



Littleton Police Citizen Academy Alumni Association Newsletter



Letter from the President

4TH Quarter, 2014
Issue #55

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! And what a year this will be!

After the January board meeting, I got to see the new LPD Community Volunteer vehicle. This signifies a huge step forward for our group - where LPCAAA volunteers will be working in small groups, out in the community. The Police Department and our CSV committee have done a great job so far. I'm really looking forward to signing up when LPD is ready to take applications. There will be more information at our February meeting.

Our Director of Training, Janet Simpson has started our new year's training with some local favorites. Detective Johnie Evans & Bruce Adams gave us some interesting talks about their work and experiences. This will continue with DC Kim Ferber & Commander Trent Cooper. Please check out our website for details of future events as they unfold.

Janna Allan, Director of Volunteer Services has managed to ensure that our events ran smoothly and successfully. This year, some children managed to lose their parents at Candlelight Walk. This didn't fluster Janna (too much) and Santa managed to safely navigate Main Street.

Thanks to Joe Hanson, our Director of Media for keeping the group informed about our events and news from LPD. He, with Sue's help, has been doing a great job with the K-9 Committee, keeping this great program moving forward.

Our other board members have also been busy. More about them in future newsletters.

I'd like to recommend that you consider additional training opportunities beyond LPCAAA. The Arapahoe Sheriff's Office's Citizen Academy will run April 9 - May 7, 2015. While there is an overlap with some content from our own citizen academy, it is well worth attending. Regis University has an annual CSI conference that is open, without charge, to the public. They recently announced a new lecture series, March 4 - April 22, on Sexual Homicides. I expect that they will give an interesting insight to the investigation of these horrible crimes.

Please visit our website at www.lpcaaa.org to preview the schedule of upcoming activities and events.

I hope to see you at our next meeting!

Kevin Cunningham
President



The Chief's Corner

By Doug Stephens, Chief of Police

With all the negative media scrutiny law enforcement has been receiving since the Grand Jury decisions in Ferguson and New York it would be easy for officers to withdraw from the community for fear of becoming the next Officer Darren Wilson. After all, any of us is just one incident away from being the chum for the next national media feeding frenzy on police.

One way to avoid being Officer Wilson is for officers to minimize their risk of being involved in an incident which could become controversial. For example, an officer on patrol sees a group of young people hanging out near a known gang house. They are dressed the part, head-to-toe in red, sagging clothes, and visible gang tattoos. As the officer drives down the street one or two in the group reach down and appear to drop something into a bush. The officer now has a decision to make. Stop and investigate the possibility these individuals may be gang members who just concealed weapons and/or drugs, or just keep on driving take the next right turn and go get coffee.

In the months, and ultimately years, following the Rodney King incident, LAPD officers did a lot of risk-minimization, otherwise known as drive-by policing. They felt the potential risk to their careers and livelihood of making that type of discretionary contact outweighed the benefit of a potential felony arrest and recovery of weapons and drugs. The result was predictable; crime rates in Los Angeles rose dramatically as gang violence escalated essentially unchecked. The police hunkered-down to ride out the media-driven political storm they were experiencing, handling only the 911 and non-emergency calls while avoiding risky discretionary contacts.

Officers across the country are feeling the effects of Ferguson and New York. Even here in Littleton our officers have experienced groups of youth raising their hands and saying, "don't shoot" as we drive by. Professional athletes and other high profile personalities promote an anti-police atmosphere by doing the same, or wearing t-shirts emblazoned with, "I can't breathe." It makes doing a difficult job just a bit more difficult.

Yet despite the constant condemnation of our noble profession by some, our officers remain proud, dedicated, and committed to serving our community. Whether helping a domestic violence victim find shelter or chasing an armed robber down a dark street, our officers continue to give everything they have to help keep our community safe.

During a time when it would be easy for officers to withdraw, to do the minimum, our officers are stepping-up. They do amazing work every day and they take their duty seriously. During a time when it is popular to rant about everything that is bad about law enforcement, I am proud to lead an organization where our men and women continue to demonstrate everything that is good.

Doug Stephens
Chief of Police



Trick-or-Treat Street - October 31, 2014

Mild weather continued to bless the annual Trick-or-Treat Street celebration at Aspen Grove Life Style Center this past year. Normally held on a Saturday evening, this year's event kicked off at 5:00pm on Friday, October 31, the traditional date for Halloween. The earlier start time, combined with the change from a Saturday to a Friday, contributed to a small decrease in attendees compared to last year.



However, a crowd estimated at approximately 3,500, mostly children, still presented a traffic control challenge as they hurried to collect as many goodies as possible! In keeping with past Trick-or-Treat events, the LPCAAA volunteers manned all of the ingress and egress points of the shopping center, balancing the flow of cars against the large number

of children and their families visiting the many merchants. As with past Trick-or-Treat events, the busiest traffic/crowd intersections were the main entrance off of Santa Fe Drive, and the Panera Bread intersection in the southwest corner of the shopping area.



In addition to providing 24 volunteers for the event, the LPCAAA maintained a legacy of donating more than \$500.00 of treats for the children. Many of the parents took time to say "Thank You!" to the volunteers, who demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and commitment enabling all participants to enjoy the evening! After 3-hours of crowd and traffic control with no incidents, the volunteers were ready to head home for a well-deserved rest!





CALEA Citizen Testimonials - November 3, 2014

Whenever a quality-of-life issue arises, whether it's a medical, legal or governmental concern, we all want the best qualified professional to handle the job. The question of who performs our local police services is no different - we demand and expect the best! To confirm that law enforcement agencies maintain a high level of commitment to a set of nationally recognized standards, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) offers a comprehensive program against which local agencies can measure their performance.



The citizens of Littleton can take pride in the efforts of their Police Department to meet the national standards, while continually seeking to improve the relationship between community and law enforcement. To ensure on-going compliance with the letter and spirit of the program, every agency provides documented proof every three years that internal practices and standards are meeting the national guidelines. The Littleton Police Department has just completed the rigorous assessment process required for re-accreditation. The department was proud to host a team of on-site assessors, Commander Ernie Knight (University of Chicago Police Department) and Chief Doug Middleton (Henrico County (Virginia) Police Department), as they reviewed LPD's application for re-accreditation. In addition to a review of policies, procedures, document files and personnel interviews, the assessors listened to testimonials from local residents and other area law enforcement professionals regarding the relationship between LPD and the community during a Public Information Session on November 3. More than



10 members of the Littleton Police Citizen Academy Alumni Association attended the session, with 5 members giving testimony to the good relations between the LPD, the LPCAAA and the community. We are proud to be associated with the hard-working members of the Littleton Police Department!





Citizen Academy Class 31 Graduation— November 13, 2014



Reminiscent of the old saying - “Time flies when you’re having fun!” - the 11 weeks of the Littleton Police Citizen Academy, Class 31, seemingly moved at supersonic speeds! The Fall-2014 session of the Citizen Academy began on September 4 and ended with a graduation ceremony on November 13, with 10 stimulating weeks of learning in between. Beginning with a brief outline of the “law” in law enforcement, and continuing through to the skills required for police work, the 22 stu-

dents were treated to an inside perspective of what it takes to fight crime in the community.

Among the highlights of the session was the opportunity of the student to relate their ride-along experiences with LPD patrol officers. Many of the students recounted humorous, yet somber, incidents during their brief time on the streets with the patrol officers. A particularly interesting experience involved a ride-along with Officer Brent Kieffer and K-9 Sabor as they transported a suspect to jail, and the affect the K-9 officer has on the public. The humorous episode shared by the young lady was a powerful endorsement of the K-9 program and its value in community policing.

The graduates of Class 31 were addressed by Chief Doug Stephens who thanked them for their time and commitment to the program, and reminded them that they were “unofficial ambassadors” of the police department to the community. An earnest “Thank you” was extended to all LPD personnel who taught segments throughout the session, and especially the program administrators, Sgt. Steve Skundberg and Commander Jim Werder. Special thanks were given to Barb Andres for her tireless enthusiasm and personal dedication to the success of the program.

Upon class completion, the graduates have an opportunity to join the Citizen Academy Alumni Association and continue their involvement with the police department through Alumni Association activities. To date, seven of the graduates have enrolled - welcome to the LPCAAA!





Candlelight Walk - November 28, 2014



Santa Claus came to town - and there were a lot of people anxious to see him!

Known for his habit of visiting the city of Littleton on the Friday after Thanksgiving, Santa Claus didn't disappoint this year. The day after Thanksgiving, November 28, witnessed more than 15,000 young, and young-at-heart, holiday celebrants attend the annual Candlelight Walk procession in downtown Littleton. Encouraged by absolutely beautiful weather - mild and calm with a gorgeous sunset - the crowds gathered along downtown's Main Street to watch Santa Claus arrive and magically turn on the holiday lighting on Main Street. Acknowledging the potential for large crowds and the associated auto traffic, the Littleton Police partnered with the LPCAAA to provide crossing guards to ensure a safe and festive evening for all.

To assure adequate coverage of all critical street intersections and ensure safe flow of foot traffic, 25 Alumni members turned out in safety vests and flashlights to assist LPD. By helping to safely direct pedestrians and vehicles at congested traffic points, the evening was more enjoyable for all. To the credit of the people attending the festivities, and the police and volunteers helping to maintain a safe environment, there were no accidents or mishaps. A job well done!



Special kudos to Janna Allan, our new Director of Volunteer Services for providing outstanding leadership in her first "big" volunteer event after being elected to her new position on the Board of Directors. Thanks, Janna!



LPCAAA Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner - December 4, 2014



If you're like me, every Holiday season starts with a resolution to eat less. And, every year, the results are the same - it's hard to turn your back on good food! This year's Annual Potluck Dinner is no different. With several tables full of salads, casseroles, hot plates, and cold meats - not to mention two tables of desserts! - it's hard to go home at the end of the evening and not feel stuffed. Christmas table decorations including poinsettias donated by Carol & Ron Etter provided a warm, inviting atmosphere to the dinner. Attending were more than 50 members and numerous spouses and visitors. Special guests this year were Chief Doug Stephens, his wife and two young sons.

For the third year, a White Elephant gift exchange was offered and more than a dozen members accepted the challenge to bring a "special" wrapped gift. Participants sat around the decorated Christmas tree trying to guess what the next unusual gift may be, enjoying one chuckle after another as each had an opportunity to take an unopened gift or steal one from another participant. The Chief's two sons also joined in the fun and appeared to have a great time!

Thanks to all for making this year's Potluck Dinner a very memorable occasion!





Officer Bryann Lynch Retirement Ceremony - December 10, 2014



The retirement of Master Police Officer Bryann Lynch is both a time for joy and time for sadness.

Officer Lynch dedicated 25 years to the Littleton Police Department, serving in Patrol, Investigations and the Special Enforcement Team, as well as a special assignment with the South Metro Drug Task Force. Whatever job she was assigned was performed with the utmost integrity, courage and compassion for the community. Officer Lynch thrived on developing personal relationships with her co-workers and the community, particularly enjoying her time on the Special Enforcement Team's activities with Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out.

Officer Lynch now has an opportunity for a true "dream job", working in her home town of Golden, CO, and working for a former LPD colleague, Chief Greg Bolen of the School of Mines Police Department. Her knowledge, dedication and compassion will be an ideal fit with the student body at Mines.

The membership of the LPCAAA is saddened at the departure of Officer Lynch, someone we deeply respected as she helped us in our mission to serve the LPD and our community. She had a deep and lasting impact on our membership and will be sorely missed! The LPCAAA was proud to be invited to her retirement ceremony and responded with 14 members in attendance, with four volunteering to serve refreshments afterward.

**Littleton is a better community for the service of
Master Police Officer Bryann Lynch!**





Friends of Littleton K-9 Update



What have the Friends of Littleton K-9 been doing lately?

After a holiday hiatus to allow our members to catch their collective breath, the Friends of Littleton K-9 will be working again to mobilize support for the LPD K-9 program. Activities planned for January and February include:

Presentations of Certificates-of-Appreciation -

- Wolhurst Men's Club
- Wolhurst Home Owners Association
- Columbine Animal Hospital

K-9 Demonstrations -

- Transitions Program, Littleton Public Schools

To view the many photos from the above activities, please visit the LPCAAA website and click on the page "Friends of Littleton K-9". A link to the photo galleries can be found near the middle of the page.

The acquisition of K-9 Sabor's SWAT vest from *K-9 Storm* is progressing nicely. The sizing template has been fitted to K-9 Sabor and forwarded to the manufacturer in Winnipeg, Manitoba to begin manufacture. Officer Kieffer and K-9 Sabor continue training with LPD's SWAT team to improve their teamwork and expand the capabilities of SWAT.

Officer John Jones and K-9 Koda have been especially busy on their side of the work week. K-9 Koda continues to progress with his obedience and apprehension training. The LPD is fortunate to have dedicated handlers as the core of their K-9 Program!

The Friends still have a long road to travel to reach their goal of sustainability. Each member of the LPCAAA can help with a direct donation to the K-9 Fund, or the purchase of a T-shirt and/or ball cap at special discounted pricing.

We look forward to your support!!!

View more photos on the Friends-of-Littleton K-9 Facebook page!

LPCAAA ACTIVITIES

Monthly Alumni Meetings

1st Thursday of the month

Start: 7 P.M., **Adjourn:** 9 P.M.

Location: 2255 W. Berry Ave.

Quarterly Board Meetings

4th Thursday of the month starting
each Quarter

January, April, July & October

Start: 7 P.M., **Adjourn:** 9 P.M.

Location: 2255 W. Berry Ave.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

January 2015

Thur., Jan. 8 LPD Training Rooms A&B
7:00pm- LPCAAA Members Meeting
9:00pm Presentation by Bruce Adams

Thur, Jan. 22 Community Room, City Center
7:00pm- LPCAAA Board Meeting
9:00pm

February 2015

Thur., Feb. 5 LPD Training Rooms A&B
7:00pm- LPCAAA Members Meeting
9:00pm Presentation: TBD

March 2015

Thur., March 5 -
Location to be determined
7:00pm- LPCAAA Members Meeting
9:00pm Presentation: TBD

Board of Directors

President	Kevin Cunningham president@lpcaaa.org
President Elect / VP	Mickey Kempf vicepresident@lpcaaa.org
Treasurer	Sue Otto treasurer@lpcaaa.org
Secretary	Barb Sigler secretary@lpcaaa.org
Director of Volunteers	Janna Allan volunteers@lpcaaa.org
Director of Training	Janet Simpson training@lpcaaa.org
Director of Media	Joe Hanson media@lpcaaa.org
Past President	Carey Crain pastpresident@lpcaaa.org
Registered Agent	Woody Laughlin agent@lpcaaa.org

Littleton Police Department Sponsors

Chief Doug Stephens
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Sgt. Steve Skundberg
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Barb Andres
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Littleton Police Department

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Volunteer Office

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LPCAAA "Donations/Dues" are due by November 1, 2014. Rates are \$25 per individual member, \$20 each for couples in same household, and \$50 for a family regardless of number. Remember - your donation is tax deductible! To keep your membership current and to stay on the email list, please renew before the dead-line. Your membership renewal helps support the many activities of the LPCAAA as we work with the Littleton Police Department to make our community a safer and more attractive place to live, work and play!