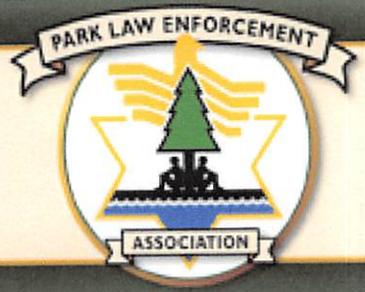


PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Serving the Park Law Enforcement Community for over 26 Years

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE TO PLEA

by Steve Newsom, PLEA President

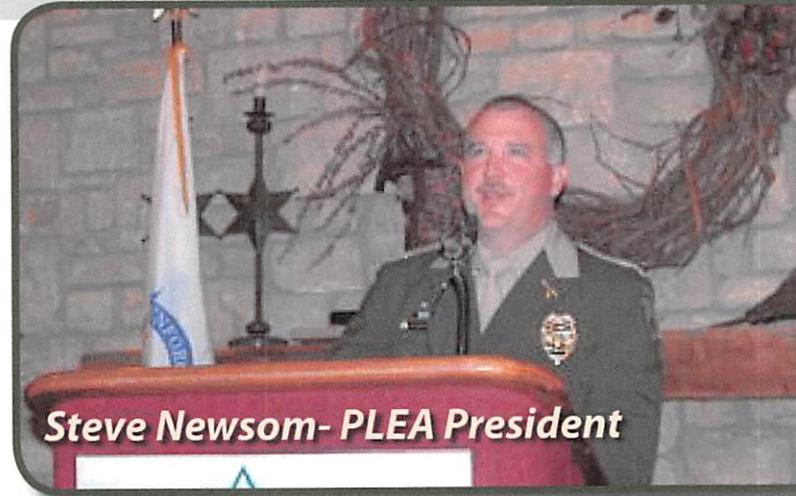
Greetings, PLEA Members and Park Law Enforcement Professionals.

Since the Florida conference, we have been busy with many issues. I'm pleased to announce that P.L.E.A. now has an Executive Director. Captain Carl Nielsen from Florida received the unanimous vote of the board for this position and he's already working hard on advancing P.L.E.A. throughout the United States. Captain Nielsen and I attended the P.L.E.A. conference this past September in Illinois. It was a great conference thanks to the efforts of Jeff Dietrich, President of the Illinois P.L.E.A. Association, who spear-headed the conference. It was great to see that the P.L.E.A. National Chapter was able to reach out to one of our state affiliates.

Blake Frigon has resigned his position as Treasurer of P.L.E.A. He has also resigned his position with the Johnson County Park District in Kansas and has moved on to the private sector. This move will enable Blake to work regular hours and spend more time with his family. I would like to thank him for his enthusiasm and dedication to P.L.E.A. We will miss him, but wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. As of this writing, a new Treasurer has not yet been assigned.

The Board met during the annual N.R.P.A. Conference in Seattle this past October. P.L.E.A. members present included Stuart Foland, Fred McCormick, Bill Jacobs, Rick Hakke, Tom Wakolbinger, Josh Dehoux, myself, and Carl Nielsen, via telephone. As always, this annual conference was very beneficial and I encourage all of you to make an effort to attend it. Some excellent ideas are always discussed and valuable information gained from the network of people involved with the conference. One of our goals is to provide, to park administrators, insight into the changing role of park law enforcement officers and how those changes are being met. The annual conferences provide excellent opportunities and resources to assist with our endeavors.

P.L.E.A. is on the move and we need the assistance of all park law enforcement professionals. If you use any of the products or services of the companies that sponsor our website and our organization during the annual conferences, we need to know. The companies listed on our website



Steve Newsom- PLEA President

include Polaris, Glock, Smith & Wesson Flashlights, Whelen, CMI, Inc., Stalker, 5.11 Tactical Gear, Lasermax, Harley Davidson Motorcycles, M/A-Com, and Budweiser. Please let us know if you have purchased items offered by these companies, or used any of their services during 2005 or 2006. We hope to expand our pool of sponsors and ultimately offer more to our members. We want to approach prospective sponsors with positive information on the benefits of sponsoring an organization like P.L.E.A. This information can be forwarded to me via email at snewsom@greatparks.org.

In closing, we would like to thank you for visiting our website and we encourage you to join this great organization. Your input and suggestions on what P.L.E.A. can offer to its members are always welcome. It seems that where budgets are concerned, an agency is likely to make its first cuts in their law enforcement divisions. The knowledge we bring back to our administrators from our conferences will, hopefully, have positive impacts on their decisions. We all know that successful parks, preserves and natural areas need us now more than ever.

Keep up the good work and be safe.

Steve Newsom

28th Annual PLEA Conference

June 6-8th, 2007

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PLEA MEMBERS MEET IN SEATTLE AT NRPA

by Stuart Foland, PLEA Editor

On October 10-14 members of the Park Law Enforcement Association and other important dignitaries that PLEA contacted to speak at the sponsored sessions met at the National Park and Recreation Congress and Exposition Annual Conference in beautiful downtown Seattle, Washington. Most of the educational sessions were held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

Downtown Seattle is a diverse community encompassed by large bodies of water meandering around the metro area such as Puget Sound, Green Lake, Lake Union, Lake Washington with the Space Needle lining the landscape. There are many historical districts and major touring opportunities in and around the region such as Mount Rainer to Bill Gates home, but PLEA members were here to learn something new, network with other members, recreational professionals, etc., and to attend the PLEA Mid-Year Board Meeting. The Board accomplished many things at this meeting, including the goals for the upcoming year.



Also, I want to mention that next year's annual PLEA conference will be held in Lisle, Illinois, June 5-8, 2007, hosted by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. For more information, please refer to the PLEA website at www.parkranger.com. We hope to see everyone there!

continued



The first PLEA sponsored session began on Tuesday, October 10 and we were fortunate to have Thomas Mefferd, Director, DuPage County Office of Homeland Security back again for the second consecutive time at the conference, basically for a Part II presentation on this very important topic titled "Developing and Implementing Disaster Plans". This session was well attended and the emphasis of this session was that agencies need to review their existing disaster plans and/or developing an integrated crisis manual for those who do not have current procedure in place in the event of a disaster. Mr. Mefferd did a wonderful job and was very well received by all that attended.

On Thursday, October 12 PLEA was honored to have Dr. Jerry Jaax, Associate Vice Provost For Research Compliance and University Veterinarian at Kansas State University present on the topic of "The Bioterrorist Threat: Is It a Real Possibility". Dr. Jaax is not only known nationally on this topic, but internationally as well and has given hundreds of presentations on this related topic. Dr. Jaax described the basic issues associated with bioterrorist threats, recognizing the potential catastrophic effects upon major segments of local, regional and national levels. Emergency preparedness and general response to a bioterrorist threat was also discussed.

Thanks Dr. Jaax for coming to Seattle!



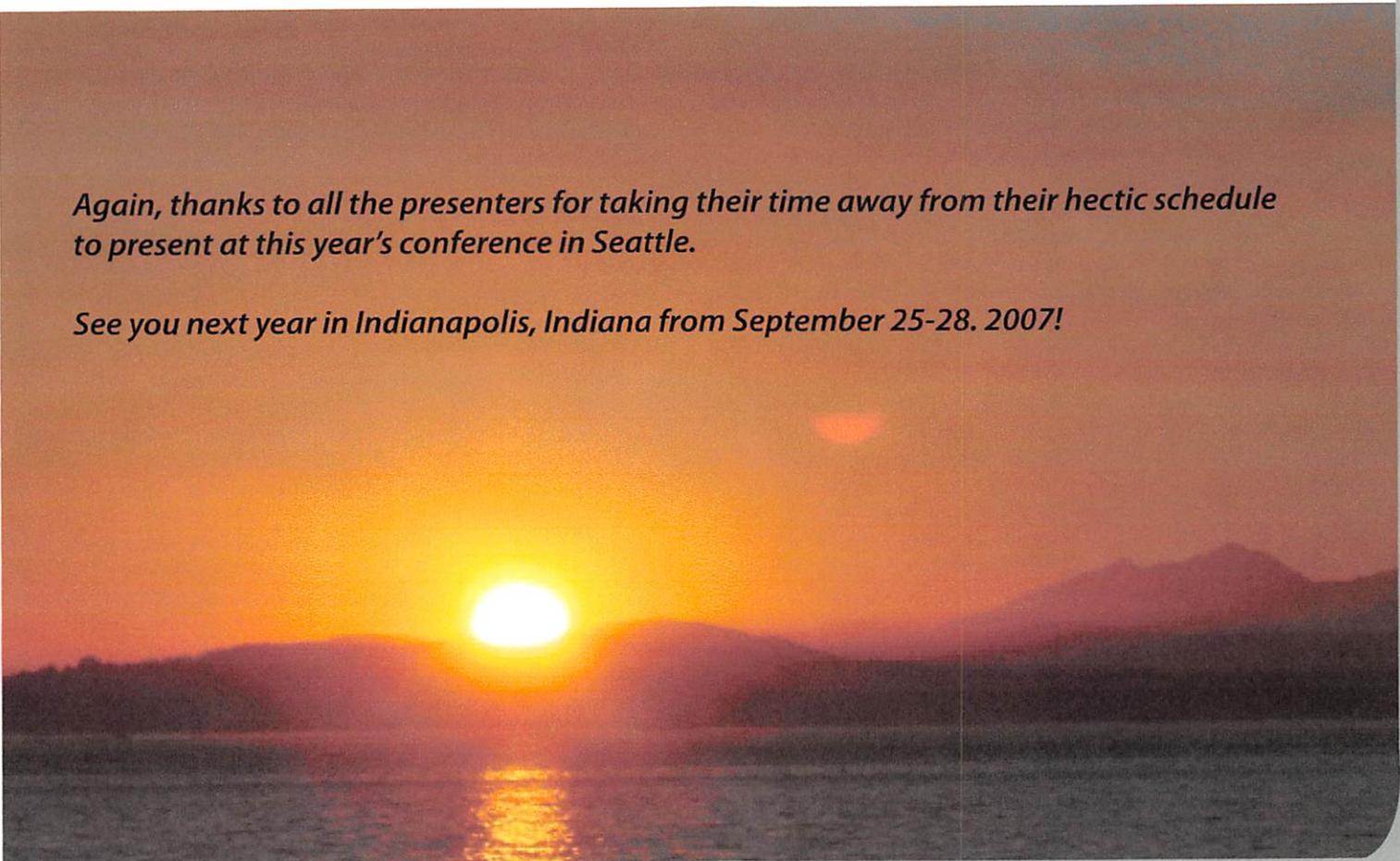
On Friday, October 13 PLEA was excited to have Officer Josh DeHoux with the Johnson County Park Police Department in Shawnee Mission, Kansas present on the topic of "Deadly Discoveries: Developing Safety Programs for Meth Trash". Officer DeHoux talked about components of Methamphetamine labs and what park workers should be looking for to reduce/eliminate risks or contact with materials associated with the hazards of Meth labs. Officer DeHoux also discussed how to develop and implement a meth recognition training program within their respective agency which require meetings with individual park and facility managers.

I would like to congratulate Officer DeHoux on a job well done!



Again, thanks to all the presenters for taking their time away from their hectic schedule to present at this year's conference in Seattle.

See you next year in Indianapolis, Indiana from September 25-28, 2007!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FALL 2006

by Mike Burko

Introduced/Pending:

HR 6179 Clean Town Act

Sponsor: Rep Pearce (R-NM)

A bill to establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish criminal drug dealer registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national criminal drug dealer registry and notification program, and for other purposes.

HR 6089 Illegal Immigrant Deterrence and Public Safety Act

Sponsor: Rep Sensenbrenner (R-WI)

A bill to restore the Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to detain dangerous aliens, to affirm the inherent authority of State and local law enforcement to assist in the enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes.

HR 5825 Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act

Sponsor: Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM)

Authorizes the use of electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, including against agents of a foreign power.

Allows the AG to authorize the emergency employment of electronic surveillance if the AG determines that an emergency situation exists to obtain foreign intelligence information before an order authorizing such surveillance can be obtained.

Allows the President to authorize electronic surveillance to acquire foreign intelligence information without a court order for up to 45 days following a terrorist attack against the United States.

HR 4437 Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005

Sponsor: Rep Sensenbrenner (R-WI)

It makes it a felony to be in the United States without a valid visa and establishes stiff penalties for anyone who helps illegal immigrants. It also includes provisions of the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal (CLEAR) Act. The provisions are intended to increase the number of local law enforcement agencies that enforce federal immigration law during officers' "routine course of duty."

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.

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PLEA Calendar of Events

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.

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