



Chaparral

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August 2006

DPS Mutual benefits you and yours

If you're not one of the 5,235 members of the DPS Mutual Association, you should think about becoming a member. The Mutual offers membership in a life insurance fund that provides death benefits--\$10,000 for active employees and \$5,000 for retirees--to beneficiaries of deceased members. The fund's goal is to pay the beneficiary by check within 48 hours of learning of a member's death, so the beneficiary does not have the extra burden of waiting 30 days or more for insurance benefits.

All DPS and DPS Credit Union employees can join the Association by completing the necessary forms and paying a \$10 membership fee. Members also pay an occasional assessment, which is established by the Association Secretary. The assessment is the same for all members. (An evidence of insurability form is required of employees who do not join within 24 months after the date of employment.) Retirees who were members when they retired and who retired from DPS before January 24, 1990, can rejoin the Association by completing the necessary forms and paying the \$10 membership fee and all of the assessments made by the association since the date of their retirement.

All Mutual forms are available in the Accounting Office located on the 2nd floor in Building A. Please contact **Lorna Meyer** at 512-424-2061 for more specific details on Mutual membership.

Sick Leave Pool seeks time to benefit ill employees

The Sick Leave Pool continues to benefit employees of the Department who have experienced the adversity of catastrophic illness or injury and have exhausted all accrued entitlements. Employees are again asked to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Donations are accepted at any time and will be good for a period of one year from date of donation. Donations must be received prior to the discovery of the need for leave.

For additional information refer to the insert in your August pay packet or General Manual, Chapter 7, Section 06.04. Also enclosed in your August pay packet you will find an HR-36, Sick Leave Pool donation form. If you wish to contribute, please send the completed form to the Human Resources Bureau, attention Sick Leave Pool Administrator, PO Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773-0251. The HR-36 form can also be found in Outlook under Public Folders, All Public Folders, DPS Forms, HR Forms. You may e-mail this form to **Cindy Torres** in Human Resources.

Dear fellow employee,

Please join me in saying farewell to Public Safety Commissioner Carlos H. Cascos of Brownsville. Commissioner Cascos has served on the commission since he was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in February 2004. Commissioner Cascos resigned effective June 30, 2006.

Commissioner Cascos has served DPS well. I thank him for his dedicated service and staunch support of our agency.

Chairman Ernest Angelo Jr. of Midland remains on the commission. We expect that another commissioner will be appointed soon.

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Although it seems like summer just started, Texas schools will be reopening in just a few weeks. Please keep an eye out for children walking to and from school. Remember to obey the laws regarding stopping for school buses that are loading or unloading. State law requires approaching drivers to stop when a school bus is stopped and operating a visual signal (red flashing lights or a stop sign).



Awards

Two Director's Citations and three Director's Awards were presented in connection with an incident at the Trinity River in San Jacinto County. Tr. **Allen Stanton**, HP Coldspring, and Tr. **Robert Willoughby**, HP Coldspring, were among the first to arrive at the scene of a drowning in progress. Bernardo Vasquez, a Marine home on leave from Iraq, had jumped into the river to aid his uncle, who apparently was caught by a whirlpool in the river. The current pushed the uncle to the riverbank, but the young Marine disappeared from sight. Deputy Constable Denny Gallaway went into the water to assist and also was caught in the whirlpool. The Marine's mother went into the river after her son and was struggling and distraught. Troopers Stanton and Willoughby went into the water and helped the woman to safety.

The two troopers, who received Director's Citations, continued to provide support for the rescue effort and Tr. Stanton reentered the water to help two other rescuers to safety. Volunteer Fire Chief Richard Anderson, Deputy Constable Chad Whitten and San Jacinto County Deputy Dennis Bagby all risked their lives during the rescue and received Director's Awards. Anderson and Whitten both braved the dangerous currents in a valiant attempt to save the deputy constable.

Bagby, meanwhile, arrived on the scene, and as others on the shore held one end of a rope, he tied the other end around his waist and dived several times unsuccessfully looking

for the deputy constable and the Marine. Sadly, both of the victims drowned. Whitten, Anderson and Bagby were all nominated by Sgt. **David Gustafson**, HP Coldspring, for their part in the rescue effort.

Last year's hurricanes Katrina and Rita presented many challenges to DPS and the staff of the Governor's Division of Emergency Management. In little more than a month, the state of Texas met the needs of more than 400,000 evacuees from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama fleeing the destruction of Katrina, plus three million Texans who fled the Gulf Coast in advance of Rita. The massive response was coordinated through the State Operations Center under the direction of Chief **Jack Colley**, the Emergency Management State Coordinator. Chief Colley was awarded the DPS Medal of Merit for his outstanding leadership and personal commitment during the state's response to the two natural disasters.

On Nov. 2, 1979, Tr. **Claude H. Davis Jr.**, was a motorcycle trooper in Houston. As he approached 100 mph in an attempt to overtake a speeding vehicle on IH-10 in Harris County, his motorcycle developed a severe front-end wobble. The motorcycle left the roadway, flipped end-over-end and crashed into the median, where it caught fire and burned. Tr. Davis suffered numerous injuries, including severe head trauma. After four months off duty for surgery, recovery and rehabilitation, Tr. Davis was able to return to full duty. Now a senior trooper, he was awarded the Purple

Heart in Houston in June 2006.

Violent Hispanic prison gangs present a continuing threat both inside and outside the Texas prison system. Criminal Intelligence Sgt. **Enrique Muniz**, Houston, has become an expert on these gangs and he is often contacted by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies who are seeking more information about these gangs, including the Mexican Mafia, the Texas Syndicate and Los Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos. He received a Director's Citation for his work on these gangs.

Tr. **Cynthia Sparks** responded to a call for assistance concerning a medical emergency in the Capitol extension. When she arrived, she found that the man was not breathing and called for additional assistance. Tr. **Thomas Harris** arrived and the two began assessing his vital signs. Tr. Harris requested that an automatic external defibrillator (AED) be brought to the office. Cpl. **Ronald Stanfield** brought the AED to the scene and administered CPR while Troopers Harris and Sparks set up the AED. EMS personnel arrived on scene and administered two shocks to the patient, stabilizing his condition so he could be transported to the hospital. Tr. Sparks, Tr. Harris and Cpl. Stanfield received Director's Citations for their professional performance during this potentially life-threatening incident.

When driver license examiner **Frances Valle**, DL North Richland Hills, choked on a piece of a candy bar she was eating during her break, a customer quickly came to her aid. Mike Halmagean saw Valle choking

and performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging a peanut that had become stuck in her throat. Mr. Halmagean received a Director's Award for his actions.

The team of Sr. Tr. **Wayne Beighle**, HP Amarillo, and Tr. **V Dan Hawthorne**, HP Childress, placed third at the 39th annual Uniformed Safety Education Officer Workshop held in Kansas City, Kansas. Their program, "Maximum Exposure," focused on prevention and recovery techniques for the deadly one-vehicle rollover crash that kills more than 10,000 in the U.S. each year. Rollovers are also the number one killer crash in their area.

Texas also won second place in the audio public service announcement category with a song entitled "Big Truck, Little Truck," which promotes seat belt safety while in pick-

ups. In the video category, Texas won third with a video entitled "Bubba's Last Stand," produced for the "Click it or Ticket" campaign. (These public service announcements were developed by the Texas Department of Transportation and Sherry Matthews Advocacy.) Texas was the only state to place in all three categories. Next year's competition will be in Texas.

Tr. **Marc Tomerlin**, HP Denton, received an award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his contribution to DWI enforcement in Texas.

Short Shots

CIRT training scheduled

The DPS Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is an employee-based peer support program de-

signed to provide support and assistance to DPS employees and their families who are experiencing work-related or personal stress or trauma. The DPS team is also available to respond to other law enforcement agencies upon request.

The Basic CIRT Training, scheduled for December 18-20, prepares employees to understand the nature of critical incident stress and to give specialized social support and assistance to their colleagues and families specific to the law enforcement profession.

Employees who are interested in applying for the CIRT and attending the December Basic Training should contact **Estella Garcia** in the Psychological Services Bureau by e-mail at estella.garcia@txdps.state.tx.us or at 512-424-2211. CIRT members are especially needed in **Regions IV, V and VIII**.

Promotional examinations announced

The competitive examinations for the following positions will be conducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety **Criminal Law Enforcement Division Auditorium** in **Austin, Texas** as follows:

Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at 9 a.m.

Captain, Highway Patrol Service

Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Highway Patrol Division Conference Room as follows:

Wednesday, August 23, 2006, 1 p.m.

(The interview board starting time may be adjusted due to schedule conflicts.)

Candidates will be notified of any changes.)

Captain, Highway Patrol Service

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Promotional System Conference Room beginning at 8 a.m. as follows:

Thursday, August 24, 2006

Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service

The application form HR-106 should be submitted **directly to the Human Resources Bureau**. Applicants must also submit a copy of form HR-106 to their Service Commander through proper channels. **Only those candidates who are qualified will be able to compete in the written examinations.** Applications should be addressed to the Human Resources Bureau, MSC 0251, Texas Department of Public Safety, Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773, faxed to 512-424-5627, or emailed through DPS e-mail system to "Terry Preston" and **should be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, August 18, 2006.**

Announcements and application form HR-106 can be found in Outlook at Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions.

Short Shots

Region VI retirees meeting

The Region VI Retirees Association will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Sept. 16 in Knox Hall at the Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame on IH-35 in Waco. Gathering and visiting will begin at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. The meal costs \$10. All DPS retirees are invited to attend. For more information or to make reservations, contact **Danny Smith**, Retired Major, at 254-666-7084, or **Judy Faulkner** at 254-799-8963.

Speir Scholarship deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through Aug. 15. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$500 per semester for up to two semesters.

Applicants should submit resumes and transcripts of completed college work to: Director's Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110.

Mile Markers

Promotions

THP

Justin Jack Chrane, Sgt., HP Bastrop to Lt., HP Austin-HQ; **Richard Ray Nelson**, Cpl. III, HP Beaumont to Sgt., HP Wallisville.

Rangers

Aaron Christopher Grigsby, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. El Paso to Sgt. Rangers El Paso; **Jeffrey James**

Vajdos, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Bryan to Sgt., Rangers San Antonio; **Antonio Deluna**, Sgt., Criminal Intelligence Svc. Corpus Christi to Sgt., Rangers Del Rio.

CLE

Juanita Dorman Garcia, Tr. II, MVT Garland to Sgt., Criminal Intelligence Svc. El Paso; **Glenn Wayne Ewton**, Tr. II, HP Humble to Sgt., Criminal Intelligence Svc. Laredo.

Retirements

Paula Kay Dietz, Mgr., Narcotics Svc. Austin, 31 yrs., 1 mo., 28 days; **Patricia Lux Graham**, Criminalist II, Crime Lab Corpus Christi, 26 yrs., 9 mos., 20 days; **Duane Burrell**, Tr., CVE Conroe, 29 yrs, 22 days; **Roberto Cano**, Cpl., CVE Eagle Pass, 29 yrs., 22 days;

Carole Lynn Barnes, Admin Asst. II, HP Corpus Christi, 27 yrs., 5 mos., 15 days; **Marvin Floyd Sanders**, Sgt., DL Abilene, 27 yrs., 17 days; **Jimmy Dewitt White**, Specialist III, Training Academy Austin-HQ, 19 yrs., 11 mos., 2 days;

James E. Shelton, Security Officer III, HP Austin-HQ, 10 yrs., 2 mos., 23 days; **Marla Jane Meadors**, Clerk IV, CRB Austin-HQ, 7 yrs., 8 mos., 29 days; **Lawrence Eugene Roome**, Supv. PCF, Comm. Svc. Pierce, 30 yrs., 10 mos., 21 days;

Joe Ramon Villanueva, Oper. III, IMS Austin-HQ, 8 yrs., 3 mos., 15 days; **George Allen Trego**, Custodian II, HP Lufkin, 5 yrs., 6 mos.

Deaths

Howard Robuck, ret. Tr. II, HP Hurst (April 1949 – Aug. 1980) died June 15, 2006; **Richard G. Crosby**, ret. Chief, Staff Svc. Austin-HQ (Dec. 1955 – Feb. 1984) died June 15, 2006; **William Douglas Green, Sr.**, ret. Operator III, HP Harlingen (Sept. 1957 – March 1990) died June 18, 2006;

Donald L. Carr, ret. Tr. IV, HP Buffalo (Jan. 1962 – Sep. 1993) died June 22, 2006; **Gilbert H. Wyman**, ret. Tr. II, HP Groveton (Sept. 1951 – Nov. 1981) died June 23, 2006; **Harry Kieke**, ret. Photographer III, Crime Lab Austin-HQ (July 1971 – Jan. 1983) died June 23, 2006; **Odell Dancak**, former President, Texas DPS Credit Union (1960–1990) died June 21, 2006. **Marshall Dwain Morgan**, Asst. Analyst II, IMS Austin-HQ (Oct. 1960 – Sep. 1993) died June 19, 2006.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **Lucian Ebron**, HP Jourdanton, injured during a struggle with suspect;

Tr. **Ralphell Watkins**, HP Plano, injured in a vehicle crash;

Tr. **Roger Wolsey**, HP New Caney, injured apprehending a suspect;

Tr. **Steve Stone**, HP Tyler, shot by suspects March 22.