

# P.L.E.A. EXPLORER

VOLUME 4

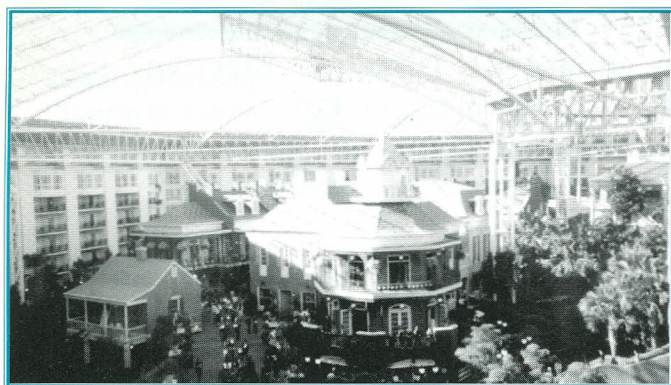
SPRING 2000

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## PLEA VISITS MUSIC CITY- NASHVILLE 2000



*Beautiful Opryland Hotel*

The Park Law Enforcement Association held their mid-year Board of Directors meeting in conjunction with the National Recreation and Park Association 1999 Congress, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The conference was held at the Opryland Hotel. This was a beautiful facility, with three domed courtyards, shopping facilities, and several dining establishments to choose from. You could spend a week at Opryland alone and not see all there was to see.



*Another view of the domed courtyards at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.*

There were many distractions during the training sessions, being located inside Opryland and all, but it seemed as though every session was full, and many attendees left there exploring till after sessions were through in the early evening hours.

PLEA had several training topics offered during the congress, that included; Noise Pollution in your Parks - First Amendments Rights; A Park Ranger Program - Walk Before You Run; When you least expect it - Violence Happens to You; Background Checks on Child Service Workers, and The Park Districts as the lessor, just to name a few. The topics were well received and as usual, and the PLEA training sessions had large crowds attending all the sessions.



*Captain Bill Jacobs of the Minneapolis Park Police volunteers his knowledge in one of the P.L.E.A. training seminars where he spoke about First Amendment Rights in our parks.*

*(continued inside)*



## *More from Nashville!*

There were also several social events that provided attendees with some great entertainment. There was a fireworks display and an early Millennium Celebration. Attendees were also offered a free concert featuring Wynonna Judd, who came in town for this very special private show for all attendees. Also a spectacular show at the Grand Old Opry was offered at the opening general session. One thing this conference did not lack, were entertaining and fun things to do in the evening hours.

Our host agency was the Metropolitan Nashville Park Police. They were well represented throughout the conference as the law enforcement for the delegation along with the Tennessee State Park Rangers. Both organizations presented themselves as very professional, courteous, and helpful. A special thanks goes to Chief Ranger T. Shane Petty, Tennessee State Park Rangers, and Lieutenant John Copeland, Metropolitan Nashville Park Police, for their support throughout the conference.

Another note was the excitement that the Tennessee Titans, the National Football League team, had brought to the region. You could sense the energy in the air, and most of the attendees at the conference were now converted Titan Fans throughout the rest of the football season.

At the Board of Directors Meeting, reports showed membership growing, but renewals are slow. Second mailing of the membership to remind PLEA members was voted upon. Training Sessions for 2000 were configured, and the 21st Annual PLEA Conference in March was finalized. State Affiliations and the Scholarship fund was discussed.

*Music City  
entertained PLEA,  
while PLEA  
accomplished a lot.*



*Park Ranger-John Perry Thanks to all from Nashville who  
hosted us! Great Event!*



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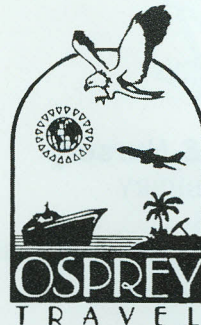


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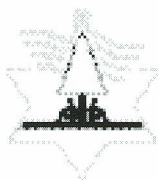
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**Details to be announced.**



## *Friends of Warner Park*



Cammie Citybrook explaining the ParkWatch Program and the Mounted Unit.

During our visit to Nashville a volunteer group and their Park Watch Program enlightened us. The group called themselves Friends of Warner Park. This volunteer group was represented by dozens of individuals that are active in Warner Park. By volunteering their time to this organization they help Park Rangers monitor activities in the park. The park consist of everything from beautiful landscaping to a golf course, trails, a Nature Center, historical buildings, and an equestrian facility for horse competition and training. Friends of Warner Park use radios and cell phones, to communicate to Park Rangers about unusual occurrences in the park, and to report suspicious individuals. This group is very busy in the community and in the parks. They educate park patrons regularly about the wildlife and the environment that they help patrol. They also are involved first-hand in some maintenance items in their park. Picking up trash and cleaning up is a regular occurrence. The planting and restoration of many trees and plants are of a rare commodity that is cherished by the park district.

One area of interest to many of us in the park law enforcement field was the supplemental funding that this volunteer group had come up with to help the Park Ranger Program. Many of our volunteer groups across the world do a great job of fund raising for our parks, but this group was committed to the enhancement of the Warner Park Rangers. The Park Ranger Program, consisting of the Metropolitan Nashville Park Police, who are assigned to the Park Ranger

*Not Just an Ordinary  
Park Volunteer Group!  
“It was exhilarating to see  
a community support their  
park law enforcement the  
way this outfit did.”*

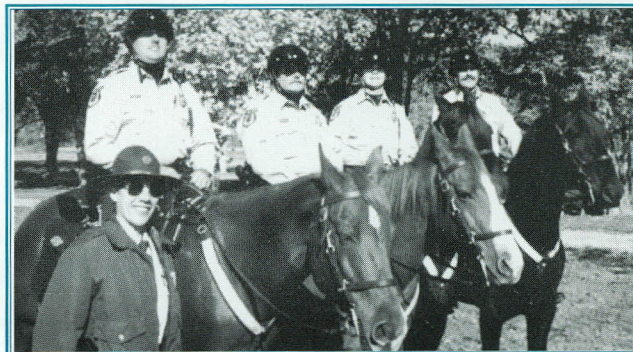
Patrol, are very professional and consequently dressed very well. Their Mounted Patrol Unit is an eye catcher for any that see it. The Friends of Warner Park actually helped purchase some equipment and uniforms needed for this mounted unit. They also played an active role in creating the law enforcement patch on the Rangers uniformed shoulders.

It was exhilarating to see a community support their park law enforcement the way this outfit did. I hope that others will follow suit, because it was obvious that there was a good marriage here between the Friends of Warner Park and the Park Rangers.

### *Great Job Nashville!*

The Friends of Warner Park can be contacted  
at (615) 370 - 8053.

Their website address is  
[www.nashville.org/parks/warnerpark/friends.html](http://www.nashville.org/parks/warnerpark/friends.html)



Park Ranger Jane Polansky & the Mounted Park Patrol- Mike Harris, George Mitchell, John Perry, Tom Harbison



# Message from the President

I would like to take this time to thank those that have supported me during my tenure. Yes, it is come to an end. A fresh newsletter, our website, an administrative service to help with the membership, and a new outlook for the future are just a few of the accomplishments I am proud of during my presidency. The tools are in place for the building and continuation of PLEA for many years. This is truly the finest organization that I have ever been associated with. The many friends that I have met along the way are too numerous to mention, but I would like to thank a few of them.

I would like to thank Chief Ralph Hays for his inspiration and intuition for which my role at PLEA would someday be. I would like to acknowledge Chief Rick Greer for the leadership and encouragement that he bestowed upon me. Also, Chief Tim Curtin for the motivation that he gave me to succeed.

As you can imagine, it takes a team effort to accomplish the many things that PLEA did over the past few years, and that came from Chief Norm Lapera, Captain Stuart Foland, Commander Larry Brownlee, Dr. Bruce Wicks, Captain Bill Jacobs, Chief Steve Thomas, Sergeant John Byrd, Captain Carl Nielsen, Nate Pinkard, Sergeant Dale Reatherford, Bill Runnoe, R.J. Steele, Daniel Crone, Alan Stark, Tim Nagle, and the late Newell Rand. Many thanks to all of you for your help and support.

There are two people that I have to mention, and that would be my beautiful wife Traci, who I am proud to say has been at the last seven PLEA conference's, and my daughter Natasha, who believes her dad is the best park ranger in the world. Without their support and understanding none of this could have been possible.

Last but not least I would like to thank my boss, Director of Parks and Recreation, Mike Connor, for the time it took, the support, and financial backing that it takes for an agency the size of ours, to commit



*Chief Ranger Steve Pokrywka with wife Traci and their daughter Natasha.*

and support PLEA. To the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, thanks for being an advocate in my belief that, "Being a Great Community Starts with Your Parks."

Where do I go from here? Like many of my predecessors, I become a member of the Ex-Presidents Club. It really is not as bad as it sounds. None of us are using walkers yet, and some of us still have hair on our heads. There is a lot of work involved in being the president of PLEA, and I will be glad to pass the torch for fresher ideas. It has been a blast. While I will still be sitting on the Board of Directors, with the other Ex's, we play an active role into the progress of PLEA for many years to come. Promoting PLEA and developing the educational sessions presented at our conferences, are just a few of the things I will be doing with the others. Of course, I will have some more time to spend on my real job as the Chief Ranger in Kansas City, and my boss will appreciate that. Now with all the wheels in place, I look forward to the new Officers of PLEA and their direction of travel.

*Thanks and continue on troops!...*



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