



Western States Sheriffs Association

President's Letter August 25



I am excited to share with you an important meeting coming up next month in Phoenix, Arizona. On behalf of the Southwestern Border and Texas Sheriffs' coalition, I am pleased to announce our annual fall meeting scheduled for September 28 – 30, 2025 at the Wildhorse Casino and Resort in Phoenix, Arizona.

This is no ordinary conference, but a meeting that encompasses your American Sheriffs' Alliance. This alliance is comprised of all the sheriffs' associations (National, Western, Major, and Southwest and Texas) once again, coming together to develop strategic plans in addressing challenges we all face.

We plan on having our normal meetings on Monday morning with presentations following to

learn from our fellow law enforcement partners. On Tuesday, sheriffs will come together to begin the process of developing operational plans and positions that serve America's sheriffs and the challenges we face.

I encourage and welcome each one of you to join us in uniting sheriffs for a common cause and mission. (for those interested, please contact AWilkins@TXBSC.org or you are welcome reach out to me.

Many of you read or heard of the DHS-ICE national recruitment campaign. In brief, DHS came out with a \$50,000 sign on bonus for anyone interested in joining ICE. Granted, we all try to recruit and solicit the best talent out there, but the rub on this recruitment campaign was their intended audience. The recruitment was targeted at Sheriff's Offices and yes, our deputies. Understandably, it didn't take long before sheriffs across the country came out loud and upset.

I was contacted by national media seeking headlines to this potential division of law enforcement labor. I immediately made a call to my contact in Washington D.C. to inquire and understand why before I responded. I was advised that this was a misstep by DHS and, most

important to me and you, it would NOT happen again.

I authored an email to our sheriffs' association in attempts to calm the minds of my fellow sheriffs. Once again, the influence of sheriffs was well-received avoiding a division between DHS and Sheriffs.

Finally, we are less than a month away from the memorial ceremonies regarding the attacks on September 11, 2001. A date in our history that changed our nation and policing forever.

The coordinated Islamist suicide attacks by al-Qaeda was the deadliest terrorist attack in history on U.S. soil.

The attack killed 2977 people to include children. Included in this number were 343 firefighters and 72 law enforcement officers killed at the hands of 19 terrorists. Many of us will be attending memorial ceremonies in our respective communities as we stand united against "evil" and for the greatest nation on earth. Lets NEVER forget this day and those that paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting others in their time of need.

God Bless this Great Nation!

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels