an ambassador for TJA. Whenever you speak to anyone, please encourage them to join. If there is anything I can ever do for you please let me know. I also welcome any comments, suggestions, etc. We want to ensure that we are providing the service our membership wants and needs. Below are our current numbers and just a few of the benefits that come with your TJA membership.


- Professional Members - 1164
- Affiliate Members - 15
- Business Members - 27

Membership dues are \$30.00 for twelve months. All members will receive a quarterly Key Issues magazine (the TJA Newsletter) via e-mail, and one annual printed edition. Also, members have access to the TJA list serve, loaded with years of experience and advice. TJA also hosts top notch training that is free to members. Mental health regional trainings are occurring across the state. See the TJA website for locations near you. In cooperation with TEEX, TJA offers the choice of one of the following courses for free with a TJA Membership:

- Use of Force in a Jail Setting (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Interpersonal Communications (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Inmate Rights and Privileges (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Suicide Detection and Prevention (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Inmate Health Care – Basic Medical (6 hours)
- Inmate Health Care – Advanced Medical (6 hours)
- Inmate Health Care – Basic Psychiatric (8 hours)
- Inmate Sexual Assault Prevention – PREA Training (8 hours)
- Report Writing and Documentation (4 hours)
- Effective Interviewing and Documentation (4 hours)
- Basic Criminal Investigation (40 hours)
- Death Investigation (40 hours)
- Field Training Officer (24 hours)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Lt. **Kevin Stuart**  
Brazos County Sheriff's Office  
TJA 3rd Vice President  
[kstuart@brazoscountytexas.gov](mailto:kstuart@brazoscountytexas.gov)  
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# TCDRS Benefits Three Generations of Texans

Story and photo by Gerald McLeod

Story originally appeared in the Summer 2016 issue of TCDRS *Horizons*.

To the Allen family of Tom Green County, law enforcement is the family business. When Josh Allen went to work for the sheriff's office in Runnels County in 2014 at age 19 he became the third generation in his family to be a member of TCDRS.

"[TCDRS] was definitely a factor for why I wanted to work for the county," the now 21-year-old Josh says. "The system gives me options. If I move to another county, I don't have to start over on my retirement savings."

Josh has already seen his TCDRS account's portability in action. In 2015, Josh took a job closer to home at the Tom Green County jail. It's the same place where his grandfather, Tom Allen, worked and his father, Todd Allen, serves as a captain in the sheriff's department.

Tom Allen began working for the Tom Green County Sheriff's Department in 1980 after working

"I got married at 18 and we had Josh when I was 19," Todd says. "I wanted to be in law enforcement or, believe it or not, an accountant. I'm glad I chose law enforcement."

When Todd started working at Tom Green County he was aware of the retirement benefit, but at the time it wasn't a deciding factor in his taking the job with the county.

"I had grown up with law enforcement and I knew it



as a police officer in San Angelo. He retired in 2000 with more than 20 years of service. Unfortunately, he passed away soon after retirement, but his widow, Cheryl, will continue to receive his benefit for the rest of her life because of the payment option that Tom chose when he retired.

Capt. Todd Allen joined the Tom Green County Sheriff's Department in 1996. He was the same age as his son Josh was when he began his career.

was something I wanted to do," he says. "In this line of work, I was more concerned about life insurance than retirement benefits."

As he nears retirement age, Todd says TCDRS means a lot to him.

"It's a very stable program and it means financial security in the future for my wife and me. That's very important these days," he says.

Todd still has another teenage son to get through school before he retires, but he's already looking ahead.

"If things work out, I'd like to move to the Hill Country," he says. "Maybe I'll get a part-time job, but something not in law enforcement. I've been around it since the day I was born and I'm ready to try something else."

*"Reprinted with permission from TCDRS Horizons publication"*



# Training Report

Another conference has come and gone with great success! A big appreciation goes out to the membership for attending JMI in Galveston and being the best part of the conference.



The 2015-2016 TJA Training Committee, Chaired by **Todd Allen** did a fantastic job of putting the training together for this conference. A big thank you to **Sharese**

**Hurst** and the CMIT staff for their endless toil and constant presence.

We have been to several locations presenting “The Rights & Wrongs of Mental Health in the Jail” regional trainings, and I recommend it to anyone employed in the jail. The locations have been spread out and should be available at several hubs around the state. You can’t beat the information and tools you’ll receive. The training is free for our members and only \$30.00 for non-members although non-members will receive a one year membership so

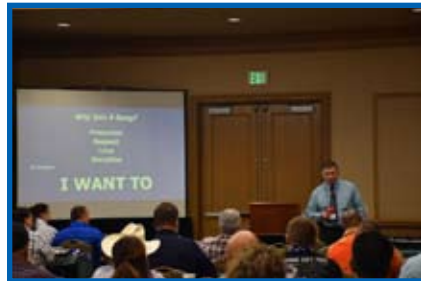


they can continue to enjoy the benefits membership provides. Polk, McLennan, and Walker Counties were the first host agencies, between these three counties 744 training hours were provided. For

additional locations, hosting a regional or more information on TJA training, you may contact me or go to:

<http://www.texasjailassociation.com/>

We, the 2016-2017 Training Committee hope to put on a



heck of a 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in May and another great one in Galveston next year. We appreciate feedback and input from the TJA membership. So, use

the app to evaluate the classes and please let the committee know which classes you would recommend and which classes were not as valuable. Your feedback and input assists us greatly in providing the quality training the Association strives for. If we can be of assistance, please let us know.



## 2016-2017 TJA Training Committee

**Martin Gonzales**, Chairman- Atascosa County

**Rey Del Bosque**, Zapata County

**Wayne Johnson**, Terry County

**Kit Wright**, Brazos County

**Dolores “Chach” Rodriguez**, Bee County

**Eric Hensley**, Montgomery County

**David Burrous**, Hardin County



# SAVE THE DATE



**31st Annual Texas Jail Association Conference, May 15-19, 2017**  
Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas



## The Chaplain's Corner

Galveston was full of blessings! I think the rain left just as the conference started and we saw His beauty in glorious sunrises each morning. There was great fellowship among peers, lessons were taught and learned, and maybe even a little fun was had. The banquet wrapped it all up with amazing food and a wonderful Mardi Gras inspired band who had toes tapping and hands clapping. Truly a great conference!

But we were under a shadow, lately we all seem to be. The events of this summer loom over our profession; first the tragedy in Dallas and then Louisiana. I had the privilege recently to hear one of the injured officers, from the Dallas shooting, speak at our church. The message was of peace and forgiveness. This happened on his beat and these were his people, but he still had a heart for the shooter's family and concern for the evil that exists around us every day.

We are familiar with the scripture that calls us, "the peacemakers," blessed. It is written that we are to "pursue peace" and in doing so we will build one another up. A lion's roar is loud and it can be distracting, taking our focus from what it should be. That roaring lion is our adversary, the devil, seeking who he may devour. I think he is taking the form of the media these days and if we allow ourselves to get caught up in it then we forget the peace and forgiveness we need to pursue on a daily basis.

If you can find a way to avoid the black hole of social media and seek the word of God you will be strengthened. I talked in the last *Key Issues* about prayer, and now I challenge you to delve into the word of God. If it is a daily devotional via text, a bible study through your church, or simply downloading a bible app and reading from it daily rather than chasing Pokémon, it will improve your daily life. The return on this investment will be life changing! Working out improves your physical fitness; your spiritual fitness needs attention as well.

We are so vulnerable to society, and their opinions of us. The armor of God is all you need to withstand those daily attacks. Stand up and put it on every day, it was provided to you free of charge. Go ahead and take Him up on it!

Graciously,  
**Aimee Crockett**  
TJA Chaplain



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For more information, please contact **April Farmer**, Senior Vice President, at **(972) 406-3728** or via e-mail at [afarmer@jbi-ltd.com](mailto:afarmer@jbi-ltd.com) or find us at [www.jbi-ltd.com](http://www.jbi-ltd.com).



# MENTAL HEALTH AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

By: Michelle Tanner, M.Ed., LPC-Intern

In the early history of the penal system, convicts might suffer flogging, branding with a hot iron, or the loss of their ears. The theft of a silk handkerchief or a pocket watch might lead to execution. Eventually, many called for a thorough revision of the penal system, and suggested that jails might be useful for something other than holding suspects until trial. The study of mental health was in its early beginnings a theory that centered mostly on the supernatural. Bizarre behavior was attributed to possession and the solution was trepanation, in which an instrument was used to make a hole in the skull to let out the evil spirits causing the strange behavior or affliction (Durand & Barlow, 2005). The fields of criminal justice and mental health have evolved, adapted and changed considerably over time including the collaboration between the two. How did our fields collide?

When the asylums closed in the 50's and 60's, mainly due to inhumane treatment, more than 90% of mental patients were discharged to live in ordinary society. It wasn't long before this population ended up in the nation's jails. The elimination of psychiatric beds is creating an enormous strain on law enforcement, jails, prisons and hospital ER's, where acutely ill people are essentially 're-institutionalized'-or left to live on the streets (Montross, 2015). Data released in 2010 showed only 14.1 public hospital beds remained for each 100,000 people. The bed population has not been this low since 1850, when it was 14.0. Texas was listed as "severe" with only 12.1 beds per 100,000 people. A minimum of 50 beds per 100,000 is a consensus target for providing minimally adequate treatment to the public (Treatment Advocacy Center, 2015).

Sheriff Tom Dart faced this epidemic in 2012 when Chicago closed half of their city's 12 mental health facilities leading to a tremendous rise in the number of inmates who were mentally ill and has now become the largest mental healthcare provider in the country. Sheriff Dart emphasized that a tour of his facility would show that the divisions for people without mental illnesses are either empty or half-filled. The ones for people with mental illness are filled to capacity, and the areas where we have the most acutely mentally ill people are always over capacity," (Gold, 2015).

Over the last 50 years the criminal justice system and mental health system have once again found the critical need to continue to expand, evolve, and collaborate in order to provide the care that people need. Former TJA President Kelly S. Rowe, in his *Message from the President* (TJA, 2006) stated "...I would ask that you think back to where we came from to where we are today and where we will be in the future. ...let's make sure we do everything we can to continue to promote the training, partnerships, and networking that we are enjoying." Over the last 10 years, since Sheriff Rowe penned

these words the Lubbock County Detention Center, along with many other jails across this great state have implemented programs that are identifying inmates with mental illness at the gate, post-arrest, during initial hearings and re-entry. These programs are providing care while in jail, resources for re-entry and continuity of care, training for staff all with the shared goal to reduce recidivism and as previously mentioned, moving beyond the jail simply being holding places for those awaiting trial.

In his book *How Successful People Think*, author John C. Maxwell describes what it means to be a visionary organization:

A visionary company is like a great work of art. Think of Michelangelo's scenes from Genesis on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel or his statue of David. Think of a great and enduring novel like *Huckleberry Finn* or *Crime and Punishment*. Think of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony or Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Think of a beautifully designed building, like the masterpieces of Frank Lloyd Wright or Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. You can't point to any one single item that makes the whole thing work; it's the entire work—all the pieces working together to create an overall effect—that leads to enduring greatness.

As members of this great association continue to strive to provide excellence in criminal justice and mental health, the *thinking* must continue to look to the future.

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# Vendor Report

Hello Everyone! This year's JMI Conference was excellent! I want to thank each and every sponsor personally for their participation in the Swamp Poker Run. We were able to put \$2,500 into the Jerry Baggs Scholarship fund. Every vendor and member that participated made this game a huge success. Without the vendors, the conference would not be possible, so please make sure that you always take time to visit with them during the exhibit hours. I also want to give a big shout out to the winners of the Swamp Poker Run. Again, thank you to everyone that took the time to participate. I look forward to seeing everyone in May at the 31st Annual Texas Jail Association Conference.

Thank you,  
Kristin Pedigo - Vendor Representative



The Swamp Run was a huge success at the Jail Management Issues Conference, August 22-25, 2016. Thank you to all of our sponsors and congratulations to the winners!

- \$250 first prize – **Terri Gonzales**, Coryell County
- \$150 second prize – **Michael Gravitt**, Tarrant County
- \$100 Third prize – **Michelle Velasquez** – Calhoun County
- Portfolio – **Anthony Hardee**, Caldwell County
- Portfolio – **John Phillips**, McLennan County

#### Swamp Run Sponsors:

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# JMI 2006

CONFERENCE







# JMI 2016

CONFERENCE





# Become the Best YOU, You Can Be.

By Amanda Pena-Faz, , Atascosa County Sheriff's Office



When I first started working for the Atascosa County Jail, I had no prior jail experience. I had supervisors that took their careers seriously and wanted to help develop their staff. What seems like a long time ago has only been four short years and through the years I've seen areas that need improvement, in myself and co-workers. I've been attentive to the behavior and timid reaction of co-workers. After my third year, I requested to become a defensive tactics instructor and use the lessons I've learned through the years to teach others in this field.

Perfection is not a characteristic we see in this profession as we hire humans and no one is perfect. The most important trait in a new jailer must be to have thick skin. Accept constructive criticism, and learn from your mistakes. We've all made them it's just how we handle the outcome. You come to a point where you use everything you've learned and use it to improve in the areas that you may lack in. Ask your supervisors to help you along the way, take as much advice as you can and see what works for you, I would suggest also seeking out a mentor to help you along the way.



Once you become familiar with who you are in your profession, you'll realize that you can push and motivate yourself. Your supervisors will soon notice; allow your confidence and positive outlook to be your vehicle to success. Keep in mind that at times you will feel burned out or stuck in a rut. That is where your self-motivation and daily positive habits will assist you. Remember who you are improving for; you, your children, your spouse, your family, and your co-workers.

Being a female in this profession comes with different challenges, one major challenge of mine was to improve in defensive tactics. Unfortunately, I had to be motivated the hard way. After a bad use of force incident, I decided self-improvement was my only option. I started with changing bad habits, my first challenge was to change eating habits, and it's hard to stay in shape when you eat fast food. I then noticed I needed to work on my strength and endurance. I purchased a few weights and invested in running at least a mile every day and attended a local jiu jitsu class during my days off. I came to the realization that this improved my confidence, that I'm capable of defending myself in any situation.

I challenge you to become familiar with your weakness and create the best YOU. Not only are you helping yourself, but you could be motivating others. In the end, aren't we here to help each other?

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# A NEW BATTLEFIELD

## SERIES 2

By: Colonel Dave Lewis



In my last article I talked about the phenomenon we call the Death Spiral, and how some veterans find themselves isolated and struggling with their transition back to civilian life. The good news is that the vast majority of service men and women will transition home with few or no challenges at all. But some will find themselves justice involved, and wind up in your jail.

In this article I want to speak of the need to break the cycle that affects so many justice involved veterans. If the underlying issues are not addressed, then it will be difficult to break that cycle. As a reminder, since our military forces are a representative slice of our society in general, some of the veterans who find themselves incarcerated will do so independent of the military service, and the issues they have are not likely a result of that service. In short, just because you served does not guarantee you a “Get out of Jail Free” card.

In the last issue I spoke to Substance Use Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress (disorder) and how these two issues are often co-occurring. The good news is that they can be treated simultaneously. I’ll address the treatment options, but first let’s look at stabilization.

FASTRR is the VetStar-developed model that we use, and it stands for Find, Assess, Stabilize, Treat, Reassess and Reintegrate into the community. You may be thinking that “Find” is not an issue, since they are already in your facility. But, many will decline to identify themselves as a veteran, and that may present a challenge in itself. Recent legislation (HB 875) attempts to address this, and the VA is working hard to implement the Veterans Re-entry Search Services (VRSS) program that may assist you in identifying veterans in your jail.

I want to focus on “Stabilize” because that is something that can be done in your jail, and may help to break the cycle of recidivism. In our program, we first “Assess” to see if the veteran has ideations of suicide, is homeless, or has a significant substance use issues. Other mental health challenges may present during the assessment process as well, and we pay particular attention to PTS and moral injury challenges.

From an academic perspective the research is still mixed on whether to stabilize a person prior to treatment; in our experience (and guided by VA mental health professionals) we find it very useful. The program we use is known as Seeking Safety, and it is specifically developed to treat co-occurring substance use and PTS disorders. Seeking Safety is designed to keep a veteran safe today, safe tomorrow, and safe in the future by developing improved coping skills and skills to reduce

anxiety. It does not explore deeper background issues that may be causal, and will eventually need to be addressed; instead, it is a “present day” therapy. Seeking Safety was developed by Lisa Najavits, a VA therapist, and it is evidence-based. We find it highly effective, and it can be delivered individually or in groups. It can be delivered in the jail setting as well.

Experts identify an “optimum” stabilization period of six months prior to treatment. Conveniently, Seeking Safety has 24 lessons that can be delivered weekly. Recognizing that this may not be possible to conduct all of the sessions in the jail, a partnership with veterans organizations such as the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) may be necessary in the community. You should be trained to deliver the Seeking Safety lessons properly, but you do not have to be a licensed mental health professional to accomplish it. The lessons are very structured, and highly scripted.

Najavits calls the therapy a first-stage treatment, recognizing the need for stabilizing the veteran. It is based on five central ideas: 1) Safety as the priority; 2) integrated treatment of PTS and substance abuse; 3) a focus on ideals; 4) four content areas: cognitive, behavioral, interpersonal, and case management; and 5) attention to therapist processes.

Being incarcerated is stabilizing all in itself; however, our experience tells us that bringing structure via the Seeking Safety program really increases the likelihood of success once the veteran is enrolled in a treatment program, and is key to breaking the cycle of justice involvement.

Now let’s turn to treatment. The VA offers a wide variety of treatment programs that are specifically focused on the veteran’s challenges, and they can be either residential in nature, or out-patient based. The residential programs provide a 24/7 therapeutic setting that utilizes both professional and peer supports. Treatment is focused on the veteran’s needs, abilities, strengths and preferences. The process of getting the veteran to one of these programs is too long to capture in this article, but I strongly recommend getting to know your VA Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) specialist for assistance in connecting your veteran to the proper program. The VA webpage has a list of VJOs by state; if you are not familiar with the VJO for your area then that is a place to start.

In the next article we’ll look at the rest of the FASTRR model – namely re-assessment (for success planning) and reintegration into the community.

# WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU

## THE BIG FISH

By: Captain Martin Gonzales , Atascosa County Jail Administrator, TJA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

If you've been in this business for over two years, you've seen it. It doesn't matter what color, race or creed the gang member is, we've seen the good 'ol tell-tell sign. Let me set the basic description:

- Arrogant (only around inmates)
- Confident
- Respectful to you
- Superbly respectful to "Rank"
- Let's you know that he can and will control the atmosphere of the tank (Just for you, though)
- He has the best manners you have ever seen (towards you)
- He has the most commissary
- He has the best feasts you've ever seen
- His cell is the cleanest (Don't worry, he'll show you)
- Superiority

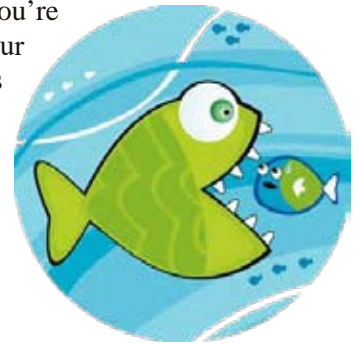
### Analysis

This guy is the "Tank Boss" and I'll use that term loosely. He will have claimed that he was blessed by the Leader/President/Wheel Member, etc. of whatever STG (Security Threat Group) he is a part of. This is where shift briefings are imperative, with supervisors and line staff. Line officers need to be very familiar with the disciplinary plan and the rules and regulations. Supervisors need to be experts at the rules and regulations as well as observant managers. Encourage all line staff to be fair and consistent with ALL inmates. Officers should not be intimidated when dealing with this type of inmate and supervisors need to be supportive when an officer disciplines the inmate.

### Controlling the Mythical Creature


Communication among the staff needs to be accurate when passing along briefing material of STG activity. Do not give any inmate the feeling of grandiosity and most definitely do not create this illusion among other officers. Gang activity will be controlled in your facility if the staff stays up to date on information and the information gets passed along to all jail employees. The equal enforcement of rules will improve this control. The applying of blinders, or looking the other way has a negative impact for controlling this type of inmate and for gang activity. Additionally, the inmate-friendly approach is not recommended either. If as a supervisor you see this type of officer, he/she needs your

leadership and attention. If you're an officer and you see this, your supervisor needs to know as soon as possible in order to provide the guidance and direction needed to intervene and avoid losing an employee to the "Con Game."



### Conclusion

I cannot stress this enough. When it comes to any gang activity, documentation is your best tool. When conviction time comes around, or when your prosecuting attorney requests it, gang activity documentation will be the key in ensuring these dangerous individuals are secured behind bars thereby protecting our citizens and community.



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Comprehensive management of county, state, and federal correctional institutions is a strategic focus of CEC Corrections. CEC Corrections currently manages inmates from various jurisdictions and provides quality incarceration services consistent with state, local, and federal detention standards including the U.S. Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

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# THE COMMISSION'S CORNER



*By: Brandon Wood*

As summer comes to an end, most of us are looking forward to the start of football season. Whether it be watching it in person on Friday nights in our hometowns, Saturday afternoons if you are lucky enough to have a college team close by or on TV all day Sunday, fall is hard to beat in Texas. If only for a few hours, it provides us an escape from the pressures of work, when we are not the ones constantly making decisions that impact others on so many different levels that others do not truly understand or comprehend. Every other year, fall also signals the beginning of the pre-legislative season which quickly snaps us back to reality and what we will be facing as different interest put forward what they consider the best solution to the challenges the state is facing.

While most of the session will be consumed by large issues such as border security, school finance and the budget as a whole, county jails can expect to see bills filed that will impact their operations as well. These will begin to surface as early as November 14, the first day bills can be pre-filed for the 2017 legislative session and will most likely span a variety of topics. So what are the topics that are most likely to be brought up?

## **Jail Diversion**

This continues to be a popular topic and one that almost everyone agrees is a good thing. The hang up often comes down to where do you divert the person to and who pays for that service? That is often the reason counties do not have an extensive diversion effort already in place as there is a cost associated with anything that is created. Granted, it can reduce jail costs by having fewer inmates in jail, but it is often difficult to convince others of future savings when there is such an emphasis on the immediate present and this year's budget, not five years from now.

A review of the current bail system is also a possibility as the question "Why didn't that person bond out?" is often asked. This one is most definitely outside of our wheelhouse but it could most definitely impact your jail population if reforms and/or changes are made.

Reentry planning may not seem like it belongs under the heading of jail diversion, but in fact, it is part of the

diversion process. There may be discussions regarding re-entry planning for different types of inmates, or inmates in general, but again, the question as to whom will pay for what remains the 800 pound gorilla in the room.

## **PREA**

I am convinced that anyone that is taking the time to read this little article knows what PREA is and I cannot imagine Google would drop you into this without reason, so I will not go over the obvious. There does seem to be some groups that are in favor of having the state adopt PREA standards in total, as a requirement. The problem with that is, of course, the 17 year old issue, followed closely by the transgender inmate (and at times, transgender jailer) question. Until the 17 year old issue is resolved at the state level, county jails will continue to serve two masters as they try to comply with PREA to the best of their ability but also house 17 year olds as state law requires. While dealing with transgender inmates is nothing new, some of what is being put forward and what is expected is. If PREA is placed into statute for the state, or we are directed to adopt it by reference within standards, much will have to change before that becomes reality.

## **Specialized Medical Care**

Without even wading off into the mental health issue, other areas within specialized medical care that may be brought up include the possibility of a mandatory detoxification protocol and treatment for inmates, most likely geared towards pregnant inmates but possibly any inmate. Touching on the fringes of the larger issue of mental health, there continues to be talk of requiring a standardized formulary applicable to all counties for inmates that had been sent for competency restoration when they are sent back to your jail. The positive side of that is the medication reimbursement program by which the state covers the cost of the meds. The discouraging aspect is that the reimbursement program is not new, it has been discussed multiple times, but as of September 1,

2016, only six, I repeat six, counties are taking advantage of that. That is exactly 2.3% of the counties in Texas that are taking advantage of this program. Last but not least is the possibility of additional requirements for pregnant inmates. What that may look like will depend quite heavily on the results of the study that we were mandated to conduct and if there was any problem, or if it is a solution in search of problem. So if you have not submitted your required report, please do so. Without true and correct information, only one side of the story is heard and it's not yours. You may find additional rules put into place without your input.

### Use of Separation Cells

There continues to be questions posed as to why inmates are placed in separation cells and if they are being over used or used improperly. Some of this is caused by the inability to distinguish prisons from jails, while part of it is driven by the concern that long term solitary confinement adversely impacts an individual's mental state and only makes the situation worse. More education has to occur as to what separation cells in county jails are used for and that there are processes in place, as outlined by standards, as to how they are to be used and when. But again, this requires participation in the process by all involved and if hard facts and figures are not put forward, incorrect information will shape the decisions of the decision makers, it is as simple as that.

Regardless of what transpires over the next twelve months, we remain dedicated to working with you in the ongoing effort to assist you in operating your jails as safely and securely as possible. In order to assist you though, we need to hear from you. If we request information over the next few months, it's because someone has asked for it and they are intending to do something. Without that information, what comes about has a high risk of not being very realistic. But do not limit yourself to only responding to our request, contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns, especially if it will help our agency do our job better. I hope to see many of you in October at the CMIT mental health conference as it is shaping up to be an excellent program. With the session right around the corner, I can guarantee that the people that make big decisions will be listening and taking note, so be part of the conversation and part of the solution.

# Thank You...



One of my most cherished accomplishments in my career was when the members of this association elected me to become one of the Board of Directors.

Well that happened back in May of 2016 and I can say I have never been more proud than I am now to work for you as a Director.

The Jail Management Issues conference in Galveston was top of the line. JMI was my first conference as a Director and what a conference it was.

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to put on a conference of this size that everyone does not see. I would have to say, I never knew it took this much hard work and dedication of the board members to keep these conferences going. I want to personally thank all the members of the Board and the volunteers that helped with the conference.

The training was top notch, the food was over the top, and the networking was outstanding (as always.)

Looking forward, I am excited about the future of the association. There are multiple training opportunities coming up that TJA will be helping with. Please go to our new website and check them all out [texasjailassociation.com](http://texasjailassociation.com), and don't forget to save the date for the 2017 TJA Annual Conference, May 15-19, 2017.

I hope to see ya down the Road

### Captain Ricky Armstrong

Jail Administrator, McLennan County Sheriff's Office  
254-759-5687



**Congratulations to Kristin Baird, granddaughter of the late Past President John Godfrey! She received the Past Presidents' Scholarship for Fall 2016. Kristin is a student at Sam Houston State University.**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

## GUADALUPE COUNTY

### Assistant Jail Administrator Deborah Irwin's Retirement

On Thursday, June 30, 2016, Assistant Jail Administrator **Deborah Irwin** retired from the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office following 26 years of service. Irwin was born in Stockdale, Texas and moved to the Seguin, Texas area in 1990. She began her career with the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office as a dispatcher in October 1990. Deborah became a certified Detention Officer with the Sheriff's Office in September of 1994 and has served the citizens of this county as a Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Assistant Jail Administrator. Deborah plans on spending more time with her family and enjoying her passion of visiting the Texas coast as much as possible. Joining Sheriff **Arnold S. Zwicke** at Deborah's retirement ceremony is Jail Administrator **Robert Hernandez**.



### Guadalupe County Adult Detention Center Promotions

Sheriff **Arnold S. Zwicke** is proud to announce several promotions at the Guadalupe County Adult Detention Center: **Kim Cielencki**, **April Villarreal** and **Trisha Thomas** were promoted to the rank of Corporal; **Andrea Johnson** was promoted to the rank of Sergeant; **Albert Cerda** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; **Enrique Martinez** was promoted to the rank of Captain; and, **Greg Martin** was promoted to Assistant Jail Administrator.



*Front Row (R to L): Sergeant Andrea Johnson, Corporal Kim Cielencki, Corporal April Villarreal and Corporal Trisha Thomas  
Back Row (R to L): Sheriff Arnold Zwicke, Lieutenant Albert Cerda, Captain Enrique Martinez, Assistant Jail Administrator Greg Martin, and Jail Administrator Robert Hernandez*

## HENDERSON COUNTY

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate Jail Academy Class #2-2016 for their completion of study on July 29, 2016. Counties that were represented in this class included Anderson, Van Zandt, and Henderson.

Anderson County: **Jonathan Pearson** and **Riley Higgins**

Van Zandt County: **Timothy Thompson** and **Bryce Henson**

Henderson County: **Jason Ramsey**, **Victoria Street**, **Mathew Crawford**, **Sean Marrinan**, **Ashley Rader**, **Brittany Owens**, **Rowdy Gabbard**, **Jared Taylor** and **Julie McCracken**

Also shown in the photograph is Sheriff **Botie Hillhouse** and Training Coordinator, Captain **Michael Starkey**.



## LIMESTONE COUNTY

### Sheriff takes reins of Texas Sheriffs' Association

Limestone County Sheriff **Dennis Wilson** was installed as the president of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas Tuesday evening during a ceremony in Grand Prairie, where the Association's annual training conference is underway. This was the 138th Annual training Conference held at the Gaylord Texan Resort Convention Center. He succeeds Grimes County Sheriff **Donald Sowell**. Limestone County Sheriff **R.M. Love** was the 1st elected President of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

Wilson, a 1973 graduate of Groesbeck High School, joined the Sheriff's Office in July 1975 and was first elected sheriff in November 2000. He also earned an associate's degree from Navarro College.

The Association, which met for the first time in August 1874 at the Navarro County Courthouse in Corsicana, is one of the oldest law enforcement organizations in the country.



## TRAVIS COUNTY

### Travis County Sheriff's Office Graduates Three From DPS Fitness Institute

The Travis County Sheriff's Office had three graduates from the 2015 Institute, **Frances Dembowski, Luke Thormann and Joseph Zahn**. The Texas Department of Public Safety - Law Enforcement Fitness and Wellness Regional Instructor Training Program is a six week certification school designed to prepare the future instructor with information concerning the following: Program Management, Basic Anatomy and Exercise Physiology, Exercise Leadership, Injury Prevention, Strength Training,



Health, Physical Fitness Assessment, Physical Conditioning, and Functional Fitness.

The overall objective is to develop and certify Regional Fitness and Wellness Instructors for the State and to enhance their individual instructional skill sets as they relate to teaching, demonstrating, evaluating, and directing programs in the areas of physical fitness and wellness, as well as the Physical Readiness Testing protocols and policy.

The future instructor will be exposed to different techniques and methodologies to develop and maintain a fitness program to meet the needs of the agency and to enhance the efforts of commissioned (required) and non-commissioned personnel in passing the bi-annual Physical Readiness Testing, with special emphasis on how the employee can remain healthy, fit and in a "State of Readiness" for their entire career and beyond.

Special recognition to Joseph Zahn for being the first person at TCSO as well as DPS to complete all physical readiness tests at over 100%. Joseph completed the "Gladiator" challenge by completing the row, combat fitness and push up/crunch

and mile and ½ run all within one hour. This "Gladiator" is more challenging because you are allotted only one hour to complete this challenge instead of two hours. In addition to this achievement Joseph was also tied for first place in class rankings. This ranking was an average of classroom and physical fitness scores. Frances Dembowski earned the trifecta recognition, which consists of maintaining a 90% or better in the row, combat fitness and the push up/crunch and mile and ½ run. Luke Thormann earned recognition in the 300 club. He scored over 300 points in combat fitness.



### AJA's 35 Under Thirty Five

A List of Young Accomplished and Influential Industry Professionals

**Colton Yarborough** was hired by the Travis County Sheriff's Office on October 29, 2012. In his short tenure with us he has received a Life Saving Award on August 16, 2013, became FTO on April 28, 2014 and most recently received the Physical Fitness Award on September 9, 2015. He also received his Peace Officer License on October 31, 2014. He has received numerous accolades from his past and current supervisors by constantly exceeding expectations.

Travis County implemented an electronic log book program this year. Colton took a lead role primarily in training all Corrections Bureau FTOs and shifts as well as providing invaluable feedback throughout the development process.

### Congratulation to the Central Texas Wolfpack football team!

They are the national champions.

Travis County Texas Wolfpack football members with national championship trophy with Sheriff **Greg Hamilton**.

SHAWNDEL TUCKER #1	TYLER PICKERING #20
LYNDL JONES #4	MICHAEL PIETROWSKI #64
TANNER LARSON #12	BLEU YOUNG #98
DEMETRIUS BAKER #17	MICHAEL ANDERSON #99
DJ GRIFFIN #18	



# Welcome to TJA New Members!

The Texas Jail Association would like to welcome the following members to our Association. We ask our returning members to give our newest colleagues warm welcomes and to challenge these members to not only be active, but to help grow and improve this Association.

**Lynn Allen** from Polk County; **Sharon Arce** from Hunt County; **Nancy Baker** from Polk County; **Bobby Bean** from Polk County; **Courtney Benavides** from Houston County; **James Bennatt** from Brazos County; **Bobby Bostick** from Polk County; **Ted Brewer** from Dallas County; **Matt Brown** from Polk County; **Anita Buchanan** from Howard County; **Andrew Cain** from Polk County; **Jack Cantrell** from LaSalle Corrections; **Dan Cates** from Collin County; **Kimberly Christian** from San Jacinto County; **Richard Clamon** from Polk County; **Douglas Coggins** from Bell County; **James Crockett** from Polk County; **Javier Davalos** from Polk County; **Lisa Duenes** from Polk County; **Jeremy Fejeran** from San Jacinto County; **Abel Flores** from LaSalle Corrections; **Colton Fussell** from San Jacinto County; **David Grissom** from Brazos County; **Wendy Guest** from San Jacinto County; **James Harrison** from San Jacinto County; **John Hauke** from San Jacinto County; **Helen Herndon** from Polk County; **Marquis Hines** from Montgomery County; **Keith Hughes** from Terrell County; **Dana Ivey** from Hopkins County; **Pamela Jimenez** from San Jacinto County; **Lisa Jones** from San Jacinto County; **Sandra Keasling** from Polk County; **Karl Key** from San Jacinto County; **Elizabeth Larivee** from Caldwell County; **Nadia Lockwood** from Dallas County; **Cassandra Lopez** from Galveston County; **Patty Lovelady** from Brazos County; **Carolyn Lucherk** from Grimes County; **Clifton Marks** from Pearland Police Department; **Tabitha Martinez** from Panola County; **Darryl Matthews** from Polk County; **Meagan McDougle** from San Jacinto County; **Cedric McDuffie** from Polk County; **Ron McMurry** from Jasper County; **Robert McQuade** from West Texas Detention Center; **Nelda Mondragon** from Reeves County; **William Morrison** from San Jacinto County; **Gregory Mottu** from Polk County; **Nicholas Nelson** from Caldwell County; **Tannis Nelson** from Caldwell County; **Varghese Ninan** from Dallas County; **Michelle Olaughlin** from San Jacinto County; **Solomon Omatoya** from LaSalle Corrections; **Adrian Ontiveros** from Polk County; **Justin Parrish** from Polk County; **Cain Paul** from Polk County; **Carol Peterson** from San Jacinto County; **Jason Petty** from San Jacinto County; **David Pipkins** from Caldwell County; **John David Ramirez** from Caldwell County; **Joseph Randolph** from Victoria County; **Shawna Rangel** from Comal County; **Carolyn Renfro** from San Jacinto County; **Pamala Ring** from Polk County; **Sherry Rochen** from Waller County; **Danny Sangster** from Polk County; **Jeremiah Schmidt** from Brazos County; **Leonard Shankles** from Polk County; **Wanda Standley** from Polk County; **Fortryl Stewart** from San Jacinto County; **Laura Sturgeon** from Polk County; **John Tarver** from Orange County; **Emilio Torres** from Caldwell County; **James Tucker** from Polk County; **Cody Turner** from LaSalle Corrections; **Jessie Turner** from LaSalle Corrections; **Amos Wells** from Polk County; **Richard Wheelen** from Victoria County; **Brandon White** from Polk County; **Martha Ann Wickliff** from Liberty County; **Opal Williams** from Polk County; **William Wimberly** from Polk County; **Kenneth Wisner** from Galveston County; **Jennifer Wright** from Polk County; **Jasmine Ybarra** from Reeves County; **Joel Barrientos** from McLennan County; **Drew Baumann** from Terry County; **Brayden Burklow** from Terry County; **Jeremiah Byrd** from McLennan County; **Alan Carr** from McLennan County; **James Cloe** from Terry County; **Jesse Cruz** from Zavala County; **Jon Dalton** from Bandera County; **Norberto Donjuan Zuniga** from Terry County; **Darren Dudley** from Travis County; **Shari East** from LaSalle Corrections; **Barbara Eastman** from Pearland Police Department; **Coleman French** from Brazos County; **Robert Fulmer** from McLennan County; **Onesimo Garza** from Terry County; **Randy Gerics** from Parmer County; **Ana Granado** from Reeves County; 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**Nicholas Stubblefield** from Brazos County; **Diann Taylor** from Gonzales County; **Robert Thibodeaux** from Guadalupe County; **Patrick Whitmore** from Nueces County; **William Willoughby** from Nueces County; **Tracie Ybarra** from Hale County; **Mary York** from LaSalle Corrections; **Dusty Rodriguez** from LaSalle Corrections; **Kristi Roden** from LaSalle Corrections; **Ailen Renteria** from Grand Prairie Police Department; and **William Boehnemann** from Fort Bend County.



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