

When the Western States Sheriffs' Association began some 25 years ago, it was primarily founded to address law enforcement conflicts on public lands and the fact that issues facing western Sheriffs were not being addressed by the National Sheriffs' Association. I realize that public lands issues will always be with us, but I am personally excited by how far we have come as an organization. The original sheriffs who founded this organization from beginning six states would be very pleased to see that we have grown to sixteen states strong and is now a voice often sought on a variety of law enforcement related issues throughout the country. We are recognized as a powerful voice on issues dealing with the sovereignty of the office of Sheriff as well as second amendment, immigration and other issues that are particularly important to Sheriffs in the western United States. With regards to the National Sheriffs' Association, we have commanded respect through persistent work and through our participation and involvement in the NSA. Our own Danny Glick has been the President of the National Sheriffs' Association and many of our members are or have been board members for the NSA. Several more serve on a variety of committees insuring that the unique issues that we face in the West are heard and addressed on a national level.

Humble as we may be, we cannot ignore that the office of Sheriff is well respected and people listen to what we have to say. When we say it as an organization representing the Sheriffs from sixteen states, our voice is very loud. This work done by your association is not completed in a vacuum. Membership in the organization is important, but your involvement and participation is critical. I encourage you to get involved and be part of the solution to a wide variety of matters that we deal with as Sheriffs.

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your President in this milestone, 25th year of the Western States Sheriffs' Association.