

# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



25 YEARS



PROTECTING THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF SINCE 1993

## Did You Know?

25 years ago, the Western States Sheriffs Association was formed. A small group of western Sheriffs recognized that their concerns and issues were not being adequately addressed on the national level and were determined to have a voice. That small group quickly grew to a few states across the western U.S. Today, with the addition of the State of Nebraska, the WSSA has 16-member States representing nearly 1000 Sheriffs across the west. Our voice is heard throughout the halls of congress and amongst those who have responsibility for managing our public lands. Much has been accomplished in the past 25 years and there is a great deal more to do. Our hats are off to that small group of Sheriffs who had such a large vision so many years ago.

## Who makes up the Western States Sheriffs' Association?



## There are 16 states that make up the Western States Sheriffs Association

Arizona-California-Idaho-Montana-Colorado-Oklahoma-Texas-Nevada-North Dakota- South Dakota-Nebraska-Utah-Oregon-New Mexico- Washington and Wyoming

## Why was the Western States Sheriffs' Association Formed?

In the late 1980's and through the early 1990's Sheriffs in the west recognized that the National Sheriffs Association was not adequately representing their needs. The vastness of the western states and the issues of public lands, Indian country, search and rescue, livestock and grazing and the southern U.S. Border are all issues that were and continue to be of concern to Western Sheriffs.



*(On the Arizona Border with John Ladd, Rancher)*

For many years, the Western Sheriffs had no representation on the NSA board. In 2006 the NSA hired Sheriff Aaron Kennard as it's Executive Director. As a member of Western States Sheriffs Association, Director Kennard understood the issues out west and became a strong advocate for Western States during his tenure. Western State Sheriffs have also gained positions on the NSA board of directors, chairmanship of NSA committees and are speaking actively in support of those issues affecting us in the west.

**What have we accomplished since our formation in 1993?**

Relationships with the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have been strengthened due to the ongoing efforts of the members of the Western States Sheriffs Association.



*(Sheriff Danny Glick, Laramie Co. Wyoming)*

Through these efforts we have achieved agreements on matters related to Search and Rescue in Wilderness areas and we have worked together to create an agreed upon funding formula for the distribution of additional cooperative law enforcement dollars.

We have eyes and ears in Washington D.C. that have provided Sheriffs both political access and policy influence



*(Sheriff Dave Brown, Skamania Co. WA testifies before Congress on Federal Law Enforcement issues.)*

We have advocated strongly on issues of Tribal authority across the west and the issues related to sovereign immunity and Indian gaming.



*(WSSA Executive Director Sheriff Jim Pond(Ret.)(L) with Congressman Gosar)*

We continue to advocate for better cooperation between Sheriffs and Federal Law Enforcement with regards to federal intervention and/or investigations within the jurisdiction of a Sheriff.



*(Wyoming Executive Director Sheriff Byron Oedekoven(Ret.)(L) with NSA Executive Director)*

We have built an association of Western Sheriffs that began as 15 sheriffs and now represent nearly 1,000 Sheriffs and command staff from across the 16-member states.



We have joined in several briefs to the United States Supreme Court in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and continue, as an association, to strongly support the individual right to bear arms.



*(Sheriff Jon Cooke(Ret.) Weld Co. Colorado at press briefing regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment issues in Colorado)*

These past 25 years, the Sheriffs of Western America have shown great tenacity in protecting the Office of Sheriff while at the same time committing themselves to preserving the freedoms enjoyed by so many who live, work and play in the western U.S. We remain steadfast in support of our mission and look forward to growing the association and our support over the next 25 years.