



# 2024-2025 TJA BALLOT INFORMATION

## CANDIDATE FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT ONE POSITION AVAILABLE



### **Rowdee Edwards**

Captain, Collin County Sheriff's Office

Rowdee Edwards is a Captain for Detention Operations at Collin County Sheriff's Office in McKinney, Texas and oversees a shift of 65 personnel. He is responsible for the operations of a 1,200-bed direct supervision facility. Rowdee sits on the S.H.E.R.I.F.F. Fund Committee for employee assistance and emergency relief, benefitting employees and families for Collin County Sheriff's Office. He has been a Corrections Professional for 15 years, working for multiple agencies in various positions and ranks. During his tenure, Rowdee helped implement successful FTO programs for multiple counties and aided with the implementation of professional standards. He is a TCOLE instructor and holds an Advanced Jailer License. Rowdee is a graduate and Class President of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #36. Additionally, he serves TJA as 3rd Vice President and chair of the Membership Committee. He also chairs the Technology Committee for TJA and the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

## CANDIDATES FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT ONE POSITION AVAILABLE



### **Abby Belangeri**

Lieutenant, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

Abby Belangeri has worked for the Brazos County Sheriff's Office for 16 years. She has experience in jail floor operations, intake/release and holds a Master Jailer License. She has attended the Jail Mental Health Officer and master trainer courses and assists in facilitating continued mental health training around the state. Abby implemented a Jail Crisis Intervention Team at the Brazos County Detention Center.

Abby holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Central Michigan University. She is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #28 and served as Class President. Abby has served on the TJA Board of Directors the last five years in the capacities of Director and Treasurer. She also serves as 1st Vice President of the Bryan Noon Lions Club Board of Directors in Brazos County.



## **Greg Pilkington**

Chief, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

Greg Pilkington is a Chief with Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. In his 30 years of working in corrections, he has been involved in many areas and has a diverse aspect of Texas Jails.

He holds a Master Jailers License and is a Certified Basic Instructor. He also serves on the following: Texas Jail Association Board of Directors, Tarrant County Re-Entry Coalition Board, Advisory Board for Pathways to Hope, and the Board of Trusty for T.C. MHMR.

As a current Director, he continues to work hard for each person that works in Texas Jails today. He will never stop pushing to fight for our profession.

With the support of his Sheriff and his wife, Amy, of 28 years, he is seeking the position of 3rd Vice President for the Texas Jail Association.

## **CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER** ONE POSITION AVAILABLE



## **Aimee Crockett**

Lieutenant, Smith County Sheriff's Office

Aimee is a Lieutenant with the Smith County Sheriff's Office in Tyler, Texas. She has been in county corrections for over thirty years. Aimee began her career in 1990 at the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. After her time in Dallas, she joined the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) as a Project Coordinator.

Aimee is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #7. She facilitated the NJLCA program; coordinated the Jail Administration Management and Operations course; and, hosted the Annual Mental Health Conference during her tenure at CMIT.

Lieutenant Crockett joined Smith County as the Training Lieutenant over the Jail Training Division.

Aimee is a lifetime member of the Texas Jail Association, formerly serving on the board as their Chaplain, currently serving as the TJA editor, and is also a member of the American Jail Association. She is a trainer and presenter for CMIT, TJA, and AJA.

**CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR** TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE**Justin Marinari**

Lieutenant, Special Services Division, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

Justin has worked for the Brazos County Sheriff's Office for 12 years. He is currently a Lieutenant of the Special Services Division that includes Intake/Release and Custodian of Records. He also has experience working in many different areas of corrections to include training, basic county corrections instruction, jail floor operations, policy/procedure development, transport, and other administrative duties. Justin holds a Master Jailer License and Master Peace Officer License.

He is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #35 and the FBI-LEEDA Leadership Institute Trilogy. He also obtained the Certified Jail Officer and Certified Jail Manager Certification through the American Jail Association.

Justin's formal education includes earning a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University.

**Shane Sowell**

TJA Director

Shane Sowell has a career which spans over 28 years in Law Enforcement ranging from jail, patrol, K-9/interdiction, narcotics, and as a State Jail Inspector for the Jail Commission. He is a Master Jailer and Peace Officer, a TCOLE instructor, Certified Jail Mental Health Officer and a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #32. Shane most recently served as the Jail Administrator for the Bell County Sheriff's Office, where he supervises over 300 employees and 1300 inmates.

Shane is currently serving on the TJA Board as a Director and has served as Sergeant-at-Arms for the previous two years. In addition, Shane has sat on the Legislative, Nomination and Membership Committees for TJA.

Shane has been an active TJA member for almost twenty years.





## **Sheleana Davis**

Assistant Jail Administrator, Robertson County Sheriff's Office

Sheleana Davis began her career in county corrections in 2009 with the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. She later worked in education in both Hearne and Bryan School Districts. For the last three years, Sheleana has worked as the Assistant Jail Administrator for the Robertson County Sheriff's Office in Franklin, Texas.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Phoenix with honors.

Sheleana holds a Master Jailers License and graduated from the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) Mid-Management: Leadership for Corrections Professionals course. She is also a graduate of the CMIT Jail Administration Management and Operations training.

Sheleana recently graduated from the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #49 and was elected Class President. Additionally, she serves on the Texas Jail Association Training Committee.

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## **Rose Sanchez**

Captain, Refugio County Sheriff's Office

Rose Sanchez is the Jail Captain with Refugio County Sheriff's Office. She has over 17 years of experience working in the jail setting. Rose has been employed with Refugio County Sheriff's Office Jail Division since September 2021. She was promoted to Jail Administrator in 2022.

Rose was previously employed by Dewitt County for 6 years and promoted to Jail Administrator in 2008. She has learned everything from the Texas Jail Association mission, budget, Policy and Procedures and Jail Standards guidelines. Rose is confident in her ability to offer her experience and expertise to the Texas Jail Association and her fellow counties.

She is excited and ready to have the opportunity to serve on the Texas Jail association as a Board of Director, if elected. Rose would like your support for her candidacy as Board of Director with Texas Jail Association.



## **Levi Vance**

Lieutenant, Tom Green County Sheriff's Office

Levi Vance has been employed with the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office for 17 years. He was a shift Sergeant for five years and promoted to Operations Lieutenant in August 2019.

Levi carries Advanced Jailer, Basic Peace Officer, and Basic Instructor Licenses. He graduated from the Mid-Level Management course at CMIT and is also an active instructor for the Basic County Corrections Course. Levi has been an active member of the Special Operation Response Team since 2016 and the

Commander since February 2018. He has been a member of the Texas Jail Association for over 14 years, serving the membership for the last five years. He was appointed Secretary in 2019 and elected to the Board of Directors in 2020.

Levi has served as the Technology Chair and the Entertainment Chair for the TJA Board. He is also active in his community serving the local Little Leagues in the area.



## **Les Karnes**

Jail Administrator, Brown County Sheriff's Office

Les Karnes began serving the community of Brown County over 20 years ago in 2002 as a jailer for the Brown County Sheriff's Office. He holds a Master Jailer license and is a TCOLE basic instructor. While with the Brown County Sheriff's Office, Les has held many positions within the jail, including: jailer, road crew supervisor, shift supervisor, assistant jail administrator, and is currently the jail administrator.

Les Karnes has been married to his wife, Karen, for 20 years, and they have four children. In addition to these children, they have fostered 20 children whom they consider their own. He has a big family and highly treasures family values. When not on the job, Les fills his time with family time and activities.

Les Karnes is dedicated and committed to continuing his education in corrections as well as advancing the profession throughout the state of Texas.