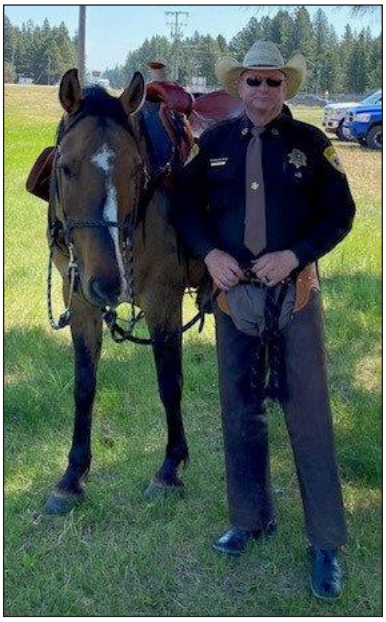
From the President



Hello to the membership of Western States Sheriff's Association,
It was nice to gather and see each other again. For those of you were able to visit us in Reno for our conference, Thank YOU very much. We, the organization needs you very much. Sheriff Fred Lamphere, thanks for the great job you did in a difficult year.
As we prepare for the next year of challenges, I'm going to reflect back on some of the past of what made me want to join WSSA. The opportunity really didn't become possible until 2009, the sheriff before me wasn't interested. However, a sheriff I went to high school with was a real recruiter and talked me into it. After my first meeting in Vegas, I recognized the value of WSSA. Tony Harbaugh was the mentor encouraging me to join as he and others, were founding members. WSSA was struggling, at least that was my first impression, Jim Pond came forward and made some incredible promises, at least to this kid in the cheap seats. Well, Jim has proven up on those promises and we continue to get better each year. We had a first timer that I know of, Sheriff Danny Glick was president of NSA and WSSA at the same time, WOW!
Each conference I listen to a sheriff recount an event in their life, thinking, I don't think I'll ever hear something that will top that, but I do. The incredible part of being a sheriff is forward thinking, what are the unintended consequences of the decisions I, we, are about to make. Being able to hear shared experiences like that are stored in our cognitive section for retrieval later. The level of respect is accumulated by calming a situation or handling it with a call to someone you know. Our reputation is built by our behavior, our citizens know we care and we will listen. There are people with PhD's out there, degrees and the like, second guessing every move we make. I met some of those people, academically talented they are, but in real life, they can't tell the difference between a birchen strap and a bridle.
Moving in to our current situation, our brothers and sisters on the southern border have been placed into undue hardship and a level of harm's way not experienced before. We have an action plan.
We are proficient at engaging our federal partners early and often. We need to give support to our governors, state and federal representatives so they are informed of what the impact immigration, human trafficking, cartels and other illegal drug activities are occurring on our borders. We, as representatives from WSSA are standing beside our border sheriffs, nationally and locally.
To support these efforts of enforcement, we must have current Intel, training on techniques for officer safety for our warriors. WSSA must utilize multiple resources to battle of several fronts, these include, but not limited to: Officer safety, this is techniques and equipment. We have talked about a scholarship for education in the name of the late Sheriff Gary Painter. Sheriff Lamphere has an idea of educational school programs, different than DARE, to bridge the gap with our younger generation.
Legislation that allows our personnel to perform their job of keeping the peace without fear of litigation or losing everything they have. (Qualified immunity). Training for legal aspect, this includes in-depth knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and your respective state's constitution. For these are the bedrock of which our nation is founded on. This is the line we must hold by teaching it and knowing exactly how it applies to us. We are the last bastion of protection, closest to the citizens than anyone that is elected. Our citizens count on us protecting them by knowing our job and standing up for those whose voices may be too small to be heard.
It is my honor to preach to the choir and you have certainly earned my respect. So, to answer the question of someone you may be mentoring: why does WSSA make you a better leader, decision maker and someone who can stand on fundamentals of our US constitution? It is the membership who is there recognizing the value of an elected sheriff. The experience level for our full service offices is unmatched by our western sheriffs.
During the week of July 18th, the executive board participated in a planning retreat in Montana's vast Bob Marshall wilderness. Most of the executive board rode horses into the wilderness for our meeting. Joining us was USFS Director of Law Enforcement Tracy Perry and other division leaders. Also, Sheriff Brown and Sheriff Glover from the government affairs committee. We shared ideas, issues, and solutions, enjoyed great weather and food, and left that week with a stronger understanding of responsibilities and greater friendship.
I'll close with Psalms Chapter 23;
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.
Fellow peace officers, it is an honor to serve with you and for you. ■

— Sheriff Leo C. Dutton
Western States Sheriff Association President.

Crisis on the Border

Border Sheriffs are experiencing a crisis on the border that is more significant than we have ever faced.

The Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) Conference was held in Reno, Nevada May 16 – 19. WSSA represents Sheriffs from seventeen states west of the Mississippi.

Understandably, one of the primary topics of discussion was the crisis on the southern border. This not only affects the four border counties, but it also affects the entire United States. The lack of security on our southern border adversely impacts public safety, is an undeniable humanitarian crisis and is a national security concern.

Sheriffs expressed frustration with the apparent lack of a cogent plan to address the crisis and the political gamesmanship regarding denials if a crisis even exists.

There is an unprecedented number of undocumented persons crossing our southern border.

This strains the federal law enforcement system to the point of near dysfunction resulting in criminals and gang members being able to cross undetected.

Once inside the U.S. the migrants are stressing our nonprofits, NGOs and healthcare system to the point they cannot care for our own citizens.

The cartels, who maintain absolute control over the southside of the border, exploit migrants criminally, financially and sexually. We are experiencing historic quantities of dangerous drugs being trafficked into our country resulting in addiction and overdose deaths.

WSSA Sheriffs demand action to address this crisis divested of partisan politics and the political blame-game.

Border Sheriffs are in desperate need of assistance. Significantly more resources need to be put on the border. Emphasis; on the border.

Border Sheriffs realize that this is the front line. If we stop it in our backyard, people do not die in your front yard. This is true with respect to illegal drugs and dangerous criminals that cross the border. If we can stop it here, the negative impacts are not experienced in the interior of the United States.

If we lack the resources to interdict here, communities across the country are certain to face the adverse consequence of what may have been thought to be a far off problem.

To formally express their position on the border crisis the WSSA drafted the following Resolution. It states clearly and affirmatively the position of these law enforcement professionals. ■

Did you know?

- The United States' southern border with Mexico is 1,933 miles long, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the tip of South Texas.
- The U.S. states along the border, from west to east, are California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.
- The Mexican states along the border are Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas.
- 200,000 crossings each month. That's over 1,000,000 for this year.

Western States Sheriffs' Association

Border Crisis Resolution

WHEREAS;the Western States Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee represents Sheriffs for seventeen states west of the Mississippi River, and

WHEREAS; all member Sheriffs of the Western States Sheriffs' Association take seriously our oath to uphold the law, support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic, and protect the safety our respective county's citizens; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a clear national security concern as we do not know who is crossing the border undetected that might be an international bad actor wishing our citizens harm; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a compelling public safety danger as extreme amounts of illegal drugs are being trafficked into our country leading to addiction and overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a compelling public safety danger as hardened criminals and gang members exploit the lack of security to enter the country to further victimize our citizens; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a human rights crisis as unaccompanied children cross, or attempt to cross, into our country and our victimized by the cartels, the environment and our inability to properly care of them once inside the United States; and

WHEREAS; the presentation at an international border by unaccompanied children trying to cross into another country with no adult oversight and without proper documentation to do so would be considered a crisis requiring immediate action anywhere else in the civilized world; and

WHEREAS; transnational criminal organizations and drug trafficking organizations are leveraging the introduction of unaccompanied children to the border to overwhelm border security resources in an effort to further their criminal interests and make easier the trafficking of narcotics into the United States; and

WHEREAS; our member Sheriffs recover the bodies of hundreds of undocumented immigrants in remote areas of our counties every year who have died at the hands of criminals or the harsh environment we understand that tacitly encouraging undocumented immigration is not compassionate public policy, but is in fact quite the opposite; and

WHEREAS; no matter how seemingly compassionate public policy toward undocumented immigration might be on the north side of the border we can do nothing to ameliorate the conditions on the south side of the border where migrants are victimized criminally, financially and sexually at the hands of the drug cartels who profiteer extensively from trafficking in humans; and

WHEREAS; our member Sheriffs are tired of the politics associated with border security coming out of Washington, DC, and absurd semantical gamesmanship with what to call the conditions on the border; and

WHEREAS; The Western States Sheriffs' Association, Border Security Committee believes that the current administration's policies, practices, and posture toward border security are contrary to the rule of law; and

WHEREAS; The Western States Sheriffs' Association, Border Security Committee firmly asserts that the current administration's policies and practices with respect to border security are incongruent with an understanding of the problem or seemingly a sincere desire to address it; and

WHEREAS; our members Sheriffs collectively have several hundred years of experience in border-area law enforcement and can affirm that conditions on the border have never been as bad as they are currently; and

WHEREAS; the Border Security Committee of the Western States Sheriffs' Association is concerned that our border communities are under increasing stress due to undocumented persons flooding over the border and overwhelming our nonprofits and NGOs to the point that they are unable to provide needed services to our citizens; and

WHEREAS; our member Sheriffs stand ready to assist our federal law enforcement partners in restoring security to the border region and restoring public safety to our communities without adopting responsibility for a clear federal responsibility, which is security of the border and enforcement of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS; the Border Security Committee of the Western States Sheriffs' Association believes that the current conditions on our border with the Republic of Mexico are untenable, unsafe, and unsustainable; and

WHEREAS; the Border Security Committee of the Western States Sheriffs' Association demands immediate action from Washington, DC to recognize the conditions we face, partner with Border Sheriffs in reaching community-based solutions, cease with the political blame-game, and restore policies/practices that will secure our border; and

WHEREAS; the Border Security Committee of the Western States Sheriffs' Association holds no animus toward any person, group of persons or nationality. Our desire for border security is grounded in three unimpeachable reasons they are national security, public safety and human rights; and

RESOLVED; the Western States Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee recommends the following:

1. The current administration should acknowledge with absolute clarity of language that a national security, public safety and humanitarian crisis exists on the border to galvanize our national efforts to address it in a manner completely devoid of politics.
2. Federal policies must be changed to affirmatively address the crisis we face on the border.
3. Federal policies/practices must adhere to Federal Law.
4. Zealous federal pursuit, and prosecution, of transnational criminal organizations that are profiting by facilitating illegal immigration.
5. The Office of Health and Human Service take over the care of ill and/or minor illegal immigrants and allow Homeland Security personnel to return to their appropriate duties.
6. A re-deployment of federal law enforcement personnel to the border to enhance enforcement of current law.
7. Appropriations in sufficient amounts for Homeland Security and the sub-divisions under the umbrella of Homeland Security to address the crisis at the border.
8. The agencies under Homeland Security work in conjunction and active collaboration with the Border Sheriffs to combat the humanitarian and public safety crisis that has been created at the border.
9. Actively engage and communicate with our member Sheriffs to ensure proper captioning of the problems faced by border counties and ensure that solutions are effectively reached.

Be it resolved this 19th day of May 2021 at the Western States Sheriffs' Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. ■

Wildland Urban Interface Fire Working Group

Earlier this year I was asked to serve on a working group sponsored by the National Fire Chiefs' Association dealing with Wildland Urban Interface fires and the increasing loss of property and lives that have been occurring over the past two or three decades. After an extensive questionnaire, the group of about 30 people representing federal, state and local jurisdictions as well as the International Association of Chiefs of Police and myself representing NSA and WSSA met virtually in the late spring.
We had several areas to discuss that included everything from utilization of technology to evacuations.
No one in the working group thought that we could prevent all wildfires and particularly those wildfires that occur in the urban interface. However, following the FEMA model of Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery the draft report focused on the following:

Mitigation:

Working with FEMA and Congress to pass necessary laws that will allow more mitigation efforts, including prescribed burns, particularly near urban areas.
Work with FEMA to revise and update their grant programs to assist communities with mitigation efforts that include prescribed burns.
Work with FEMA to establish grant programs that could focus efforts in more rural and under-served communities for both mitigation efforts and utility hardening in order to be more fire resilient.
Promote the idea that each State will coordinate FEMA money for projects through the individual state's Governor's Office.
Work with the insurance industry and regulators to adopt uniformed and consensus based standards for assessing, evaluating and incentivizing fire-resistant home hardening efforts in WUI communities at risk.

Preparedness:

Encourage Congressional funding for federal agencies to improve fire behavior modeling so real time data can be used during in the urban interface.
Work with national, state and local emergency management agencies to develop best practices with regards to fire evacuations including "safe zones" along evacuation routes.
Develop a standardized warning wildfire scale so all persons understand the risk or threat. Develop this scale similar to that of scales used for hurricanes or tornadoes.

Response:

Recommended that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture transition to more full-time fire fighters in lieu of seasonal firefighters. This will give more experienced firefighting crews as well as personnel to do mitigation efforts outside of fire season.
The Forest Service should provide funding for training of local firefighters with emphasis on rural and volunteer agencies.

Recovery:

Encourage Congress to take the necessary actions so Burned Area Emergency Recovery teams are allowed to take action across jurisdictional boundaries, including private lands, when requested by jurisdictions or land owners.

Once the final report is complete, I will get it to Director Pond so it can be accessed through our website. ■

—Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Retired.

Visit us on the Web:

westernsheriffs.org

And 'Like' us on Facebook!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Western States Sheriffs Association is to assist Sheriffs and their Offices with Federal and State legislative issues, address policy and procedural matters, develop guidelines to promote uniformity in matters that are important to Sheriffs of the Western United States and to work together to keep the Office of Sheriff strong.

Purple Day in Reno at WSSA

It was great to see everyone at the Western States Sheriffs Association (WSSA) Conference and it was equally as satisfying to see so many attendees dressed in Man Up Crusade purple shirts on Purple Day at WSSA.

As has been our tradition for many years now, WSSA attendees took the time and effort to support the incredible work of Man Up Crusade Founders, Sheriff Kieran and Jeanie Donahue from Canyon County, Idaho. Through a generous donation of purple shirts by telecommunications company GTL, our attending Sheriffs, Sheriff's personnel, WSSA staff and many others had an opportunity to Join the Crusade and pledge their support in bringing an end to the epidemic of domestic violence in our society.

And as those who were present at the conference could see, GTL was not alone in contributing to help in this effort. Tyler Technologies once again presented a check to the Man Up Crusade and Command Sourcing, as well as Bi2 Technologies who also contributed funds and products to the Man Up Crusade to assist them in furthering their decade long efforts in bringing awareness to this important issue.

Sheriff Donahue stated the following. "Jeanie and I are once again humbled and honored to be a part of such an amazing group of individuals like the Western States Sheriff's Association. Each year we see more members in purple on Purple Day, and each year we see more Sheriffs across the western United States get involved with promoting Man Up Crusade Purple Day/Night at events within their local communities. It is through this grassroots effort, led by our Nation's Sheriffs that will eventually turn the tide on this horrific epidemic of victimization. Thank you for letting Jeanie and I and our Foundation follow God's direction and do what we can to help solve this issue".

As we all have seen within our jurisdictions, domestic violence continues to be one of the most prolific and dangerous calls our officers are responding to. Unfortunately, so far this year many law enforcement officers have lost their lives responding to these calls, and as equally tragic, more will lose their lives in the line of duty through out the following months as this nation grapples with the sheer number of domestic violence cases.

Thank you for being a part of the solution. ■

—Sheriff Dave Brown

Leadership Development

What do we need to know? Where can we go to get the information?

There are numerous outlets currently providing executive leadership training to new Sheriffs across the country.

For many years, the standard was the National Sheriffs Institute. This training, typically provided to first term Sheriffs, provided leadership training to better prepare us to handle the multitude of issues that come at us on a daily basis.

Offered by the National Sheriffs Association and in concert with the National Institute of Corrections, the two-week training brought together Sheriffs from around the country and provided the opportunity to build relationships and feed off the ideas of others.

In the past year, the NSA turned the grant for this training over to the Major County Sheriffs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Many of us with Western Sheriffs Association believe that newly elected Sheriffs from the Western U.S. would be better served through a partnership with a first-class training organization, coupled with the experience and knowledge of our own members, working together to provide a course content that more closely resonates with the role of the western sheriff.

Dr. Mitch Javidi, founder of National Command & Staff College, Institute for Credible Leadership Development together with our membership, are working together to create a curriculum that has a leadership focus and a flavor for western issues.

The logistics for offering this leadership course training is being ironed out as we move through the process. It is our hope that sometime in early 2022 we will be in a position to offer the first group of Sheriffs an opportunity to gain valuable insight into issues relevant to the Office of Sheriff.

In addition to the core courses of leadership, we intend to provide focus on topics ranging from Public Lands law enforcement, constitutional understanding, 2nd Amendment issues, Oath of Office, search and rescue, border security and many more.
We will be in communication with the State training academies across the west to ensure that the curriculum and credits will be recognized and certifiable as executive leadership development.

We are excited to moving in this direction as an organization and look forward to being in a position to provide first class leadership training to America's western sheriff. ■

WSSA Executive Board

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Sheriff Leo Dutton
Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Vice President
Sheriff Brett Schroetlin
Grand County, Colorado

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Sheriff Cory Helton
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Executive Director
Sheriff Jim Pond (Ret.)
Albany County, WY

Partner Spotlight

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

25th ANNIVERSARY

Western States Sheriffs Association would like to congratulate Fight Crime: Invest in Kids on their 25 Anniversary of working with law enforcement and kids issues. This national anti-crime organization comprised of over 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, attorney generals, and survivors of violence, with members in every state, is committed to making the nation safer by preventing kids from becoming criminals.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids protects public safety by promoting proven solutions that steer kids away from crime and towards a productive life. Member engagement is critical to the organizations success. Through meetings with federal and state

policy makers, press events, community interactions, op-eds & letters-to-the-editor, research reports, and more, members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids educate and advocate for early interventions for kids.

Some of the issue areas Fight Crime: Invest in Kids has mobilizes members includes greater investments in child abuse and neglect prevention through home visiting programs, pre-K and early childhood care, after-school and out-of-school time programs, career technical education, and juvenile justice programs. To do this, members make the connection to both stated and federal policymakers that quality and accessible opportunities for children early in life directly influence their proclivity to commit crimes later in life. By investing early and upfront in children's lives reduce crime and put them on a productive path in life.

That path increases graduation rates, reduces crime, improves health and increases the overall income of kids who participate in these programs.

This last year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids successful worked in helping to pass national stimulus packages that included investments for children and families. Those resources included childcare that helped get parents back to work and provided safe and stable child care for their children.

Other main focus this last year with Members of Congress was the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, Pre-K (Head Start) funding, and the Child Care and Development Block Grants.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids has understood for years that investments in high-quality early programs and policies aimed at strengthening the next generation of Americans are a powerful tool for improving long-term public safety. These goals have long enjoyed widespread bipartisan support, and the law enforcement leaders of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids have proudly worked on these same issues at both the state and federal level. Now, as these sorts of investments and policies are in the public conversation like never before, the organization sees an enormous opportunity to help make sure that every child in this country is afforded the opportunity to

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reach his or her potential, and to remain on a positive, crime-free path in life.

The Western States Sheriffs Association has served as an incredible partner to Fight Crime: Invest in Kids over the years. Many of you at the recent Western States Sheriffs Conference in Reno helped pass a resolution congratulating Fight Crime: Invest in Kids on their 25th anniversary and their partnership with law enforcement.

If you are not a member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, we would encourage you to consider joining. There is no fee for membership and the time commitment is minimal. When you join, you will have opportunities to interact with policymakers and the public discussing the importance of investments in kids. All activities are voluntary. It is an organization that allows law enforcement leaders, such as sheriffs, no matter where your jurisdiction may be, to call for investments in kids that will give early solutions to prevent crime by providing members with research, editorial

assistance, and media awareness. To join, simply go online. Feel free to contact our Western Regional Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Director Martha Brooks with any questions. mbrooks@fightcrime.org

And once again, congratulations Fight Crime: Invest in Kids on 25 years to a commitment and leadership toward helping kids get the right start in life and for supporting the most powerful weapons against crime… Prevention.■

WSSA Sheriff of the Year
Sheriff Tony Harbaugh!

For most people in the arena of Western Sheriffs, the mere mention of the name brings with it a long legacy of service. 42 years behind the badge, 25 years on the board of directors for Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN) and a lifetime of being a friend, father, husband and mentor to his family, the law enforcement community of Montana, and his fellow Sheriffs.

Sheriff Harbaugh retired in December of 2020 from the Custer County Sheriff's Office. It might be described as his home away from home. Not a hard man to recognize standing at several inches over the 6-foot line, and with your back to him, there is no mistaking the voice made for radio.

A long-time member of the Western States Sheriffs' Association, Tony served as president of the association and has

been on the board of directors as the representative from Montana for several years. Instrumental in shaping and forming positions and policy on public land issues and providing counsel and oversight on the financial activities of the organization, Tony has long been recognized as a leader in the organization.

At this year's annual conference Tony was honored as the 2020-2021 WSSA Sheriff of the Year, he also received recognition from RMIN for the 25 years he served on their board of directors and Fight Crime Invest in Kids presented Tony with the 2021 Champions for Children award.

Tony participated in the new member orientation, providing historical points on the advantages of becoming a member of WSSA and it was evident that he has every intention of remaining engaged with the WSSA.

It is possible that some at home in Custer County, Montana may sense the loss of the legend. However, those of us at the Western States Sheriffs' Association intend to harness the knowledge and energy of the cowboy who is still on the trail. ■

Executive Director's Summary

Our 28th Annual Business and Training Conference held in May was a great success, despite the problems associated with the National lock down over COVID 19.
Shortly after our 27th Annual Conference, the pandemic and National shut down began affecting individual State Conferences as well as the NSA Annual Conference in Orlando. Focus was directed to mitigation efforts and assuring that all of our Sheriffs Offices were able to obtain the resources they needed to protect their staff and corrections personnel. We began immediately working with NSA on response efforts, holding weekly conference calls directing resources where they were most needed, and ensuring all needs were met. Sheriffs proved again to be resilient in the protection of their communities.

As fall approached the pandemic appeared to be subsiding in local areas, individual States recognized the necessity to begin meeting in person again, working around individual restrictions. President Lamphere, along with other board members were able to participate in meetings with South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Montana.

While attending the Nebraska and South Dakota meetings, President Lamphere, NSA President David Mahoney, Executive Director Johnathon Thompson and I met and formulated a new NSA subcommittee, The Western States Policy Committee. This committee will be chaired by the current President of WSSA, and Co-Chaired by the immediate Past President of WSSA. The membership consists of each WSSA State Representative and any other Sheriff who wishes to participate. The focus of the committee is to present and ensure that NSA is aware and participates in specific issues facing our Western Sheriffs. Our first meeting in February, a Zoom Meeting, and our first in person meeting at the NSA Conference in June were very successful, presenting adopted resolutions by the NSA Executive Board.

And then…. The Presidential Election and our focus towards working with a new administration and cabinet secretaries. During our Monthly E-Board meetings much discussion was held on Cabinet Nominees and position statements on each nominee were crafted and submitted to the Senate for their confirmation process.
As the new administration was established it became immediately evident there was no plan of operation other than dismantling the previous administrations policies and successes. With that, a true devastating crisis has been created compromising National Security, proliferation of drugs and human trafficking and impacting communities along our southern border. Several Zoom meetings with Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, President Lamphere, Vice President Dutton, Treasurer Corey Helton and the Southwest Border Coalition and NSA Committee Chair Sheriff Mark Danels were held, to include an in person meeting in El Paso Texas to discuss border strategy and response. Although we continue to have dialog, there appears to be no effort from Homeland Security to address the catastrophe occurring along our southern border.

We are continuing to monitor the Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior for upcoming changes and regulations that will affect our public lands local responses.

Now back to our 28th annual conference again held in Reno Nevada. As everyone knows our initial dates for the conference were set for March. At our planning meeting with Peppermill Staff, Washoe County Sheriff Darrin Balaam and support services held in December, we agreed there was considerable uncertainty surrounding restrictions from the State of Nevada to hold the conference in March. We concluded holding the event at a later date afforded us a better opportunity for a successful conference. As it turned out, that was the right move.

The conference began with the traditional opening ceremony and then onto our standing committees followed up by the President's reception and our live auction which netted $21,000 dollars to our special purpose fund.

Due to the fallout of COVID, the Southwest Border Sheriffs were forced to cancel their scheduled meeting and elected to hold their meeting in conjunction with our Conference. This afforded us a great opportunity to participate with our Border Sheriffs, and the Men and Women of Customs and Border Protection. At our morning round table discussion our membership received the latest and most comprehensive information on the events at the Border. As a result of this presentation, Resolution 2021-3 was prepared and affirmed at our annual business meeting. Our business meeting was very successful, and President Lamphere ensured that we stayed on tasked and kept the meeting to schedule. Our Keynote speaker, Eric Daigle from Daigle Law Group gave a riveting presentation on navigating contemporary legal issues facing our Offices today. We will bring him back to present a training at future conferences…

A new Executive Board was elected and this year there were three nominations for the Sergeant at Arms chair. Sheriff Sarah Warner from North Dakota and Sheriff Ray Del Bosque from Texas were submitted to the nomination committee for consideration, and one nomination from the floor, Sheriff Jesse Watts from Nevada. After each Sheriff expressed their desire and qualifications to the membership, Sheriff Ray Del Bosque was elected to the Executive Board.

Our trainings for the conference went very well despite one of our presenters having to cancel the day before our conference began due to complications with Covid. Fortunately, we did have a standby presentation on critical communications ready to fill the vacancy. Thursday's presentation on leadership by Dr. Mitch Javidi was very well received and closed out the conference on a positive note.

I am looking forward to our 2022 conference which will again be held in Reno next March. The planning is already underway and any suggestions to make it even more successful are very much appreciated. I am also looking forward to attending each of our State Conferences through out this year. ■

— Jim Pond (Ret. Sheriff)
Executive Director, WSSA