



# From the President

Dear Fellow Sheriffs,  
Deputies, and Support Staff

Like many of you, my story is not unique. I was born and raised in Wyoming which was the foundation of a life of hard work, sacrifice, and a determination to get the job done. After two tours of duty in the United States Army I entered my law enforcement career with the Hobbs Police Department in Hobbs, New Mexico. I served for 22 years and retired in 2014. During my time with the Hobbs Police Department, I served in numerous capacities such as Patrol, Swat, K-9, Criminal Investigations, ATF Task Force Agent, and Internal Affairs to name a few. My commitment to service did not end there and in 2018,

I was elected to the Office of Lea County Sheriff where I continue to serve.

The Lea County Sheriff's Office is comprised of 82 sworn deputies and 11 non-sworn staff and is currently expanding. The Lea County Sheriff's Office is a full-service office to include patrol, investigations, K-9, Swat, traffic unit, explorer post, and reserve deputy program. The Lea County Sheriff's Office serves approximately 80,000 citizens comprising approximately 4,400 square miles which is rich in agriculture and oil production.

As I look to the year ahead, I'm excited and humbled to be your 2023-2024 President for the Western States Sheriffs' Association. We have many issues facing Western Sheriffs today that are complex but I'm confident, by working together, we can better serve our offices as well as our communities. Below I've highlighted key points for my vision of 2023-2024 which are



issues important to the Western States Sheriff's Association as well as myself.

**Advocate For The Office Of Sheriff:** This remains the core principle of what Western States Sheriffs' Association stands for. I will continue to advocate for the elected office of Sheriff.

**Border Security:** The crisis at the southern border is chaotic and out of control. The issues we are currently witnessing at our international border is not an immigration issue but rather a security issue. What is happening on our southern border is clearly a risk to our national security fueled by narco terrorists that are killing thousands of Americans. I will continue to partner with local, state, and federal partners to keep this issue on the forefront. By working together with one voice it affords us the ability to speak in unison and help navigate these difficult times.

**Continue To Foster Collaborative Efforts With Federal Land Management Partners:** Over the last few years WSSA has made significant

strides to foster a relationship with BLM and Forest Service to better increase our communication and working relationship. Its important moving forward we continue these efforts.

**Increase Wssa Membership And Increase Member Involvement:** Whether on the local, state, or federal level we are facing difficult and concerning legislation including but not limited to, 2nd Amendment, police reform, anti-law enforcement rhetoric, and public land management issues just to name a few. These decisions are having a significant impact on law enforcement around the country. To continue advancing our voice we need to better communicate with association members and provide up to date information. With the introduction of the WSSA App I hope to encourage and challenge membership to get involved and engaged on matters that are important to not only WSSA, but also matters affecting Western Sheriffs.

I want to congratulate the state of Missouri for becoming our 18th member state and I look forward to working with you all in the future. The Western States Sheriffs' Association has continued to grow in terms of its membership and its ability to quickly respond to issues effecting Sheriffs, their staff, and their communities across the country. The personal relationships we have throughout our membership afford us a unique ability to come together on any given issue and speak a common message. I look forward to serving all of you over the next 12 months and remain available to you should you need to reach out to me.

— Sheriff Corey Helton  
Lea County, New Mexico  
President, WSSA

# Emergency Manager and the Sheriff

The last decade has shown our country that disasters are becoming more prevalent and that we can plan as much as we want, but it will take a combined effort to ensure the safety of the community we have sworn to serve.

The emergence of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to the main screen during the COVID pandemic introduced a new symbiotic relationship that, if fostered appropriately, can lead to a successful recovery. OEM stepped up to the challenge and coordinated nationwide the support measures needed to ensure that our public safety community could continue to support local 911 during the height of the pandemic.

In Gilpin County, the OEM office confirmed that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and round-the-clock testing were available to keep the Sheriff's Office healthy. Emergency Management (EM) dedicates itself to the training, planning, and incident support response efforts for which the Sheriff is responsible.

So how does the Sheriff and the OEM become a machine that consistently churns to develop policies, respond to the crisis, and begin the recovery phases for our communities?

In every case across the United States where the OEM Director reports to the Sheriff, there must be clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities.

Emergency Managers are designed to always think about the worst-case scenario and be three to four steps ahead of the next crisis. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has created multiple documents that are the framework in which EM's hone their work. As a Sheriff, you also need to be intimately knowledgeable about these documents.

The initial document is Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), which aims to enhance the management of domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive national incident system. Secondly, Homeland Security

Presidential Policy Directive 8 (HSPD-8) aimed at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the nation's security, including acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters.

Unlike a regular call for service in law enforcement that is toned out, responded to, and cleared in an hour or less.

Emergency Managers are not your deputies or officers. They are wired to respond to an incident immediately but understand that they may not clear a scene for a week or more.

The deputies may evacuate a medium to a large wildfire that impacts a community

in less than thirty minutes, contained by the fire department in a few days. Yet it could take months for the OEM office to complete their side of the response to this single incident.

Our disasters always start and end locally, as should our capability building. If you are unfamiliar with your emergency manager, get to know them.

Make sure what they plan, create exercises for, and build in their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) aligns with your goals as Sheriff. We only succeed together. Our communities depend on it.

— Nathan Whittington  
Gilpin County Emergency  
Management Director ■

## Western States Sheriff's Association Sheriff of the Year 2022 Sheriff Jim Driscoll

Coconino County Arizona



Sheriff Jim Driscoll, Coconino County Arizona was selected as the Western States Sheriffs Association, Sheriff of the Year for 2022.

Sheriff Driscoll has been a long-time member of the WSSA and has served the communities of Coconino County for nearly 50 years.

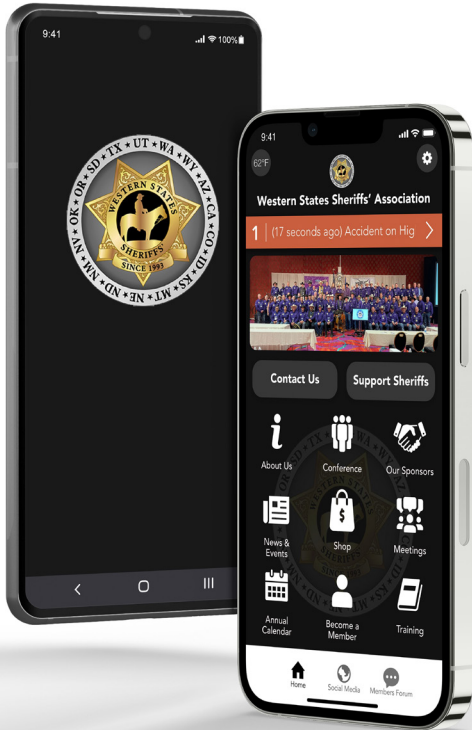
Sheriff Driscoll has been a fierce advocate for responsible management of our nation's public lands and has been a valuable mentor for others through his support for the integrity and authority of the Office of Sheriff.

The WSSA Sheriff of the Year award was established in 2008 and recognizes a Sheriff from the Western U.S. who has contributed to the profession of law enforcement and their community,

above and beyond the normal everyday duties. Sheriff Driscoll was nominated by his peers from the State of Arizona.

The Western States Sheriffs' Association stands with the Sheriffs of Arizona in recognition of the accomplishments of Sheriff Jim Driscoll and believe he was most deserving of this recognition.

# Do You Have The App?



In collaboration with the Sheriff App, the WSSA has successfully rolled out a functional app for I-phone and android users.

While discussions have been ongoing for the past few years, actual work began in late 2022. Under the leadership of Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, Immediate Past President, content development and structure design was implemented. The goal was a soft rollout for the 2023 conference and that was successfully implemented just days before the conference began.

“We discovered that communication to our membership was becoming increasingly difficult through the use of email. To enhance and improve real time communication with well over 1,100 Sheriffs across the western U.S., we felt the move to this platform would provide the best opportunity to reach our membership more quickly,” said Sheriff Schroetlin.

The one thing that is apparent is that many people always have quick access to their phone. By downloading the App, our membership can have quickly access notifications and become aware of upcoming meetings and a vast array of important happenings within the Association.

The Western States Sheriffs' Association is grateful to the leadership and staff at the “SheriffApp” who worked tirelessly with us to roll this out in the past few months.

If you have not been able to download the app, simply scan the QR code here and it will open to the app store or google play and you will be on your way. ■



**SCAN**  
TO DOWNLOAD!



## Did you know?

### *A Historical Perspective of the Office of Sheriff*

*By Sheriff Roger Scott, Dekalb County, Illinois*

As the nation expanded westward, the Office of Sheriff continued to be a significant part of law enforcement.

#### **The elected Sheriff is part of America's democratic fabric.**

In 1776 Pennsylvania and New Jersey adopted the Office of Sheriff in their Constitution. The Ohio Constitution called for the election of the County Sheriff in 1802, and then state-by-state, the democratic election of Sheriff became not only a tradition, but in most states a constitutional requirement.

In the United States today, of the 3083 Sheriffs, approximately 98 percent are elected by the citizens of their counties or parishes. The preservation of the Office of Sheriff is vital in our republic.

Outside a few elected town marshals, the Sheriff is the only head of a law enforcement agency in this nation that is accountable directly to the people of his /her jurisdiction.”

# WSSA Elite 100



The Western States Sheriffs' Association has a deep appreciation for the long-standing and productive relationships we have with our business partners. As an association, we recognize and value the mutual benefits that our membership and you receive from the relationships built. Over the past several years, these relationships have led to noticeable increases in membership, attendance at the annual conference and an ongoing desire to maintain strong and open communication between WSSA and companies such as yours. As WSSA has grown, so have the expectations of our membership and executive board. These expectations are centered around furthering the mission of the association and advocating strongly on matters that are important to not only the Sheriffs of the western U.S. but to people we serve. As our membership grows and our need to affect change across the western U.S. becomes more apparent, our ability to build on our success requires additional resources. In 2023 the Western States Sheriffs Association implemented a new program called the **"Elite 100 Corporate Partner."** We are seeking 100 Corporations who desire to join us a true partner in advancing the elected Office of Sheriff across the western United States. We are grateful to the first 10 business partners who have joined us in this new endeavor and look forward to additional partners in the near future.

If your business is interested in hearing more about the Elite 100 program, please contact Dave Brown at [westernsheriff2@gmail.com](mailto:westernsheriff2@gmail.com) or call 360-513-9500. ■

- ARTISTIC CUSTOM BADGES & COINS
  - CROWN CORRECTIONAL
- STERLING COMMISSARY • CTEL
  - CORVINUS • RS SECURITY
- INDIVIOR • WEXFORD HEALTH
  - BI2 TECHNOLOGIES • NCIC



The Man Up Crusade was created in 2012 by Sheriff Kieran Donahue of Canyon County, Idaho. Kieran grew up on a cattle ranch in Eastern Idaho and learned from an early age the definition of hard work and dedication. His western heritage taught him strong family values and gave him the strength to overcome trials and tribulations.

As Kieran's career in law enforcement developed, he saw first-hand the traumatic affects that domestic violence has on victims and their families.

Domestic Violence has become an epidemic in our society and is a public health and safety issue - it is with these facts in mind that Kieran began this journey called the Man Up Crusade.

Kieran and his wife Jeanie live the western lifestyle every day and what a better tie into their program than the American Cowboy... people all over country idolize the cowboy image and the western way of life.

- The cowboy is an iconic figure of strength, conviction, and fortitude.
- The cowboy never backs away from a job or never quits until the task before him is finished.
- The cowboy understands the fundamental belief that right is right and wrong is wrong.

It is the goal of the Man Up Crusade to celebrate this courageous spirit and be an example to people everywhere that we can stand up for what is right and help put an end to domestic violence.

In 2022, Sheriff Donahue approached the leadership of the Western State Sheriffs' Association to discuss the idea of transitioning the operation and promotion of the Man up Crusade to the WSSA.

After a great deal of discussion and consideration at the 2023 annual conference, a motion was brought to the membership of WSSA to adopt the Man up Crusade as an initiative of the Western States Sheriffs Association. The motioned was unanimously passed by the membership.

There can be little argument as to the fact that the brands of both the WSSA and the Man up Crusade promote the flavor of the west.

The Office of Sheriff, and the history of the Cowboy, are steeped in rich and colorful tradition and both are widely respected and admired by the people of the western United States.

These two brands are in a unique position to be joined, and the combined missions of both entities are well suited toward the preservation of the Office of Sheriff and the safety of the people across Nation.

The combined effort of both organizations will strive to expand the education and awareness of the tragedies of the cycle of domestic violence across the nation in a never-ending effort to stop this cycle that is negatively impacting individuals and families. ■

## Missouri Joins WSSA



Missouri Sheriff's Representatives

The State of Missouri became the 18<sup>th</sup> member State to the Western States Sheriffs Association at the 2023 annual WSSA conference in Reno NV.

The Missouri State Sheriffs had been discussing becoming a member of WSSA for the past several months and they ultimately petitioned for membership in early 2023.

The WSSA will consider petitions for membership any State west of the Mississippi River and looks for commonality in issues affecting the elected Office of Sheriff and other regional and national issues affecting the public safety of the people of western United States.

As a strong advocate for the elected Office of Sheriff, the WSSA was informed that the Missouri Sheriffs are not a Constitutional Officer within the Missouri State Constitution.

A bill currently exists within the State of Missouri that, if passed, would amend the Missouri State Constitution to include the Office of Sheriff as a Constitutional officer.

The membership of the WSSA unanimously voted to support the Missouri Sheriffs in support of this bill.

The WSSA is pleased to welcome all 115 Sheriffs from the State of Missouri as the newest members to an organization that places significant honor on the history of the elected Office of Sheriff and its importance to the people it serves. ■

# Sheriffs Unite for Security and Safety

America's Sheriffs come from a diverse spectrum of geography, politics, and history. To be elected by the people, accountable to the people and the protector of the individual rights and liberty of the people, Sheriffs are unique in their role.



It can often be challenging to build consensus on a single issue even among Sheriffs due to the political winds of any given region of the country.

Last September, a small group consisting of the leadership of the Western States Sheriffs Association, National Sheriffs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, Southwest Border Sheriffs, and Texas Border Sheriffs all met in southern Arizona to tackle the issue of gaining consensus on the crisis and chaos at our southern border.

Each respective organization brought their own viewpoints and opinions and there was debate and differences over the course the day and half of meetings.

At the conclusion, there was agreement. At the conclusion, there was fundamental consensus that America's Sheriffs must remain united in order to affect substantial

change at the border and realize success in enforcing the rule of law and securing the safety of the American people.

A second meeting was held in Washington D.C. in February and work has continued on forming the vision for this newly created "Sheriff Alliance." In collaboration with the nation's Police Chiefs, the law enforcement leaders of the nation are speaking out and speaking in unison on the failures of the federal government to fulfill its responsibility in addressing the criminal and humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

The Western States Sheriffs Association is proud to stand with the leaders of these organizations in recognizing and effectively addressing the issues of illegal drugs, and both human and sex trafficking in communities across America.

The Elected Sheriff remains critical to

the protection of the people and is a strong voice to affect change and America's Sheriffs are committed to the cause. ■



# One of Our Own



*Sheriff Balaam, second from right, and Administrative Staff*

The Western States Sheriffs' Association is grateful to WSSA member and Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam for once again providing tremendous support to the annual conference.

Sheriff Balaam and his exceptional staff provided security to conference attendees and his CERT teams were on staff again this year volunteering time each day scanning attendees into training courses and meetings.

The exhibit hall was graced with the presence of a helicopter owned and operated by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. This is first time in the history of our trade show that a helicopter has been on display.

The volunteer efforts of the CERT team and the additional safety measures put in through the leadership of Sheriff Balaam and his staff were both obvious and appreciated.

Thank you to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office! ■

## 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.*



## Executive Board

President  
**Sheriff Corey Helton**  
Lea County, New Mexico

Vice President  
**Sheriff Gary Bettencourt**  
Gilliam County, Oregon

Secretary  
**Sheriff Ray Del Bosque**  
Zapata County, Texas

Treasurer  
**Sheriff Mark Dannels**  
Cochise County, Arizona

Sgt. at Arms  
**Sheriff Tracy Glover**  
Kane County, Utah

Immediate Past President  
**Sheriff Brett Schroetlin**  
Grand County, Colorado

Past President  
**Sheriff Leo Dutton**  
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

Executive Director  
**Sheriff Jim Pond (Ret.)**  
Albany County, Wyoming

**Find us on the Web!**

<https://www.westernsheriffs.org/>

## President



### Sheriff Corey Helton

I was born and raised in Wyoming and graduated from Riverton Highschool in 1986. I entered the United States Army in 1988 and served two tours and was Honorably discharged in 1994 where I began my career with the Hobbs New Mexico Police Department the same month.

I spent 22 years with the police department and held numerous positions including Swat, K-9, Gang Unit, Detective, and Internal Affairs Investigator. In 2018 I ran for Lea County Sheriff where I currently serve.

I have been the Lea County Sheriff for almost four years and serve on many boards such as the New Mexico Sheriff's Association as well the Executive Board of the Western States Sheriff's Association. ■

## Immediate Past President



### Sheriff Brett Schroetlin

Brett D. Schroetlin is the Sheriff of Grand County, Colorado. He is a 4th generation Colorado native, and started his law enforcement journey as an Explorer Scout in 1992, and has served as a sworn Peace Officer since 1999 as a Police Officer/Deputy, K9 Handler, Investigator, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Assistant Chief.

## Vice President



### Sheriff Gary Bettencourt

Sheriff Gary Bettencourt was born and raised in Gilliam County. He was born in Condon and raised on a ranch on Rock Creek. After graduating high school Sheriff Bettencourt spent nearly eleven years in Silverton, Oregon working as an auctioneer and managed a seed processing facility.

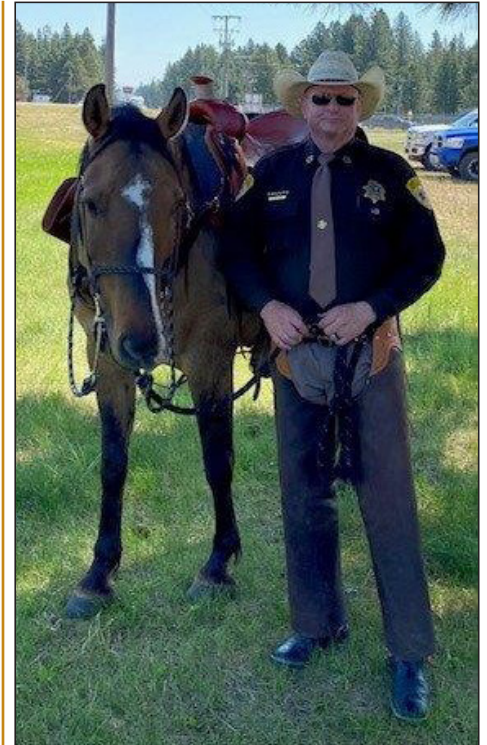
In 1994 Sheriff Bettencourt returned to Gilliam County and for seven years owned and operated two businesses. In 1999 Sheriff Bettencourt became a Reserve Deputy for the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office and was hired as a full time Deputy in 2001. After moving to Condon in 2003 Sheriff Bettencourt was promoted to Undersheriff and then became Sheriff in 2005. He is running unopposed for his fifth term.

In 2021 Sheriff Bettencourt joined the Executive Board at WSSA and currently serves as Secretary. For the year 2019-2020 he was recognized as Sheriff of the Year for WSSA. ■

Sheriff Schroetlin was sworn into office in January 2015 and is now in his second term serving the citizens and tourists of Grand County, in addition to his collateral duties within the State of Colorado and through the Western States Sheriffs Association (WSSA).

Sheriff Schroetlin has been involved in WSSA since 2016 and currently is serving as the President. ■

## Past President



### Sheriff Leo Dutton

Sheriff Leo Dutton is originally from Sand Springs, Montana, where he graduated from Garfield County High School in 1978. Leo married his best friend and partner, Luci, in 1983. In December of that year, they moved to Helena. They have three wonderful children, Luke, Levi and Logan.

Leo attended the University of Montana-College of Technology's Airframe and Power Plant program, graduating as a certified Airframe and Power Plant Mechanic in 1985.

In 1984, he began his law enforcement career as a reserve deputy for Lewis & Clark County.

Leo was sworn in as Sheriff of Lewis & Clark County on September 2, 2008. He strives to lead others in a combined vision to meet a common mission and uphold the core values established by the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office. ■

Secretary



**Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.**

In 2012, Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., was appointed by the Zapata County Sheriff, Alonso M. Lopez, as Chief Deputy of the Zapata County Sheriff's Office for his vision to protect and serve the community and citizens while abiding to the Oath as a Texas Peace Officer and enforcing the Law.

Committed to his family, Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., is a proud parent of five, who currently lives in Zapata, TX in the same town he grew up in, with his wife and children. ■

*Executive Director*

**Sheriff Jim Pond (Ret.)**

As the Executive Director I coordinate the Day-to-Day activities as well as projects, training and conferences, Legislative issues affecting the member states and assignments as directed by Western States Sheriffs Association Executive Board. I also coordinate membership and recruitment of members and keep all financial accounting of the Association.



Elected as Sheriff in 1998 I held the office for three terms. The Sheriff is directly responsible for the safety and security of all the people in Albany County. ■

Sgt. at Arms



**Sheriff Tracy Glover**

Tracy Glover was born and raised in Southern Utah. After graduating from Kanab High School, he attended Southern Utah University.

Tracy began his law enforcement career in 1997 with the Kanab City Police Department where he enjoyed patrol, investigations and ran a K-9 unit. He was appointed to serve as the Undersheriff at the Kane County Sheriff's Office in 2000 where he served under Sheriff Lamont Smith for 15 years.

Tracy was elected to the Office of Kane County Sheriff in 2014 and he is currently serving in his third term. Tracy serves on many boards including the Executive Board for the Utah Sheriff's Association, Utah SIAC governance board, Utah Search and Rescue Board, the UAC Joint Jails Committee, and the Utah Communications Authority Public Safety Advisory Committee.

Tracy has been a member of WSSA for over 20 years where he has served as the Utah State Representative and as the Vice Chair and Chair of the Public Lands/ Government Affairs Committee. Tracy was recently elected to serve on the WSSA Executive Board. Tracy's personal interests include spending time with his family Hunting, Boating, Snowmobiling and dabbling with Thoroughbred racehorses. ■

Treasurer



**Sheriff Mark Dannels**

Since 2012, Sheriff Mark J. Dannels has been elected by the good citizens of Cochise County to serve as their 26th Cochise County Sheriff since 1881. I continue to be Humbled, Honored and Dedicated to my oath of office for this incredible opportunity to serve you all with my personal commitment to sustain your Quality of Life as you would expect, and your Freedoms and Liberties as scribed in the United States and Arizona Constitutions.

Sheriff Dannels is married to Nickie, a Registered Nurse. They have three sons, Justin, a Police Officer/Corporal with the City of Sierra Vista, Ryan a Firefighter/ Paramedic with the City of Sierra Vista, and Corey, a Lineman with the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative. ■

