



PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Vol. I FEBRUARY 1, 1997



CONFERENCE CALLING

No, we are not trying to sell you another long-distance service or another phone option, but we are here to let you know what is going on. This is conference time for us in Park Law Enforcement.

With the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), holding their annual conference in Kansas City this past October, the Park Law Enforcement Association gathered for it's mid-year conference. Kansas City was very

hospitable, and offered a array of things to see and do over the event filled week.

Rangers and Park Police from as far as California and New Jersey sat in on a number of educational sessions dealing with Patrolling Greenways, Gangs in Parks, Mountain Bike Patrol, Controlling Bambi, Reducing Juvenile Crime, along with hundreds of other interesting sessions.

With this time of year, being somewhat

of a dead time for us in park law enforcement, it made a great time to get together. With P.L.E.A. sporting their new display booth, many gathered at or near the booth, which was manned by area Park Law Enforcement Personnel from Kansas City.

Activities and social functions were abundant, featuring such events as the fireworks display, the IMAX theater at the Kansas City Zoo, the Bat Cave, the Jazz Social Dance, the Kansas City Monarchs (one of the original Negro Baseball teams), were on hand signing autographs, the Barbeque, and a number of Kansas City Landmarks were available for tours and display.

The P.L.E.A. midyear Board of Directors was held and some of the topics was the new issue of the P.L.E.A. Newsletter, replacing the Journal. The membership survey, getting a current membership list from N.R.P.A., and accepting the state affiliation of Arizona Parks and Recreation.



**P.L.E.A. 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
RALEIGH-DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
FEB.25 - MAR. 1,1997**



EXTRA ORDINARY TRAINING FOR EXTRA ORDINARY TIMES



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Welcome!

As many of you already know, we have changed our course and approach to communicating with the members of PLEA. It is with pleasure, and admittedly slight apprehension, that I offer the first edition of the *PLEA NEWSLETTER*. We hope that this format

generates open and informative exchanges of information between members. It is our hope that as each quarterly newsletter is received, interest will grow among members to offer and seek out information relative to Park Law Enforcement. I sincerely desire your comments and suggestions on how to improve the delivery of information and encourage all of you to submit items which you believe may be of value to others.

During the past six months as PLEA's President, I have come to appreciate the value of exchanging information with Park Law Enforcement professionals from across the country. It has been to my benefit to speak with many of our members throughout the United States. At the end of each conversation, I was more informed and a little more knowledgeable than when it be-

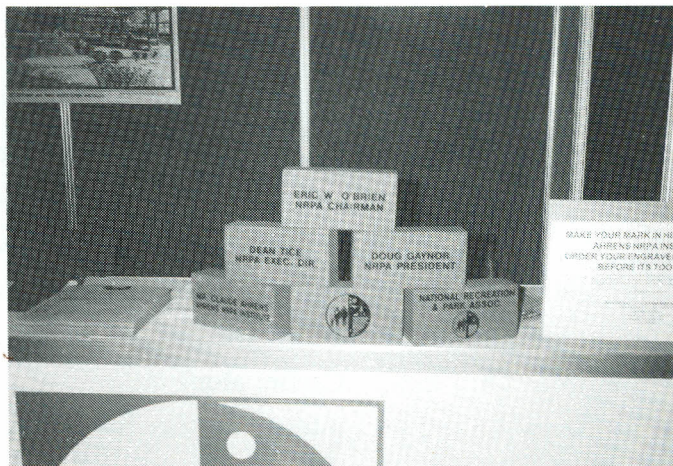
gan. I've had the pleasure of discussing issues with professionals from Arizona, Alaska, Florida and Colorado. Close ties are maintained with Board members in Kansas, California, New Mexico, Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, Minnesota and the affiliate states identified in the graphic at the beginning of this letter. These are the resources that membership provides and those we hope to draw upon to produce an informative and valuable newsletter. I urge all of you to contact or send me items and information you believe would be of interest to the membership. With your help, we can make this newsletter valuable and worthwhile.

Best Regards,
Tim Curtin, President
Park Law Enforcement Association

THE BRICK

The N.R.P.A. is having a fund-raising drive for the completion of the Ahrens National Recreation and Park Association Institute. The Building which will be located in Virginia, near the nation's capital, will be a multipurpose facility of approximately 26,000 square feet costing \$3,400,000. Open and assessable to the public, the institute will feature a visitors center, auditorium, library, resource and information center, seminar and meeting rooms, plus a model park incorporating the best of today's recreation standards. The institute will be located on an existing 120 acre park.

N.R.P.A. member Claude Ahrens, owner of Miracle Recreation Equipment, made a pledged of \$1 million dollars, and asked it's members and friends to match his commitment.



P.L.E.A., under Board approval also made a commitment and bought a Brick which will help in the finishing touches of this beautiful facility. The Brick will have our name engraved into it, and be located inside the foyer of the new headquarters. The cost of the donation was \$50.00. Thanks to all our members we will have a place in the future.

Many Thanks

Our editor for many years, R.J. Steel, has vacated the position of editor for personal reasons. He has been very influential in this organization for some time, and had to leave his position as Assistant Professor, at Southeast Missouri State University. In doing so he had to put things on hold with P.L.E.A. We will miss your work, Robert J. Steel, and wish you the best in your future endeavors. We thank you for the many loyal years as a Board Member, and Editor of P.L.E.A. !!!



COMMUNITY POLICING **A YEAR LONG EVENT**

Winter's winding down, and the holidays are behind us. Politicians have debated the issues. Football has a new super bowl champ, and the kids are looking forward to summer break. Community Policing is in full bloom throughout your community. Now, like never before is good time to review the past year, and to be setting a community policing agenda for the upcoming year.

Is your agency taking advantage of the stages that have been set for you? Are you as active in the community as you should be? Remember how many things your park and recreational facilities have to offer to the community. Get out and show the town what you got. Community Policing is your time to show off to the community, not just a time to fight crime. Crime prevention by community awareness is one of our best law enforcement tools, and what better way to reach these people than at one of a number community events held year round.

This past year alone, our agency took part in three community parades, had a booth at the county fair, gave a couple talks to some scout groups, hosted the Young Hunters Safety Clinic, sponsored a couple of fishing clinics, and talked to hundreds of civic groups. You may ask, what does all of this have to do with

community policing as we know it. The media has led us to believe that community policing are cops walking a beat, going door to door reassuring residents everything is all right, while they deal with criminals off their bikes instead of a patrol car.

To an extent that is community policing, but only the tip of the iceberg. As my good friend, Ralph Hays, Chief Ranger Johnson County Parks, and past-President of the National P.L.E.A. once explained, "Park Law Enforcement Officers have been the Founding Fathers of community policing for years, we have been practicing public relation skills for law enforcement long before city and county policing agencies came up with the fancy term Community Policing."

Park Law Enforcement should be credited for the years of community policing procedures that they have been practicing. There is a lot more to just being more visible while on patrol. Greeting people and explaining what you do every day are also a big part of community policing. Being informative, knowing all the right answers, whether it's directions, or the price of a certain fee are also important. Getting out into the community and inviting people to your

park or recreational facility can be rewarding in many ways.

In-service training should include people skills and communication techniques for any agency or staff who deal with the public every day. We all know that anyone individual who works with us can jeopardize everything that you have been working so hard for. Park patrons form opinion about that one contact they just had with your staff, and they feel that your department is either a class act, or something much less. That one contact that the park patron had with your staff could make or break your agency's reputation.

Whether you participate in all the community events, or just a few, now is the time to look at the budgets and set time aside for next years events. We all know that community policing brings in some positive results. It's just a matter of practicing the technique's year long.

Registration Form

Name _____

Occupation/Title _____

Agency _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Work Phone # _____

Work Fax # _____

Payment Preference (check one):

- ☐ PLEA member - \$200 check enclosed
- ☐ Non-PLA member - \$225 check enclosed
- ☐ PLEA member - \$200 pay at conference
- ☐ Non-PLA member - \$225 pay at conference

Make checks payable to:

1997 PLEA Workshop

Guests accompanying you, not registered for conference:

Spouse _____

Number of Children _____

Significant Other _____

☐ No. of guests other than you attending Thursday luncheon: (additional \$15 each, payable at Reg.)

☐ No. of guests other than you attending Friday night Banquet* (additional \$22 each, payable at Reg.)

☐ No. of guests other than you attending Friday bus tour: (no additional charge)

Sgt. John R. Byrd Sr. is the conference coordinator and will be handling registrations and can be reached at (919) 560-4355 or at pager 1-800-921-6681 or FAX (919) 560-4021

Calender Of Events

Feb. 25- Mar. 1 1997 / 18th Annual Conference - Raleigh-Durham, NC
Oct. 1998 / N.R.P.A. Annual Conference - Salt Lake City, Utah Feb
Feb. / 19th Annual Conference - Florida



WE NEED YOUR HELP!! SEND STORES OR ARTICLES

TO: CHIEF STEVE WYANDOTTE COUNTY PARKS 3488 WEST DRIVE KANSAS CITY KS, 66109



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