

## **A Look Back On 2021 November 15, 2021**

As I was looking things over this morning getting ready for our meeting tonight, I really couldn't help but think back over the last 11 months & all everyone in the Alumni Association has done since January. I took a few minutes and looked back over the minutes from all this year's meetings, and it really was kind of an eye-opener for me.

So, as we draw this our final meeting of 2021 to a close .... I'd just like to take a few minutes to give you a mini-walk down memory lane.

After coming off that crazy year with Covid in 2020 where we missed most of our meeting last year, you may recall that we wound up cancelling the January and February meetings due to a new uptick in Covid cases, so we really didn't get started until about March, which was our first meeting of the year ..... but, since March, this group has really done a lot ..... I'll probably miss some things, but here's what I mean.

The March meeting was the first of the year, and was the first time where we brought in a guest speaker ..... you may recall that Sgt. Mike Evans came in and gave a great presentation that I think everyone enjoyed. That set the stage for something new and different at some of our monthly meetings, which I think everyone likes from time to time.

At about that same time, we bought the "We Have Your Back" banners, and Gary dutifully went around to all the primary MCSO locations and hung those banners so everyone could see our message, that this Alumni Association fully supports the men and women of our Sheriff's office.

As we moved on into April, there was actually quite a lot going on. MCSCAAA hosted the Region One meeting here in Conroe, and we had quite a few members attend. The highlight of that meeting was the visit and presentation by the DPS helicopter crew, which Phil Niewald had organized.

Several of our members assisted Steve with the "Babies In The Basement" event in April, and a new Citizens Academy got kicked off, the first one in over a year. I think we had some people volunteer for a special assignment in records during April. Steve also ordered the ID machine that we started using tonight.

At our April meeting, we first began to talk about hosting the 2022 State Convention, and a week or so later Steve & others (Sandra) went to the State meeting in Buffalo where we officially committed to host the convention. At the April meeting, Steve shared with us a letter from one of the MCSO deputies that has received a card from the Sunshine Committee that Julie leads with her card program.

At our May meeting we had our second guest speaker of the year, Deputy U.S. Marshall Louis LaBarge ..... you may recall that was a great presentation, and we all enjoyed hearing Louie's message. We talked more about the 2022 Convention, and talked about the upcoming elections in

July. It was the meeting in May when Foy offered to serve as our official Alumni Association Chaplain, and Foy presented a prayer he had written, which we quickly adopted as our “official” opening prayer.

A couple of weeks later the Alumni again stepped up to help MCSO with their Spring Promotions and Awards Ceremony. Then, in late May, Academy class 2021.1 graduated, and we were able to sign up a group of the graduates as new members of our Alumni Association.

Our June meeting turned out to be a lot different than we were all expecting. Steve and his family were bitten by the Covid bug, and he had to miss the first monthly meeting ever. We really, really missed Steve. We had 8 of our new members at the meeting, and everyone gave them a warm welcome to the family. We talked again about the upcoming elections, and talked about the upcoming 2021 State convention in Plano.

Moving on into July, we held our Annual Meeting and elections .... Steve was back with us, and we were all very glad he and his family were on the road to recovery. We had 43 members in attendance in July, which was really great. Gary and Brenda were elected to the Board and began their duties of helping get the work of the association done.

In late July we had several members attend the 2021 State Convention in Plano, where Steve & Debbie accepted the handoff from Plano CPA for the next convention. We saw a lot of enthusiasm from the crowd there for the 2022 Convention at Margaritaville.

At the convention, we also got to see Steve accept the TCPAAA Ray Ramon Award as Peace Officer Of the Year ... that award goes to the sworn officer (i.e. Liaison Officer) that does the most to help the Alumni Association through the year.

We did not hold a General Meeting in August, but we did begin the planning for the 2022 Convention. We formed the Convention Committee, and began regular convention meetings to get things started. We negotiated and signed our contract with Margaritaville. We began to talk about getting Sponsors for the convention, and began to make lists of all we have to do. In late August, several members helped at the MCSO Academy Class A-21 graduation where 13 new Deputies joined the family. It was a pretty busy month for sure.

September saw Steve start Citizens Academy class 2021.2 with 30 members. Several of you have attended many of the classes representing the Alumni Association over the past couple of months, and we hope many of those graduates join us when they graduate in a few weeks. At our September meeting we approved the Bylaw Amendment the Sheriff had requested, and briefed everyone on the progress of convention planning. Our Convention committee meetings continued throughout the month, and more of you volunteered to get involved on the committee to help get things done.

October was a pretty busy month for everyone. We did a tour of the facilities out at Margaritaville, and continued our convention planning meetings on a regular basis. At our October meeting, which was attended by 36 of you, we took our new Alumni group photo which presents the current “Face” of our organization. At the General Meeting, we continued to talk a lot about convention planning, and provided updates on where we are headed with the convention. During October, our

members volunteered at two important events .... The MCSO Fall Promotions & Awards Ceremony, and the National Night Out Community Safety Expo. Late in the month, we also released our new MCSCAAA web page, which I hope everyone has seen by now.

And by the way .... There's a lot of other stuff you guys also do throughout the year .... Several of you have volunteered several times for the K9 Training events at the airport .... MCSCAAA has provided financial support to several of our MCSO partners along the way ... Julie's card program continues to flourish ..... and, there's lots of other ways you have worked to serve the mission of this Alumni Association. And, in just a few days several of you will be volunteering at the annual Lighting of the Doves ceremony.

And, I will share with you that as of this morning, you have recorded in AVP 4354 hours of volunteer service towards our mission of supporting the men & women of MCSO in 2021.

So, all that brings us to tonight, our final meeting of the year. I'd like to ask for a few people to stand and remain standing for a few minutes:

Rita Crosby  
Loretta Geick  
David Handy  
Debbie Lee  
Sharon Nichols  
Ronnie Rector  
Juli Schmoker  
Myra Womack

These people have a perfect attendance record at our meetings for 2021.

To close this out, I'd like to ask that everyone look at the people around you. You are what makes all this work .... Your dedication and work are impressive, and something we can all be proud of. The stage is set for 2022 to be our best year ever .... Let's make it happen.