



The Property Times Texas Association of Property And Evidence Inventory Technicians (T.A.P.E.I.T.) Newsletter

Feb, 2017

Well, the 19th annual TAPEIT Conference is now history. We are grateful for all who attended and hope each one took back something they can use, now and in the future. If you did attend and have something to offer the board members / officers regarding conference content you would like seen, covered, or have input in general, please feel free to email any of the board and let us know. October 2017 will be our 20th Conference! Location is the same as 2016, the Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade. Oct 17 - Oct 20, 2017. If you can make it, you won't want to miss this one!

TAPEIT 2016— San Antonio, TX
Just some of the photos... see more at www.tapeit.net



Thank you to all of the members who made the 2016 conference great!



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A message from our President Gayla Robison, December 2016:

I Just wanted to take a moment and reflect back on our 2016 conference. WOW! It was a GREAT conference. I was so excited to see each you there again this year. It truly amazes me to see how our numbers are growing with each year that passes. I heard so many good things from you, the attendees, on the changes that were put in place this year. We as your board read your critiques, listened to what you wanted and hope you enjoyed the changes made to the certification classes. I know for me it was a great experience working and teaching in the Intermediate class.

I am so excited about next year's conference, this will be our 20th anniversary conference. Kolene Dean how your dream and vision has grown. Did you ever expect in your vision that we as TAPEIT would be hosting conferences with over 400 in attendance each year, what an experience. I know for me it has been a great 18 years of being involved in this group of dedicated professionals. Please mark your calendars, make plans to attend the conference in October again at the Omni in San Antonio as we celebrate that 20th anniversary, more details will follow as your board / officers get the exciting plans finalized.

Now on to more news, as many of you probably know by now I have decided to retire from the Burleson Police Department after 21 years of service there. It was a hard decision to make but a good one. I will now be focusing my time on my next career. I will be doing my consulting and software sales on a full time basis.

Don't worry I am not going anywhere, I will still be here as your President for the next 2 years. For the last several years I have been doing 3 jobs, and now I am slowing down and will focus on my love. That is helping police agencies with their property room issues. Since I have left the police department that meant a few changes for TAPEIT. Our new official address from this point forward will be; T.A.P.E.I.T. P.O. Box 707 Marble Falls, Tx. 78654.

With the election of Officers at the last conference Linda Roberts was elected as 2nd Vice President so that meant the Treasurer position was left open. I have appointed Fonda Rhoades with Bee Cave PD to fill that position as our new Treasurer. With Fonda leaving her board position to become the new Treasurer that meant her position on the board became available. I have appointed Wendy Large from **La Porte PD to fill Fonda's position that was vacated on the board.** So with all these changes we NOW have a complete board again.

You will notice that that we now have new phone numbers for our association as well, we have posted several of our cell phone numbers for you to contact us if you have questions along with our emails. Please feel free to contact any of us with your questions along with posting them on the message board. Again please feel free to contact me on my cell (817)733-8097 with any of your questions or concerns. I am and will always be here for you, our members. Thank you for bearing with us as we move through all these changes and transitions.

Hugs to all, Gayla Robison (817)733-8097 gaylar@quetel.com.



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Don't forget to visit your website at www.tapeit.net. Go to the message board, take a look at the "How do you do it" forum and see if you can help someone who has posted a question / problem or... post your own.


The Folks Behind The Scenes - your officers and board members—all working for T.A.P.E.I.T. members because.... They're members too!

Officers		Board
President	Gayla Robison - Burleson PD, retired	Tommie Hastings - Humble PD, retired
1st VP:	Danny Barfield - Killeen PD, retired	Connie Jordan - Jasper County S.O.
2nd VP	Linda Roberts - Longview PD	Steve Yancey - Forest Hill PD
Secy:	Jamie Murphy - TX A&M PD	Christina McDaniel - Richardson PD
Sgt. At Arms	Bob Killingsworth - Nacogdoches PD	Wendy Large - LaPorte PD
Treasurer	Fonda Rhoades - Lampasas Co SO	Paula Donato - Coppell PD
Web/Editor	Melinda Strange -Huntsville PD, retired	
Historian	Lynne Sinclair - McKinney PD	
Founding President	Kolene Dean - Hurst PD, retired	
Past President	John Stevens - Cedar Hill PD	
Past President	Paul Szendrey - Georgetown PD	

If you are interested in serving as a board member please go to the TAPEIT Documents tab on our website or contact any officer / board member for information regarding the requirements.



Scott Fitzpatrick
979-777-2874



Amanda Woodruff: 913-709-1944



Contact: (800) 423-8433



We Pay Tribute - Honoring TX Officers Who Left Us In 2016...

Source: Officer Down Memorial Page

It is tragic anytime a life is lost... One is too many and in 2016 Texas lost many law enforcement personnel! Unfortunately, the list is long...

[Detective Benjamin Edward Marconi](#)

San Antonio Police Department, TX
EOW: Sunday, November 20, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

[Assistant Commander Kenneth Joseph Starrs](#)

South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force, TX
EOW: Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Cause of Death: Struck by train

[Border Patrol Agent David Gomez](#)

United States Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection - United States Border Patrol, US
EOW: Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Cause of Death: Heart attack
Location: Texas

[Corporal Robert Eugene Ransom](#)

Gregg County Sheriff's Office, TX
EOW: Friday, September 30, 2016
Cause of Death: Heart attack

[Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Hubert Maltby](#)

Eastland County Sheriff's Office, TX
EOW: Wednesday, September 7, 2016
Cause of Death: Automobile accident

[Senior Police Officer Amir Abdul-Khalig](#)

Austin Police Department, TX
EOW: Sunday, September 4, 2016
Cause of Death: Motorcycle accident

[Police Officer Justin Scherlen](#)

Amarillo Police Department, TX
EOW: Thursday, August 4, 2016
Cause of Death: Automobile accident

[Corrections Officer Mari Johnson](#)

TDCJ, TX
EOW: Saturday, July 16, 2016
Cause of Death: Assault

[Police Officer Marco Antonio Zarate](#)

Bellaire Police Department, TX
EOW: Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Cause of Death: Vehicle pursuit

[Senior Corporal Lorne Bradley Ahrens](#)

Dallas Police Department, TX
EOW: Friday, July 8, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

[Police Officer Brent Alan Thompson](#)

Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Department, TX
EOW: Thursday, July 7, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

[Police Officer Patricio E. Zamarripa](#)

Dallas Police Department, TX
EOW: Thursday, July 7, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

[Police Officer Michael Leslie Krol](#)

Dallas Police Department, TX
EOW: Thursday, July 7, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

[Sergeant Michael Joseph Smith](#)

Dallas Police Department, TX
EOW: Thursday, July 7, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

[Police Officer Calvin "Mark" McCullers](#)

Southern Methodist University Police Department, TX
EOW: Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Cause of Death: Drowned

[Sergeant Stacey Allen Baumgartner](#)

Patton Village Police Department, TX
EOW: Sunday, June 19, 2016
Cause of Death: Vehicle pursuit

[Police Officer Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya](#)

Pearland Police Department, TX
EOW: Sunday, June 12, 2016
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

[Border Patrol Agent Jose Daniel Bar-raza](#)

United States Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection - United States Border Patrol, US
EOW: Monday, April 18, 2016
Cause of Death: Automobile accident
Location: Texas

[Trooper Jeffrey Nichols](#)

Texas Department of Public Safety - Texas Highway Patrol, TX
EOW: Saturday, March 26, 2016
Cause of Death: Automobile accident

[Patrolman David Ortiz](#)

El Paso Police Department, TX
EOW: Monday, March 14, 2016
Cause of Death: Motorcycle accident

[Police Officer David Stefan Hofer](#)

Eules Police Department, TX
EOW: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire



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News you can use...

This is just an excerpt of some of the changes, mostly the ones affecting law enforcement personnel. For further info on changes in the laws or bills presented go to [Texas Legislature Online](#). Any changes becoming effective in 2017 will be covered when available in a later issue.

Art. 38.50. (Retention and preservation of toxicological evidence in certain intoxication offenses)

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/CR/htm/CR.38.htm>

According to Art. 38.50. (Retention and preservation of toxicological evidence in certain intoxication offenses), requires retention and preservation of a blood or urine specimen that was collected as part of an investigation of an alleged offense under Chapter 49 of the Texas Penal Code. Applies to a governmental or public entity or individual that is charge with the collection, storage, preservation, analysis, or retrieval of toxicological evidence. Requires retention for two years or the period of the statute of limitations if an indictment or information has not been presented. Requires retention for the term of supervision, if applicable or for the **duration of the defendant's sentence. If defendant is acquitted or the indictment or information is dismissed with prejudice, requirement of retention ends.**

This article applies to all toxicological evidence stored by an entity or individual on or after September 1, 2015 regardless of whether the evidence was collected on or before the effective date.

If you haven't already, you might want to check with your prosecutor to determine if your agency will be required to "retain and preserve" the evidence. The lab that analyzes your blood evidence will also be able to help.

Open carry (HB 910):

Licensed handgun owners can openly carry holstered handguns everywhere starting Jan.

1. Businesses can prohibit handguns in their stores, but now they need a new sign to legally keep guns out.

Texas will join 44 other states that already have open carry laws. Texas has about 850,000 concealed handgun license holders, a number that has increased sharply in recent years. The rules of where guns are allowed are the same as concealed carry. It just means you can openly carry the weapon now. It does have to be on a belt and in a holster or in a shoulder holster.

Body Cameras for Police Departments - Chapter 1701, Occupations Code:

According to State Bill 158, effective on September 1st, 2015, a county sheriff or municipal police department may apply to the office of the Governor for a grant for body cameras to be issued to various police officers.

Search and Seizure of Cell Phones [HB 1396]

Police must now obtain a search warrant in order to search a person's cell phone or wireless communication device, per House Bill 1396, which will take effect on Sept. 1, 2015.



Evidence TraQ has been designed to make it easier for everyone involved to submit, handle, present, and dispose of items of evidence, as well as manage the database.

[QueTel](#) - Jeff Wools 703-318-6836



TAPEIT.NET Message Board Questions

Have input? Have a question? Have an answer? See these and more at <http://www.tapeit.net> and visit the "How do you do it?" forum on our message board.

How do you do it?

I have a question regarding Article 18.19, returning a firearm to owner. We have a case in which the suspect was charged with "discharging a firearm in a municipality," to where he plead guilty and served his time. It's well after a year from the date of conviction and he has called requesting the gun be returned. I was reading through the Article and came across a clause that read the court shall order the weapon destroyed if "(2) the person has been previously convicted under Chapter 46, Penal Code." This individual is not a felon, but he does have a previous conviction of unlawful carry, which is under Chapter 46 of the Penal Code. I plan on consulting with our DA's office, but I wanted to consult with other Evidence Custodians as well, to see whether or not his gun should be returned.

Hi All, I was wondering if anyone has dealt with Gerdau Steel in the Houston area regarding bringing items to be destroyed?

Can someone go through the process of their department's annual audits? My supervisor would like me to help create a form to use for ours. It needs to be tapered towards a smaller department that does not use an Evidence Management System. (I currently utilize paper documents and excel).

Returning Found Property: Does anyone have a policy/procedure in place about returning found property, owner unknown, to the person who found it and turned it in? Do you return any type of property to include firearms, cash, or jewelry or just general merchandise? Just looking for info. Thanks

TAPEIT Scholarship / Grant Fund / Technician of the Year Recipients—2016



TAPEIT Scholarship — 2016

Congratulations to:

Greg James Joe Ortega Ryan Roberts Taylor Stevens

All received a \$500.00 scholarship

For more information on how to apply for TAPEIT’s Grant, Scholarship fund and Property Tech of the Year nominations visit www.tapeit.net.

Grant Fund Recipients—2016

(Photos posted on www.tapeit.net)

Congratulations to: Hearne PD, Live Oak PD, Longview PD, Magnolia PD, Nacogdoches PD, Nacogdoches S.O., Weatherford PD.

Congratulations to our 2016 Property Tech of the Year Award recipient: Sue Dinero with the UNT PD

Congratulations to Linda Roberts on receiving the President’s Choice Award.



Generous member donations to our silent auction helps fund TAPEIT’s Scholarship and grant funds.



Missing Evidence Bags Found In Hollywood Storage Room, or...
If you move it...document it!

HOLLYWOOD -- Three bags of confiscated guns and alcoholic beverages, reported missing in a city audit, were found Friday exactly where they were supposed to be -- in a storage room on the fourth floor of the Police Department. The glitch: No one wrote down where the bags were put after they were moved out of the evidence room and into storage. Employees typically rely on their memories. "It`s a common thread that runs through the city -- old habits," said Police Chief Richard Witt. "People don`t think about it because they say, `We`ve always done it that way.`"

"The whereabouts of the bags was questioned in an audit released by Arthur Andersen Co."



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Being able to locate evidence, equipment, and files efficiently and effectively is not an option in law enforcement- **it`s an imperative.**

Contact: C&A Assoc.—Matthew Moss (225) 235-5729

Questions from the Message Board...

Does anyone have a form that the Chief signs for authorization for agency use of property?

I need information if anyone can tell me what are you doing with the liquids brought in from Meth Labs that need to be destroyed. I have checked with every known company, even those that were mentioned at the conferences and no one will take the liquids.

Looking for SOP manual for property and evidence room. We are in the process for writing an SOP for our Property room and would like to know if anyone has one they would be willing to share? Thank you!

I was under the impression that you cannot store live ammo in an evidence room. I don't know who advised me of this and I can't find anything on it anywhere. Is this true and if so, where do you store ammo that is evidence?

Our agency has money that cannot be tied to an owner and that we've had for several months and longer. Do we need any sort of special documentation or court order to take possession of it and submit it to the city's general fund?

When you get case dispositions and are ready to dispose of evidence? Does your agency have the prosecutors sign off on them as well as the judge?

Who develops film and takes cell phones to be downloaded?

Paraphernalia: I am writing to see how other agencies handle the submission of paraphernalia in both county and class "C" offenses. I've been asked from officers if taking a picture of the paraphernalia and then disposing of it on the scene instead of submitting the actual physical evidence is an acceptable practice.

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P.O. Box 707
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(817)733-8097

October 2017 will be our 20th Conference! The dates are Oct 17 - Oct 20, at the Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade.
Details and conference registration will be on the website as it get's closer.
Hope to see you all in October!

The T.A.P.E.I.T. Officers and Board would like to thank all of the members, vendors and others who support our mission for being a part of T.A.P.E.I.T.
- making it the best it can be. See updates and more at www.tapeit.net.



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