Partnering Law Enforcement Agencies Announce Expansion of Gun Safety Program

by Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director

“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I’ll remember; involve me and I’ll understand.” –Chinese Proverb

It is one thing to tell a child that guns are dangerous; it is another to let them see for themselves. That is exactly what federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies are doing with the Louisiana Law Enforcement for Gun Safety (LLEGS) Program. This past September, at a press conference held at the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association, United States Attorney Walt Green announced an expansion of the LLEGS program, with the unveiling of two additional shoot tank trailers to be geographically disbursed throughout the state.

The LLEGS program began in June 2013 in response to Louisiana’s ranking second in the nation in accidental firearm injuries and deaths among children. Its mission is to deliver an innovative and educational program to the state’s youth promoting gun safety and awareness.

Certified firearm instructors travel with the trailers throughout the state giving interactive live fire demonstrations at schools, camps, and community events teaching parents and children about gun safety. Each trailer is modified into a ballistic shoot tank, and has reinforced walls and bulletproof glass, since real weapons are used.

During the demonstration, a firearms instructor shoots a watermelon inside the bulletproof tank. The sound of gunfire in close proximity and the impact of the shot fired on the watermelon, create an indelible image in the minds of those who view the demonstration.

The willingness of federal, state and local law enforcement to partner to reduce gun violence was evident at the unveiling of the two additional trailers at the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association headquarters. Members from the United States Attorney’s Offices, Baton Rouge City Constables Office, Department of Corrections, Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Louisiana City Marshals and City Constables Association, District Attorney’s Association, Attorney General’s Office, and the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association, were all in attendance for the live fire demonstration.

Initially there was one trailer housed at the Baton Rouge City Constable’s office to be used throughout the Middle District. The second and third trailers now cover the Eastern and Western Districts with one trailer housed at the Gretna Police Department and the other at the Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office. Now with these three trailers in use, the entire state has access to these educational presentations.

Since June 2013, there have been over 112 events and 370 demonstrations reaching approximately 27,750 children.

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On September 23, 2014, at the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association Louisiana Law Enforcement for Gun Safety and partners unveil three ballistic shoot tank trailers for statewide use. Photo by Lauren Labbé Meher.

Captain John Lawton of the Baton Rouge City Constable’s Office sets up the ballistic shoot tank during his gun safety demonstration on September 23, 2014 at the LSA. Captain Lawton passed away on December 25, 2014. As one of the pioneers of the LLEGS Program, he asked for donations to be sent to LLEGS in lieu of flowers.
Sheriffs’ Educational Scholarship Recipients Announced

by Lauren Labbé Meher

Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Membership Program Chairman Greg Champagne, St. Charles Parish Sheriff, announced that seventy-one graduating high school seniors have been awarded scholarships provided by the Sheriffs’ Scholarship Program for the 2014 academic school year.

Sheriffs’ scholarships, worth $500 each, are made possible by the citizen members of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Membership Program. They are awarded to students from each parish where the sheriff is affiliated with the Program. While some sheriffs divide the $500 scholarship into two, $250 scholarships, other sheriffs enhance scholarship benefits to larger denominations with funds they provide themselves.

To obtain information about the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Scholarship Program, contact your local Sheriff’s Office.

ACADIA PARISH
Sheriff Wayne Melancon
Recipient: Amelia R. LeJeune

ALLEN PARISH
Sheriff Douglas L. Hebert, III
Recipient: Chase Ware

ASCENSION PARISH
Sheriff Jeff Wiley
Recipient: Michael Favorite, Jr.

ASSUMPTION PARISH
Sheriff Mike Waguespack
Recipient: Chelsea Daigle

AVOYELLES PARISH
Sheriff Doug Anderson
Recipient: Caitlyn B. Martel

BEAUREGARD PARISH
Sheriff Ricky Moses
Recipient: Valeria Banks

BIENVILLE PARISH
Sheriff John Balance
Recipient: Christopher "Jacob" Antee

BOSSIER PARISH
Sheriff Julian C. Whittington
Recipient: Jacqueline Alexis Jones

CADDO PARISH
Sheriff Steve Prator
Recipient: Matthew Tyler Halton

CALCASIEU PARISH
Sheriff Tony Mancuso
Recipient: Samantha Rathjen

CALDWELL PARISH
Sheriff Steve May
Recipient: Clayton Jake Bennett

Cameron PARISH
Sheriff Ronald Johnson
Recipient: Brennen Theriot

CATHOULA PARISH
Sheriff James Kelly
Recipient: DARE Program

CLAIBORNE PARISH
Sheriff Ken Bailey
Recipients: Madison E. Butler
Mackenzie Scriber

CONCORDIA PARISH
Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick
Recipient: Hayden Thomas

DE SOTO PARISH
Sheriff Rodney Arbuckle
Recipient: Leah Hebert

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
Sheriff Sid Gautreaux
Recipient: Donalyn Marie Norris

EAST CARROLL PARISH
Sheriff Wydette William
Recipient: Forrest M. Middleton Jr.

EAST FELICIANA PARISH
Sheriff Talmdadge Bunch
Recipient: Kei' Sharra Moore

EVANGELINE PARISH
Sheriff Eddie Soileau
Recipient: Emily Claire Soileau

FRANKLIN PARISH
Sheriff Kevin Cobb
Recipient: Kellie E. Ogden

GRANT PARISH
Sheriff Steven McCuin
Recipient: Chelsey Paul

IBERIA PARISH
Sheriff Louis Acacl
Recipient: Tiffanie Brashbear

IBERVILLE PARISH
Sheriff Brett Stassi
Recipients: Claudia Apsy
Megan Bourgeois

JACKSON PARISH
Sheriff Andy Brown
Recipient: Sarah E. Chestnut

JEFFERSON PARISH
Sheriff Newell Normand
Recipient: Stacey Ellen Gardner

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH
Sheriff Ivy Woods
Recipient: Baylie Hebert

LAFAYETTE PARISH
Sheriff Mike Neustrom
Recipient: Cassie Bubineaux

LAFOURCHE PARISH
Sheriff Craig Wehere
Recipient: Alicia Escobar

LASCALLE PARISH
Sheriff Scott Franklin
Recipients: Macy Greer
Kimberly Michelle Doughty

LINCOLN PARISH
Sheriff Mike Stone
Recipients: Garrett P. Soileau
Taylor Brazzel

LIVINGSTON PARISH
Sheriff Jason Ard
Recipient: Rachelle Culler

MADISON PARISH
Sheriff Larry Cox
Recipient: Logan Rudd

MOREHOUSE PARISH
Sheriff Mike Tabb
Recipient: Makenzie N. Mardis

NATCHITACHES PARISH
Sheriff Victor Jones
Recipient: Kathryn E. Wiggins

ORLEANS PARISH
Sheriff Martin Gitsman
Recipient: Armani Jene' Baylor

OUACHITA PARISH
Sheriff Jay Russell
Recipient: Amanda Robinson

PLAQUEMINES PARISH
Sheriff Lonnie Greco
Recipient: Kaylee Baoz

POINTE COUPEE PARISH
Sheriff Beaugard "Bad" Torres
Recipient: Alexandra Elise Bates

RAPIDES PARISH
Sheriff William Earl Hilton
Recipient: Rylee Choute

RED RIVER PARISH
Sheriff Glenn Edwards
Recipients: Precious LaShae Smith
Cassidy Long

RICHLAND PARISH
Sheriff Lee Harrell
Recipient: Lacey Self

SABINE PARISH
Sheriff Ronny Richardson
Recipient: HurlLee E. Possoit

ST. BERNARD PARISH
Sheriff James Pohlmann
Recipient: Bryson M. Polk

ST. CHARLES PARISH
Sheriff Greg Champagne
Recipient: Allison A. Folse

ST. HELENA PARISH
Sheriff Nathan "Nat" Williams
Recipient: Elsia M. Womack

ST. JAMES PARISH
Sheriff Willy Martin
Recipient: Madison Amato

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Sheriff Michael Tregre
Recipient: Kylone Adams

ST. LANDRY PARISH
Sheriff Bobby Guidroz
Recipient: Manjot Singh

ST. MARTIN PARISH
Sheriff Ronny Theriot
Recipient: Faron V. Frederick

ST. MARY PARISH
Sheriff Mark Hebert
Recipient: Evelyn M. Pontiff

ST. TAMMANY PARISH
Sheriff Jack Strain
Recipient: Jenna Boudreaux

TANGIPAHOA PARISH
Sheriff Daniel Edwards
Recipient: McKenna Rae Jenkins

TENAS PARISH
Sheriff Rickey Jones
Recipient: Chelsea Nash

TERREBONNE PARISH
Sheriff Jerry Lapser
Recipient: Hunter Polencot

UNION PARISH
Sheriff Dusty Gates
Recipient: Kacey E. Sanon

VERMILION PARISH
Sheriff Mike Couvillon
Recipient: Nicholas Ray Thayer

VERNON PARISH
Sheriff Sam Craft
Recipient: Ashley Hunter

WASHINGON PARISH
Sheriff Randy Seal
Recipient: Lorenzo M. James

WEBSTER PARISH
Sheriff Gary Sexton
Recipient: Bailey J. Hassell

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH
Sheriff Mike Cazes
Recipients: Matthew Begue
Margarette LaBorde

WEST CARROLL PARISH
Sheriff Jerry Phily
Recipient: Baylen A. Harris

WEST FELICIANA PARISH
Sheriff Austin Daniel
Recipient: Mallory Metz

WINN PARISH
Sheriff Crawford Jordan
Recipient: DeAnthony Moore
Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack has been elected president of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association for the 2014-2015 term, succeeding Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso, according to Michael Ranatza, Executive Director of the LSA. Sheriff Waguespack leads the Association’s sixty-four chief law enforcement officers and 14,000 deputies.

Sheriff Waguespack’s formal election and installation, along with that of the Association’s Executive Board and Committee, occurred on July 31, 2014 during the LSA’s Annual Sheriffs’ and Wardens’ Training Conference. During the conference, the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Membership Program also recognized East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and West Feliciana Parish Sheriff Austin Daniel for their performances in the 2014 Acquisition and Renewal Direct Mail Campaign. Sheriff Gautreaux holds the distinction of generating the highest parish revenue in this year’s campaign, and Sheriff Daniel received the highest percentage response rate. Attorney General Buddy Caldwell presided over the installation ceremonies. The four day conference consisted of business meetings, legislative updates and training sessions.

Sheriff Waguespack and the Association’s newly elected officers and board members will serve until July 2015 and they include:

| President | Sheriff Mike Waguespack | Assumption Parish |
| First Vice President | Sheriff Mike Stone | Lincoln Parish |
| Second Vice President | Sheriff Sid Gautreaux | East Baton Rouge Parish |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Sheriff Mike Couvillon | Vermilion Parish |
| Sergeant at Arms | Sheriff Rodney Arbuckle | DeSoto Parish |
| 1st District 1st District Alternate | Sheriff Newell Normand | Jefferson Parish |
| 1st District Alternate | Sheriff Jack Strain, Jr. | St. Tammany Parish |
| 2nd District 2nd District Alternate | Sheriff Marlin Gusman | Orleans Parish |
| 3rd District 3rd District Alternate | Sheriff Mark Hebert | St. Mary Parish |
| 3rd District Alternate | Sheriff Jimmy Pohlmann | St. Bernard Parish |
| 4th District 4th District Alternate | Sheriff Ken Bailey | Claiborne Parish |
| 4th District Alternate | Sheriff Ronny Richardson | Sabine Parish |
| 5th District 5th District Alternate | Sheriff Jay Russell | Ouachita Parish |
| 5th District Alternate | Sheriff Andy Brown | Jackson Parish |
| 6th District 6th District Alternate | Sheriff Steven McCain | Grant Parish |
| 6th District Alternate | Sheriff Steven May | Caldwell Parish |
| 7th District 7th District Alternate | Sheriff Jason Ard | Livingston Parish |
| 7th District Alternate | Sheriff Randy Seal | Washington Parish |
| 8th District 8th District Alternate | Sheriff Doug Hebert | Allen Parish |
| 8th District Alternate | Sheriff Ivy Woods | Jefferson Davis Parish |
| 9th District 9th District Alternate | Sheriff Douglas Anderson | Avoyelles Parish |
| 9th District Alternate | Sheriff Nathaniel Williams | St. Helena Parish |
| Ex-Officio Member | Sheriff Tony Mancuso | Calcasieu Parish |

Sheriffs Host Successful Training Event

September 9-11, Washington Parish Sheriff Randy Seal and Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman hosted a three day jail legal issues update in New Orleans. They joined ten other Louisiana Sheriffs and a total of ninety-eight participants from five states for the training event.

Training was conducted by the National Institute for Jail Operations (NIJO), a training division of the National Sheriff’s Association. Gary DeLand, President of DeLand and Associates from Utah, and past Executive Director of the Utah Sheriffs’ Association, was the primary instructor. DeLand is considered the premier defense expert witness in jail litigation as well as the most sought after legal issues instructor in the nation. His co-instructor was Blake Hamilton, an attorney and private correctional litigation consultant from Salt Lake City.

The comprehensive training focused on constitutional jail requirements found in the 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Participants were provided not only statutory and case law relating to various jail issues but also practical advice on how to implement jail management procedures designed to help make jails defensible in the event of litigation.

Sheriff Seal stated, “This is the second year Sheriff Gusman and I have hosted a national training event and we are already planning another one for 2015. It is important that jail officials in all locations be knowledgeable about constitutional issues and how to apply them in the management of their respective jails. Our involvement with the National Sheriffs’ Association has been valuable and has enabled us to bring national training events to Louisiana. We will continue to bring quality training opportunities to our state so that Sheriffs and their staff personnel can be up-to-date on jail civil liability issues.”

The training was recognized by the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association as well as the Committee on Mandatory Legal Education, a division of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Sheriffs were able to earn continuing education credits from the Sheriff’s Association. Attorneys who were present were able to earn continuing legal education credits.

Washington Parish Sheriff’s Office Chief Deputy Mike Haley serves as a member of the NIJO Jail Training Advisory Committee. Chief Haley says that Legal Based Jail Guidelines for Louisiana Jails are being developed and should be introduced in 2015.

Additional information on national jail training initiatives is available online at www.jailtraining.org.
Sheriff Mike Waguespack
President’s Profile

by Lauren Labbé Meher

Sheriff Mike Waguespack has served as the Sheriff of Assumption Parish since 2000. Currently in his fourth term, Waguespack has become a fixture in his community, but when he graduated from LSU, even he might not have predicted his future path as Sheriff. But Waguespack’s previous business experience as a Certified Professional Accountant makes him uniquely qualified to serve Assumption Parish.

While running his accounting firm, Waguespack provided consulting work for several sheriffs, and became interested in the role of sheriff. Having built close relationships in his community through his business, Sheriff Waguespack heard the needs from the community, who wanted to see more accountability and more appropriate management of the sheriff’s office like a business. Waguespack began an 18-month grassroots campaign, literally going door-to-door to share his ideas on how he could make a contribution to Assumption Parish. Against all odds, he successfully un-seated the incumbent sheriff during the 1999 election cycle, taking office in 2000.

As sheriff, Waguespack was able to reduce personnel that handled monthly finances and budgeting by personally taking over that function, which saved the office significant dollars. During his tenure, Sheriff Waguespack has also dealt with 2-3 major hurricanes, storage cavern well leaks, an oil & gas well blowout, and of course, the infamous sinkhole. Sheriff Waguespack ensured Assumption Parish was reimbursed during these disasters and also found solutions on how to find additional funds through grants by partnering with other governmental bodies for funding programs.

Another area where Sheriff Waguespack was able to make improvements impacted the youngest members of Assumption Parish, the children. After the Columbine High School shootings, Sheriff Waguespack saw the need for more law enforcement visibility in local schools. Waguespack partnered with a grant writer to seek additional funds enabled the Assumption Parish Sheriff’s Office to bring School Resource Officers into the local schools. Since 2000, the School Resource Officer’s presence can be seen at the high school, middle schools, and even at the primary school level. Waguespack hopes this visibility will help build relationships between Assumption Parish’s youth and the sheriff’s office, and also work to deter or prevent crimes on school campuses.

In 2000, Sheriff Waguespack also created a Sheriff’s Summer Camp to help the parish’s underprivileged youth. By partnering with the school board, police jury, school resource officers, and corporate sponsors, Waguespack and community leaders were able to come together and provide this summer recreation program to approximately 400 children a year. The program provides not only structured recreation for Assumption Parish’s youth, but also an opportunity for many children to see a little bit of the world outside Assumption Parish with trips to water parks, bowling alleys and skating rinks. Many of these underprivileged children would not normally have the opportunity to experience these activities without the help of the program. More importantly, the camp strengthens relationships between law enforcement and the community’s youth, allowing children to see and know law enforcement in a positive setting. In its initial year, Waguespack evaluated local statistics and found that juvenile arrests were down 70%. Waguespack believes by reaching out and connecting with the students at a young age, the Assumption Parish Sheriff’s Office and its Sheriff’s Summer Camp partners are truly making a difference to the community’s youth.

Sheriff Waguespack is the second sheriff from the Assumption Parish Sheriff’s Office to be elected president of the LSA. During his tenure as president, Sheriff Waguespack has several goals. First, it is his mission to ensure that all sheriffs, even sheriffs from smaller parishes have an equal voice in representing their desires and needs. Second, he wants to find solutions for the many sheriffs who are facing financial challenges. Waguespack points out that Louisiana’s Sheriffs are underpaid at the per diem level for housing state prisoners. Working with the LSA, and a CPA firm, several sheriff’s offices are being audited to determine the true costs to run a prison. This information will be used to share with the legislature recent, actual, statistics supporting why Louisiana’s Sheriffs are due a per diem increase. Finally, Sheriff Waguespack wants to raise the bar with technology. He serves on the LSA’s new Technology Committee. They are working to move Louisiana’s sheriffs forward by finding ways to have real-time connectivity between law enforcement. “By using technology to share criminal reports, arrest reports, and sync all office’s databases, we can have the most recent comprehensive information at law enforcement’s fingertips to take action and solve problems faster,” Waguespack said.

In addition to serving as the LSA’s president, Sheriff Waguespack also acts as Chairman of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Finance Committee, serves on the Technology Committee, and the Risk Management Board. He also serves on the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Pension and Relief Fund’s Board of Trustees. Sheriff Waguespack plans to run for re-election in 2015, and plans to continue his work to make a difference to the community of Assumption Parish, and to our state.
Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office Opens Public Safety Complex

by Lauren Labbé Meher

On March 26, 2014, the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Dedication for their new Public Safety Complex. Over the past few years the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office has struggled with overcrowding in its downtown facility. This new safety complex will house offenders who are minimum security risks and Transitional Work Program Inmates, reserving the original downtown facility for its maximum-security inmates.

The Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office was able to pay for the $24 million Public Safety Complex through responsible Fiscal planning and through use of existing funds without any additional tax burden to the public. By developing the complex in a utilitarian style, leaving the cinder blocks unpainted, and the floors concrete, and by using inmate work crews to complete much of the detail work and landscaping, the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office was able to keep the cost of the project within budget.

The multi-building complex is comprised of four different structures situated on 29 acres with open, undeveloped space and room for growth around each building. The complex includes a Transitional Housing Facility, Secure Housing, a Warehouse (which includes laundry facilities, maintenance department, and Inmate Industries), a Training Center, and a Video Visitation Center.

Sheriff Neustrom said that although the project was completed in approximately two years, the concept began five or six years ago. From its inception the concept was that the new complex had to be durable, affordable, and expandable to accommodate future growth over the next five decades.

St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office TRIAD Program Marks its 20th Year Connecting Seniors with Law Enforcement

by Captain Megan Vizena, Public Information Officer, St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office

It was standing room only on March 19, 2014 as St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby J. Guidroz held a quarterly Triad in Arnaudville, LA. The Cajun Cadillacs, a local Cajun band, played as the senior citizens filed into the Little Flower Auditorium for the program sponsored by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Department.

Sheriff Bobby J. Guidroz said, “The St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office has been hosting Triad since 1994. Triad is a partnership of three organizations: law enforcement, senior citizens, and community groups. The sole purpose of Triad is to promote senior safety and to reduce the unwarranted fear of crime that seniors often experience.”

St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office Spokesperson Captain Megan Vizena said, “This is our 20th year of Triad events. The program is a partnership between the sheriff’s office and the community, with law enforcement able to provide advice on how seniors can protect themselves against fraud and scams. It is also an opportunity for seniors to share their concerns with officials, all while having a good time.”

During the Arnaudville event, Vizena introduced the audience to several guest speakers who spoke on a variety of topics of interest to seniors. Speakers included Trooper Stephen Hammons with State Police Troop I, St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby J. Guidroz, attorney Jason Meche who spoke about the importance of living wills and Pat Mason-Guillory with the St. Landry Parish Veteran’s Memorial project.

The program also included numerous free health screenings as well as talks by the staff of Oceans Behavioral Clinic, the physical therapy team from the John Michael Morrow Nursing Home, and presentations from several area physicians.

The program, which is free to anyone 60 and over, moves throughout the parish during the year to reach as many people as possible.
This past Spring, Sheriff Michael K. Tregre of the St. John the Baptist Sheriff’s Office completed the 105th session of the National Sheriffs’ Institute (NSI) held in Aurora, Colorado. The NSI is the only national executive development program designed for sheriffs. This no-cost program is co-sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA).

Sheriff Tregre joined 21 other sheriffs from across the country for training on contemporary challenges facing America’s sheriffs today. In light of those challenges, the sheriffs explored the role of the local sheriff in providing effective leadership for the public good in areas such as public safety, criminal justice system policy, community relations, and organization effectiveness and efficiency.

Fred G. Wilson, NSA Director of Operations said, “Sheriff Tregre is a leader with vision for the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff’s Office. It is an honor to have Sheriff Tregre join the more than 2,500 graduates of the NSI since 1973.”

The NIC is a division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons. It is the primary federal source of technical assistance, training and information services for state and local corrections. NIC provides a wide variety of services to the nation’s jails, most of which are the responsibility of the sheriffs.

The NSA is a non-profit professional association located in Alexandria, Virginia. NSA represents the nearly 3,100 elected sheriffs across the nation and has more than 20,000 members, including law enforcement professionals, state and federal government employees, concerned citizens, students, and others. Since 1940, NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for law enforcement professionals. NSA also provides management training for sheriffs and their personnel in court security, crime victim services, domestic violence, homeland security initiatives, jail operations and traffic safety. Additionally, NSA administers the highly successful Neighborhood Watch and Triad programs.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand knows that children involved in the court system, even those who are there through no fault of their own, are more likely to enter the adult prison population unless the child victims are placed in safe and permanent homes. Because of this, Sheriff Normand has remained a long-time partner with his parish’s Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates are Jefferson Parish volunteers who receive special training to assist Juvenile Court Judges regarding boys and girls in the custody of the court. Many of the children have been abused and neglected. CASA volunteers report to the court on the progress or lack thereof being made by the children, many of whom are in foster care and hoping to one day be adopted into a permanent home.

Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court Judge Barron Burmaster says children represented by a Court Appointed Special Advocate typically spend less time in foster care, are more likely to be adopted and find a loving permanent home as well as being far less likely to get in trouble with the law.

As a long-time partner with CASA, Sheriff Normand says, “The CASA volunteers do a wonderful job and often make a huge difference in the lives of the children they represent… Part of the challenge facing CASA executive directors and boards throughout the state, is that they are asked to raise the money to make their program self-sufficient. So, we encourage men and women of our communities to volunteer to become advocates and also to help CASA raise the money they need to underwrite and continue their outstanding program.”

There are CASA programs throughout our state in need of volunteers. To find out more about your local program please visit www.louisianacasa.org.
In 2008, representatives from the Natchitoches Humane Society (NHS) approached Sheriff Jones with a dream. They wanted to build a humane, no-kill dog rescue with kennels designed around the ability to quarantine dogs for possible transport across the border to Canada. NHS members proposed building that rescue on the grounds of the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center and suggested using offender labor to care for the dogs. With his characteristic ability to visualize and implement programs that are beneficial to the people of his parish, Sheriff Jones agreed to the plan.

Built with funds raised by the Natchitoches area Jaycees and donations from dozens of local supporters, the Happy Tails Rescue took in its first canine residents in March of 2009 and adoptions began. Since 2009, adoptions have taken unwanted Natchitoches Parish dogs to far away places such as Canada, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Arizona and Colorado as well as into loving homes all across the state of Louisiana.

In 2010, the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center awarded the NHS a grant. Its purpose was twofold: first, it enabled the NHS to hire a professional dog trainer, Jim Thornill of All Dogs Can, Inc., who works with the offenders and the rescues. While dogs were taught basic obedience skills, offenders also learned new skills and began to take pride in their accomplishments. Secondly, the grant funds allowed NHS to do a study on the effects of working with animals and offenders. The efforts proved successful in all ways, with more adoptable dogs made available to the public, and offenders who demonstrated improvement in levels of depression, loneliness, and self-esteem.

The program is continuing to expand to meet the needs of the community. Last year construction began on the rescue center to add a sickroom, storage room, restrooms, and “vicious dog” kennels. Funds for the addition were provided by volunteers and the NHS, while Sheriff Victor Jones continues his partnership with the NHS by providing the property and labor. Happy Tails Rescue has caught the attention of other parishes around the state and representatives of the NHS have presented the story of the rescue to numerous Louisiana residents. Through these presentations, Dr. Gary Balsamo, DVM, TM the designee Executive Director of the Governor’s Animal Welfare Commission became interested and visited the site. As a result of that visit, Dr. Balsamo states that he has made it a practice to recommend Natchitoches Humane Society’s Happy Tails Rescue as a prototype for prisons around the state.

Dogs placed in the rescue are generally selected by board members of the NHS from the foster homes of humane society members or area residents. Strays and area rescues are also allowed into the program on a case-by-case basis.

Retired Grant Parish Sheriff Leonard R. “Pop” Hataway receives Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association’s first Past Presidents Award

Since 1938, sixty-nine sheriffs have been selected by their peers to serve as President of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association. This past year, at the Association’s Annual Conference, former Grant Parish Sheriff Leonard “Pop” Hataway was awarded the first annual Past Presidents Award.

LSA’s assistant executive director, Retired Sheriff Gary Bennett said, “Hataway was chosen because of his exemplary leadership skills, and his unique ability to bring all of Louisiana’s sheriffs together, always with an eye towards moving the Association forward. To this day, Sheriff Hataway is highly respected by his peers, so it was our honor to award him our first Past Presidents Award.”

Sheriff Hataway was president of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association from 1990-1991, and served as sheriff of Grant Parish for 32 years.
SHERIFFS’ HONORARY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE

The Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Members Program brings educational and charitable public services to local communities through the generosity of its Honorary Members. Here is how membership dues are working throughout Louisiana. Thank you for your continued support.

-Sheriff Greg Champagne, Chairman-Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Membership Program
SHERIFFS’ HONORARY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC SERVICES AT LOCAL LEVEL

and charitable public services to local communities through the generosity of its Honorary Members. Here is how membership dues are working throughout Louisiana. Thank you for your continued support.

-Sheriff Greg Champagne, Chairman-Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Membership Program
The Ouachita Parish Sheriff’s Office hosted a Top Gun Steel Challenge at the Ouachita Parish Public Shooting Range to raise funds for Wounded Warriors.

“It was exciting to see competitors, volunteers and sponsors come together in support of an event for Wounded Warriors,” said Ouachita Parish Sheriff Jay Russell.

Competitors came from all over to tryout their shooting skills on five different Steel Plate Stages. The competitor who completed the stages with the lowest score using a center-fire and rim-fire handgun won the Top Gun Shooter Award. Prizes and plaques were also awarded to class and division winners.

Proceeds from contributions and fees were donated to the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Association for Wounded Warriors. The Ouachita Parish Public Shooting Range has facilities for archery, pistols and rifles plus a five-stand shotgun trap shoot. The range is free for veterans, law enforcement personnel and senior citizens in appreciation of their service to the community.

Ouachita Parish Sheriff’s Office

by Sherry Mahaffey, Ouachita Parish Sheriff’s Office

Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office

Announces New Mobile App for Citizens

by Cindy Chadwick, Public Information Officer, Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office

Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office

Establishes School Resource Officer Division

by Lt. Jennifer Duet, Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office

On behalf of the Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Jason Ard recently partnered with the Livingston Parish School Board to establish the Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office’s School Resource Officer (SRO) Division. This Division consists of 5 full-time SROs and one full time K-9.

The purpose of the division is for School Resource Officers to become more visible in Livingston Parish schools, working alongside school officials and students. The Resource Officer’s mentor students, teach law enforcement roles, and assist with any law enforcement issue within the school system. The SRO program seeks to reduce crime and delinquency as well as foster a positive relationship with students and school officials. Since this program was implemented, the SROs have taken 136 reports within the schools and the K-9 has been requested by school officials on 14 separate occasions.

Sheriff Ard says, “One School Resource Officer came upon a child being raised by a grandparent following the incarceration of her mother and the death of her father. The grandmother asked the officer for assistance with the juvenile. The SRO devoted more time to the girl and really listened. That child is now thriving in our school system. Another student was threatening to commit suicide. Our SRO was called in. He was able to calm the child enough to receive medical intervention. In each case, our SRO has had a unique opportunity to impact lives forever.”
Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office Honors Young Heroes

by Deputy Brennan Matherne, Public Information Officer, Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office

For three young boys in Thibodaux, the summer of 2014 is one they won’t soon forget. On the afternoon of Monday, July 14, three boys were riding their bikes when they noticed a car with foggy windows. They approached the car and noticed a hand-written sign saying “Help, locked in car” and “Call Police.” One of the boys immediately called 9-1-1, and a patrol deputy responded to the scene. The deputy made contact with an elderly female, Elizabeth Harris, who was trapped inside. She appeared to be disoriented and was unable to unlock the door, so the deputy shattered the passenger-side window to help Harris escape. EMT’s with Acadian Ambulance treated Harris at the scene before transporting her to a local hospital where she was later released. Harris indicated she had been in the hot car for around two hours, because the driver’s side door handle had broken off, and the power windows were not functioning.

Ms. Harris is alive today thanks to the heroic and timely actions of the three boys: Wayne Gallaway, Avery Landry, and Connor Richard. The boys along with Deputy Lashana Cooks have received numerous awards including the 911 for Kids organization’s 9-1-1 Heroes Award and Acadian Ambulance’s Meritorious Service Award. The boys were also honored with Lifesaving Awards at the Lafourche Deputies Association’s annual Lafourche Pride Awards Banquet.

Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office Sniper Teams place 2nd and 3rd in the North American Sniper Championship

by Tommy Carnline, Public Information Officer, Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office

The Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office Sniper Teams recently placed second and third in the North American Sniper Championship in Southaven, Mississippi. Hosted by the Mississippi Tactical Officers Association, the competition is open to full time Law Enforcement and Military with duties as a precision marksman or sniper.

The competition consisted of 29 events over a four days period. Competitors engaged targets from 7 yards to 525 yards with strict time limits. Major emphasis was placed on teamwork, communication, precision and knowing your equipment.

In the team competition, Captain Kevin Divers and Detective Kevin Ryan both placed second, and Deputy David Constance and Detective Clayton Webb placed third. In the Individual standing, Deputy Constance was ranked second overall, with Captain Divers placing third overall. Deputy Constance is assigned to the School Resource Officer section of the Enforcement Division. Captain Divers is assigned to the Metro Division and is Commander of the Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office SWAT Team.

The Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office has participated in this match since 2001, claiming second and third place multiple times. Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office has consistently placed in the top five teams for the past seven years.

Security Grants Enhance Water Rescue and Recovery Capabilities in St. Mary Parish

by Traci Landry, Public Information Officer, St. Mary Parish

Sheriff Mark Hebert of St. Mary Parish recently received final delivery of two F-350 pick-up trucks, two 26 foot custom built aluminum patrol boats, and diving gear all acquired through two federal grants. Using funding awarded through FEMA’s Port Security Grant and Operation Stonegarden, Hebert purchased equipment revitalizing the St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office Marine Division. The new equipment directly supports maritime transportation infrastructure security activities and allows for the enhancement of cooperative efforts with other law enforcement agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

Hebert says, “With over half the parish’s area comprised of swamp, marsh, and inland waterways, the newly upgraded Marine Division better meets the public safety and security needs of businesses and residents who use those waters for work and recreation.” St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office certified divers recently recovered several thousands of dollars in stolen property from the murky waters of a canal and also assisted a local police agency by recovering a vehicle submerged in a retention pond. In March, detectives launched the patrol boats in search of a family reported missing after their boat motor malfunctioned. The family of four was found safe and sound within hours. Hebert says, “Within just a few months, these new tools have already proven their worth. When combined with specialized training programs for our deputies, the equipment will continue to benefit St. Mary Parish well into the future.”
The Concordia Parish Sheriff’s Office held its 24th Annual Miss-Lou D.A.R.E. Youth Fishing Tournament this past September. Each year the Sheriff’s Office solicits donations from area businesses to sponsor the fishing tournament, which draws hundreds of children from both Louisiana and Mississippi.

After a morning of fishing on the parish lakes, Concordia Parish Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick, and volunteers from his department welcome the children to a small carnival where they can play games and ride horses provided by the Concordia Parish Mounted Patrol.

The fishing competition is for ages 2 through 18. Each participating child receives a tourney t-shirt, a new fishing rod, a small trophy, and a book for their age level. Sheriff Hedrick welcomes the participation of the Concordia Parish Library, who distributes books to the participants to encourage reading. Children also receive a hotdog, chips and drink sponsored by facility food vendors.

Concordia Parish Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick poses with the winners of Category 5, “Largest Bass,” at the D.A.R.E. Youth Fishing Tournament. Front row winners from left to right: Kaitlyn Levite, Saige Smith, and Lane Grace Stevens. Back Row: Concordia Parish Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick; April Craft, Concordia Bank; and Rosco Kimbro, Tournament Announcer. Photo courtesy of Concordia Parish Sheriff’s Office

Contributions from major sponsors Concordia Bank and Louisiana Hydroelectric help fund the tournament as well as expand the parish D.A.R.E. program each year. A free raffle is held for a fishing boat provided by Bryan’s Marine, and a bicycle provided by Wal-Mart. Other contributions from businesses and individuals are used to purchase trophies, t-shirts, books and other tournament expenses.

Employees of the Concordia Parish Sheriff’s Office and their families volunteer to work the registration, cook and distribute the food, man the game booths, and weigh-in fish for the contest. The tournament has four age groups with each group having several different categories from biggest single fish to best five bream. The excitement on the children’s faces as they proudly present their fish for weigh-in is a reward for both parents and volunteers. Winners receive a large trophy and get their photo in the local paper with Sheriff Hedrick. This is a very popular event each year as the tournament brings parents and kids out to the lakes and the fairground for a great day of family fun.

Concordia Parish Sheriff’s Office Hosts D.A.R.E. Youth Fishing Tournament

by Donna Jones, Fiscal Officer, Concordia Parish Sheriff’s Office

East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux graduated from the 37th session of the FBI’s National Executive Institute (NEI) at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, this past summer.

“Training is critical to our department in order to provide our services to the community every day,” Sheriff Sid Gautreaux said. “Training starts at the top, and it is imperative that I also keep up with new ideas and practices. NEI is an important element of that training and will pay dividends for our department.”

Owen Harris, the Assistant Director of the FBI’s training division, demonstrated the importance of partnering with local, state, federal and international police executives by being an active peer and student in the course.

“Having Sheriff Gautreaux was an asset to the training,” AD Harris stated. “Each student brought case examples and not only issues that each has faced, but more importantly, solutions to a variety of problems. The relationships born and developed in the NEI will last throughout the careers of each student. Teamwork is the only answer when combatting today’s crime and national security issues.”

The NEI is the FBI’s premier executive training initiative providing training for FBI executives and for the heads of the largest law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and overseas. The NEI consists of two sessions, each one week long every year. The training focuses on strategic leadership development and current affairs.

EBR Sheriff Sid Gautreaux Graduates from FBI National Executive Institute

by Casey Hicks, Public Information Officer, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office

East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux with FBI Executive Assistant Director Amy Hess, Science and Technology Branch at the National Executive Institute. Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office

12 LOUISIANA SHERIFF
His name will forever be linked to all of Tangipahoa Parish. Frank Millard Edwards Jr. passed away on April 17, 2014, at the age of 78. Edwards became Sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish in 1968. Frank M Edwards Jr. followed in his father’s footsteps becoming the third generation to serve as sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish. He was an officer in the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association, and was appointed to represent law enforcement as a delegate to the 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention. Edwards was later appointed as Assistant Commissioner of Administration for the state of Louisiana.

When Frank M. Edwards, Jr. was elected sheriff in 1968, his term was anything but quiet; handling a double murder, major moonshine raids, several major airplane crashes, the Manchac bridge disaster, and numerous serious high-level crimes.

Also during his tenure, Sheriff Edwards was responsible for bringing the sheriff’s office into the 20th century by establishing the patrol division, civil division and a detective division. In addition he established the first communications unit with trained dispatchers operating state-of-art radio equipment 24 hours a day. Sheriff Edwards served until 1980.

In 2004, his son, Daniel H. Edwards, was elected sheriff and continues in office today. He and his team of deputies have dedicated themselves to honoring his father’s legacy by continuing to bring the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff’s Office to new levels of service and accomplishments.

The Edwards family was recently recognized by the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame as one of the Northshore’s longest-serving political families. The Edwards family traces its political roots back to the late 18th century when Morgan Edwards (1750-1798) and his family settled along the northern shores of Lake Pontchartrain in what would now be the site of Mandeville. The Edwards family has also been recognized as the 2014 Louisiana Political Family of Officeholders Award recipients for generations of service to their community.

Former Sheriff Frank M. Edwards’s legacy and lasting memory will forever resonate throughout our community and especially with the sheriff’s office.

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**Bossier Parish’s Operation Blessing Food Bank Program Moves**

by Lt. Bill Davis, Public Information Officer, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office

The Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office’s Operation Blessing program recently relocated to an expanded facility. The move will allow the food bank and distribution process to run more efficiently in the expanded facility and at a more centralized location, as well as free space at the Viking Drive substation to be used for further training for deputies. Operation Blessing is facilitated by the Bossier Sheriff’s Office and operated by volunteers from the Bossier Sheriff’s Office Posse and Ladies’ Auxiliary. The program is financed without taxpayer funding, but rather by donations from businesses, organizations and individuals, and serves about 300 families monthly.
On November 1, 2014, the St. Martin Parish Sheriff’s Office instituted its Lethality Assessment Program (L.A.P.). The Lethality Assessment is a risk assessment tool that provides law enforcement with a measurement of the level of potential danger a domestic-violence victim might encounter should he or she stay in their current environment.

The L.A.P. process is deployed at the first-responder level by the Patrol Division in situations involving domestic assaults, repeat domestic disturbance occurrences, or simply when the deputy perceives that an assessment is warranted. The L.A.P. assessment involves a series of eleven situational awareness questions posed to the victim. Based upon responses to the questions, threat assessment triggers will determine the potential for imminent danger to the victim.

If a trigger is met, the deputy connects the victim by phone while on scene to a non-law-enforcement Domestic Violence Advocate. If the victim refuses to speak to the advocate, the deputy will speak to the advocate for the victim. If the victim requests to be taken to a safe place, the officer will arrange transportation.

Further, within twenty-four hours, follow-up contacts are made by designated deputies to victims whose assessments meet a L.A.P. trigger. The follow-up contact determines if the victim followed-through with the recommendations given by the Domestic Violence Advocate.

The ultimate goal of the L.A.P. program is to reduce domestic-violence occurrences by providing a system that heightens victims’ awareness of the progressive nature of such violence and gives them direct access to advocates who can provide solutions to their current situations.

It is common knowledge that a significant percentage of time in law enforcement is spent searching for things. Approximately one fourth of St. Tammany’s landmass is navigable water, making the ability to search underwater a necessity. To assist with this, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office recently purchased a Video Ray Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

The ROV is equipped with sonar, a digital video camera, underwater lights and a manipulator arm. Travelling at depths up to 1,000 feet, it simultaneously sends sonar images and a video feed to the surface, allowing deputies and investigators to narrow a large search area before putting divers in the water.

St. Tammany’s new ROV was most recently used to help locate the body of a missing person after he jumped from the Interstate 10 Twin Span bridge.

In addition to this underwater equipment, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office has also recently acquired a Phantom camera-equipped quadcopter. So far, the device has been used as a platform for aerial video to support our public affairs mission. In the process, we are evaluating its potential for law enforcement purposes. Obvious law enforcement applications involve SWAT team deployments or searches for missing persons. But there are other more creative possible uses for the device, as well. One such idea is to use it to perform inspections of our radio system’s towers. This process currently requires hiring an outside vendor to climb several hundred feet – an expensive and dangerous task. This new technology for sea and sky should assist the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office allowing law enforcement officers to be more efficient and effective.
The 38th Annual Louisiana Sheriffs’ and Wardens’ Training Conference and Exhibition was held July 27-31, 2014 in Destin, Florida. The conference included a variety of training sessions in areas such as Proactive Communications, Criminal Law, Employment Law, Legislative, and a variety of other leadership training opportunities.

*Without the support of our sponsors, this conference would not have been possible.*

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LOUISIANA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (For Non-Members Only)

It is your privilege as an Honorary Member of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Honorary Membership Program (LSHMP) to select individuals interested in promoting good law enforcement and crime prevention to also become members. Take this opportunity to pass this form along to a friend. Once completed, the form and dues should be returned to the address listed below. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATION, PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL RENEWAL NOTICE IN 2015. Members in good standing receive a membership card, a window decal, and a subscription to our newsletter The Louisiana Sheriff.

Honorary Membership Dues: ($20.00 Individual; $35.00 Family and $50.00 Business) $__________

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Name of Applicant: __________________________________________________________

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