

PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Serving the Park Law Enforcement Community for over 26 Years

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE TO PLEA

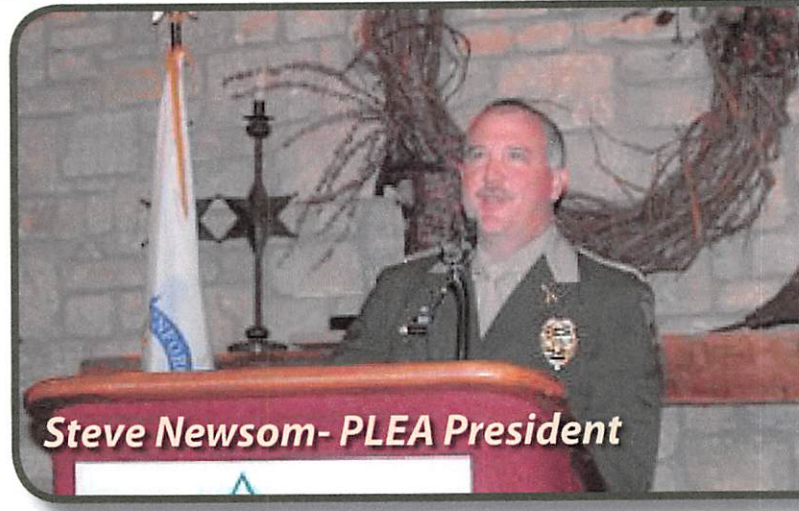
by Steve Newsom, Incoming PLEA President

Hello PLEA members and Park Law Enforcement Professionals, First I want to pass along a huge thank you to the Florida Staff for putting on a great conference this past February! The training sessions were excellent and very informative for our members. The lead speaker Lieutenant Colonel Danny McKnight was extremely motivating and inspirational, and a credit to this great country. The hospitality shown to the delegates couldn't have been better. We all made a few new friends and learned a lot from each other. So hats off to Captain Carl Nielsen and his staff for taking on this challenge and making it a big success!

As your new president it is truly an honor to be part of this organization and follow in the footsteps of the previous presidents. I would like to thank outgoing President Larry Brownlee for his work over the past two years and I hope we will continue to grow during the next two years. As a new president and board, we need to increase membership and participation in our organization and conferences. It is paramount that we use the great 2006 conference as a springboard to a bigger and better future. We need to increase sponsorship by educating businesses we serve from coast to coast about who we are and what we do.

Collectively through PLEA membership, park law enforcement can create a large amount of interest for both our sponsors and our organization. Together we are stronger, as a unified voice of many individuals across the nation, sharing similar interests and goals in park law enforcement. As a national group we must reach out to one another, share experiences and knowledge, to improve our organization and profession together.

If you are a park law enforcement professional but not a member of PLEA, please e-mail me or another board member and let us know why you haven't joined. Tell



us what would entice you to join the PLEA organization and what we can do to attract your interest and support to attend one of our great conferences. We need to hear from everyone reading this in order to grow as a group and be a unified voice in both the law enforcement and the park and recreational communities.

My closing request for now is please join us, in membership and in attendance at meetings. If we increase our numbers we can do bigger and better things. If you are a current member, past member, or park law enforcement professional please pass the word along. Try our chat room to share experiences as we need your support to continue this important form of communication between one another. And make plans now to attend the June 2007 conference in Chicago. By moving it to June we will get the most out of our visit to the "Windy City". Remember the PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION needs you and we all need each other. Come join us now!

Steve Newsom

28th Annual PLEA Conference

June 6-8th, 2007

Chicago 2007

recently voted the Third Best City to Visit!



Banquet

Three hour dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago on Lake Michigan with buffet, entertainment and four hour open bar.

www.spiritofchicago.com

Featured Speaker

Gordon Graham-Why Things Go Right, Why Things Go Wrong. Nationally renown law enforcement speaker.

www.gordongraham.com

Rooms

Standard rooms will be 102.00 plus tax. Group code for on-line reservations is FPDD or mention the PLEA Conference over the phone.

www.lisle.hyatt.com

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**Tour Chicago, Enjoy Additional Training,
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For more information contact Rick Haake: 630.871.6417

The 11th Annual Mounted Patrol Clinic and Competition

hosted by Three Rivers Park District Police

Clinic Date: September 14 - 17

Registration: 2 - 8 PM on September 13, 2006

COURSE CONTENT:

Horsemanship
Crowd Control
Search and Rescue
Obstacle Training
Equitation Competition
Team Competition
Wilderness Survival
Selecting a Mounted Patrol Horse
Setting Up a Horse-Friendly Facility

FEATURED GUEST INSTRUCTORS:

Officer Roger Grant, New Orleans PD Mounted Trainer
Officer Mike Claire, Nassau County, New York Mounted Trainer
Ken Kaip, Musical Ride Instructor, RCMP

Rider Participation \$220

Competition Only \$175 (Sat-Sun)

Audit \$30 per day or \$55 full clinic

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mary Hamilton
Three Rivers Park District Police
4301 County Road 24
Maple Plain, MN 55359
763/694-2000 ext. 5734

This training and competition is hosted by some of the country's most outstanding trainers. If you are in the area, or even if you are not, you can't find any training, any where, any better.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL PDF INCLUDING REGISTRATION](#)

Visit our New Discussion Board on www.parkranger.com

A great place to exchange information, post jobs, resumes, and network with other law enforcement professionals.

PLEA would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors and encourage our members to patronize these Fine Companies that stand behind us and support the Park Law Enforcement community!



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ILLINOIS PLEA NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



I have been in the Park Law Enforcement community for over 20 years. Within those years I have, as I am sure many of you have, seen some interesting changes. We first had to prove ourselves as professional law enforcement departments. Then the law enforcement community heard those words "Community Policing" and we realized that this type of law enforcement is what we had been doing all along. Now, in these times of economical uncertainty and budget constraints, some of us are being faced with the question "Are they needed?" "Is it cheaper to outsource?". In fact, my prediction is that if you haven't heard this yet, you will. The answers to those questions are

easy to come up with but getting the message to our administrators, boards and stakeholders can sometimes be a problem.

All of us must be ambassadors for not only our own departments but also the Park Law Enforcement community as a whole. Training and networking could help us all in getting the message to the people that we need to. At one of our last meetings the question was brought up as to why we don't offer more training that everyone can benefit from. I have pondered this question from then to still today. It's a great question! My question is, how do we schedule and plan training that people will attend? I challenge all of you to help me in answering this question. Lets do more training, lets make every training session that we do the highest quality possible, lets network and interact with each other to make all of our site users, officers, parks, sites and facilities the safest that they can be. The only way we can do this is as a group. I challenge each member to go out and get two new people to become members, encourage them to be involved with our organization. The more input we have from our members the more things we can get accomplished. I challenge every Park Law Enforcement Agency in this state in becoming an agency member. This is how we can make progress.

I am very proud of being affiliated with this young organization and am looking forward to seeing us make some tremendous forward movement in the next year.

In closing as we are well into spring and as we enter summer everyone please be safe and let's make our parks the safest and the most enjoyable we can for every park visitor we encounter.

Sincerely,
Jeff Diedrick
Chief of Police
McHenry County Conservation District

2007 IPLEA WINTER RETREAT

The 2007 IPLEA Winter Retreat will be held at the beautiful Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena Illinois, The retreat will begin January 7th, 2007 with a general membership meeting at the resort. More information will follow. Please check our website at www.iplea.org, updates will be posted as we get them.

THE 2007 PLEA CONFERENCE

The Illinois Park Law Enforcement Association will be hosting the 2007 PLEA conference in Chicago in June of 2007. We are looking for agencies to volunteer resources to this project. We also are in need of sponsors. This is a great opportunity for Illinois Park Law Enforcement to interact with other agencies from all across the nation right here in our own back yard. Please contact Rick Haake at DuPage County Forest Preserve District with any of the above-mentioned items or questions. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PARK POLICE PLACE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The Crystal Lake Park District Police Department was recently named a winner in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Safety Challenge Program. The Crystal Lake Park District Police received 3rd place at the National Level in the Special Enforcement Division. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) judged the Park District Police program at the state level first. At the state level the Park Police placed 1st in the special police division and 2nd place for Rookie of the Year. The rookie of the year award is for agencies that apply for the award for the first time regardless of agency size. The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sized and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information, and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.

This program is financed through a grant awarded to the IACP by the National Highway and Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA). IACP and NHTSA believe an increase in traffic enforcement in a community results in a decrease in motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities. In fact, no single other program, or strategy, works as well as law enforcement in making the roads safer. This program complements all the other training and public information programs that NHTSA does to promote traffic safety.

A panel of three judges reviews each application and assigns points based on the criteria. After the judging, the three scores are averaged and a final score is assigned. After all of the applications are scored, the agencies are ranked in their categories. All judges are independent members of the law enforcement community, public safety and corporate partners who have demonstrated advance knowledge of highway safety initiatives.

Congratulations to Chief Ron Lyons and his officers for a job well done.

2006 WINTER RETREAT

The 2006 Winter Retreat was held on January 8th and 9th at the La Quinta Inn in Peru Illinois. Attorney Steve Kleinman (PDRMA) JD, PDRMA General Counsel, presented an informative training session. The training session presented was "Common Hiring, Discipline, and firing Myths, Misperceptions, and Pitfalls".

2006 IPLEA SPRING WORKSHOP

The 2006 IPLEA Spring workshop was hosted by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) Police Department on April 10, 2006. The Workshop training was conducted after the April IPLEA Board meeting at the FPDDC Headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois. Seventeen park law enforcement professionals from eight different agencies attended the training session and contributed to the workshops success. FPDDC Master Firearms Instructor Tony Jaconetti conducted the training entitled "The Value of the Rifle Carbine in the Law Enforcement Setting." The comprehensive training session summarized the FPDDC



Police Department's development of its rifle program and was very informative for all of the attendees that were in various stages of rifle program development. A thorough hand-out was distributed to all of the attendees that contained valuable rifle program information including: budget and equipment data, training requirements, policy development, ballistic and statistic information, ways to obtain equipment, and legal and law enforcement information. Workshop attendees were also able to peruse several tables displaying numerous weapons used in law enforcement, military, and criminal scenes.

**PLEASE VISIT THE ILLINOIS PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT
ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT:**

www.iplea.org

2006 IPLEA FALL CONFERENCE

AGENDA

SUNDAY 09/10/2006

1600 Hotel Check-In/Hospitality Room
1700 Early Registration @ Ramada Plaza Hotel Rockford, IL
1900 IPLEA Board Meeting

MONDAY 09/11/2006

0800-0900 Registration/Coffee
0900-1000 PDRMA – Reducing Your Risks
Break
1015-1130 Train The Trainer- Internal Training
Lunch (On your own)
1300 Meet at Hotel (Van ride to Museums)
1330-1600 Burpee/Riverfront Museum Tour (Jane the Dinosaur)
1800-End Steak Dinner Cookout/Raffle (Indoor Sports Center and Lounge)
Transportation provided from hotel and back.

TUESDAY 09/12/2006

0800-0900 Coffee
0900-1030 Legal Smorgasbord- Attorney Dan Gilbert
Break
1045-1200 Legal Smorgasbord- Attorney Dan Gilbert
Lunch (On your own)
1330-1430 Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes
Break
1445-1600 Canines in the Parks
1800-2000 Dinner/Awards Banquet- Senator Syverson- Keynote Speaker

WEDNESDAY 09/13/2006

0800-0900 Coffee
0900-1100 Information Exchange
1100-1200 Closing Remarks/Certificates

KANSAS PLEA NEWS

KPLEA SESSIONS AT 2007 KRPA CONFERENCE

KRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Capitol Plaza Hotel
Topeka, Kansas

PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT SESSIONS

Wednesday - January 17, 2007

8:00am-Noon

"Criminal Street Gangs MS 13"

Wednesday - January 17, 2007

1:00-5:00pm

"Eye Accessing"

Thursday - January 18, 2007

8:00am-Noon

"Drug Trafficking and the Spiritual World"

Thursday - January 18, 2007

1:00-5:00pm

"Current Drug Trends"

PLEA needs your help! Visit our discussion board at www.parkranger.com and contribute your ideas and experience. We want to know how you think PLEA can grow as an organisation and how we can best fulfill our mission of helping the park law enforcement community. There is a forum topic set up for this, so please contribute and let us know how you think PLEA can add value to its members and continue to fulfill our mission.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SUMMER 2006

by Mike Burko

Introduced/Pending:

S 2629 Anti-Gun Trafficking Penalties Enhancement Act

Sponsor: Senator Schumer (D-NY)

A bill to improve the tracking of stolen firearms and firearms used in a crime, to allow more frequent inspections of gun dealers to ensure compliance with Federal gun law, to enhance the penalties for gun trafficking, and for other purposes.

S 2831 Free Flow of Information Act of 2006

Sponsor: Senator Lugar (R-IN)

A bill to guarantee the free flow of information to the public through a free and active press while protecting the right of the public to effective law enforcement and the fair administration of justice. The bill would provide added protection to journalist's sources.

HR 4709 Law Enforcement and Phone Privacy Protection Act

Sponsor: Rep Smith (R-TX)

A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections for law enforcement officers and the public by providing criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or unauthorized disclosure of phone records.

Judicial: U.S. Supreme Court-Garcetti v. Ceballos

05/30/06 Case # 04-473

When public employees make statements pursuant to their official duties, they are not speaking as citizens for First Amendment purposes, and the Constitution does not insulate their communications from employer discipline.

7 PLEA SESSIONS APPROVED FOR 2006 NRPA CONGRESS IN SEATTLE

1) National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - Safer Parks Through Partnerships.

Md National Capital, Foxwell

2) Countering Civil Unrest.

Md National Capital, Brownlee/Foxwell

3) The Bioterrorist Threat - Is it a Real Possibility?

Foland/Jaax

4) Developing and Implementing Disaster Plans.

Haake/Mefferd

5) Deadly Discoveries, Developing Safety Programs for Meth Trash.

Frigon/DeHoux

6) Who's Using the Forest, Hikers, Bikers, Growers and Cookers.

Hughes (U of Arkansas)/Robinson (USFS)

7) Introduction to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Zvanovec/Grime (Toledo Metroparks)

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PLEA Calendar of Events

October 10-14

2006 NRPA Congress and Exposition - Seattle, WA

PLEA Mid-Year Meeting - TBA (Will meet during NRPA Congress)

June 6-8

2007 28th Annual PLEA Conference in Chicago

For room information- www.hyatt.lisle.com

Banquet, speakers, workshops, training, fellowship, spouse activities.

See page 2 for details.

Become a PLEA Member!

Just fill out this application and send it in with your check, money order, or credit card number! You'll be supporting this newsletter, the conferences and our mission to serve our parks and the public in the best possible way by sharing information and resources within the park law enforcement community.

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\$25.00 Individual PLEA Members \$100.00 Agency Membership