

TEXAS LOCKSMITH ADVISOR



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Serving Texas Since 1964

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President's Message

John Arnold, CML - TLA President

I hope you are finding yourselves in recovery mode. I am busier than a one legged man in... you get the idea. Hopefully this is a true recovery for our economy. So I shall be brief. I want to thank our new board members, Christina Whitney, Editor, Tom Richards ,Sergeant-at arms, Mark Dawson, Secretary. Troy Maynard moved up to the 1st VP and is working closely with me so we can have a smooth transition of the board at next years convention. This board is a good cross section of our business, I can honestly say we definitely represent most locksmiths in Texas. If you have any complaints, volunteer!

As of this writing the legislature is set to end Sunday night May 31. Those wily Representatives and senators always wait until the last minute to pass any legislation. That way they can add on stuff that has nothing to do with the original act. I do suspect the Sunset bill keeping the DPS alive and the Omnibus security act will pass making it easier to go after the scam artists. It also closes some loopholes on cctv. CCTV is considered an alarm device under Texas Occupations Code Chapter 1702. The alarm device definition was already there when we became licensed, hopefully we can redefine as something else, in the code, in the future. Locksmiths can install cctv as long as they have a B license. You should notify the DPS of your intent to do so and it may be added to your license. Our new lobbyist is doing a good job. We are going to have invest some more money in the legislative fund to keep him beyond this year. I do not believe we will find a competent lobbyist for less money.

The convention plans for the 2009 convention are well under way. We will be at the Southfork Hotel in Plano (North Dallas). The dates are March 16 to 20. This is Spring Break again, so plan to bring your family and spend the week. We have the lowest convention room rate since I can remember of 69.00 per night. The trade show will be at the Plano Convention Center a few miles away. It will be the largest Expo since I have been on the board. There will be some exciting automotive classes and Dave McOmie will be here to help us open 50 or more safes in the World's Largest Safe Drilling Event. We have much more info coming.

Last but not least I would like to thank CD Lipscomb and Dan Floeck.

CD Lipscomb has received the George Robbins Memorial Education Award for 2009. This award was established to recognize a member of the industry for his/her outstanding accomplishments in the field of educational service to the Texas Locksmiths Association This award was established to recognize a member of the industry for his/her outstanding accomplishments in the field of educational service to the Texas Locksmiths Association. CD has always been there³ when I call and ask for help with the education. He has taught many classes for TLA. More important he has been there when I needed him for support and advice when I was the education chairman. He will be there in the future.

Dan Floeck has received the Longhorn Award. This award has provided for extended unselfish devotion to the Texas Locksmiths Association without compensation, whose efforts has made TLA a better association with lasting results. Dan is always there to help us. He is among the few that really believe in Texas locksmiths. Thanks Dan.

Till July, Happy Locksmithing!

John

2009 Legislative Session Report

Keith Oakley, TLA Lobbyist

The final gavel has fallen on the 81st session of the Texas Legislature, and TLA has won some major victories! Long before the session began back in January of this year, TLA began working with the Texas Department of Public Safety, (DPS), Private Security Bureau, (PSB), and the other professional trade associations, to come up with proposed legislation for the up-coming session.

We expressed our concerns to PSB, and made suggestions on how to improve the regulatory environment and board rules concerning locksmiths' in Texas. Each of the trade groups regulated by PSB agreed that we would work together in an attempt to see these proposals become law. We worked with the legislative counsel, DPS and PSB to draft our ideas into bill form, and then worked to support our legislative sponsors, Senator John Carona, (R-Dallas), and Representative Joe Driver, (R-Garland).

The bill would have added the offense of acting as a locksmith without a license to the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, (DTPA). Under DTPA the Attorney General's office can prosecute un-licensed locksmith companies for additional penalties. The bill also would have required any company operating in Texas to maintain a physical office with a licensed manager. The bill also increased the fines for un-licensed operators.

The bill passed the Senate but died during a filibuster in the House over the voter ID bill. But, in the legislature we never give up until the final gavel falls! With the support and hard work DPS, Senator Carona and Rep. Driver, we turned the best parts of the bill into an amendment and placed it on the DPS sunset bill!

We were already very much involved in the DPS sunset bill. Sunset is a process that each state agency must undergo every 10 years or so. During the sunset process, the legislature completes a top-to-bottom review of the agency. If the sunset bill fails to pass, the agency ceases to exist. This time it worked, the sunset bill passed with our amendment and will now become law!

We had already worked to make several important changes to the sunset bill. As the bill began making its way through the legislature, it would have required that everyone registered under PSB have their pocket card before going to work. As you know, it may often take six weeks or more to receive your pocket card. We were successful in making it possible to go to work upon completion of the registration process.

Another change made by sunset deals with licensing of individuals with certain criminal histories. Under the old rules, you could not be licensed until 20 years after a felony and 10 years after a class A misdemeanor. The new change will allow the PSB to license many applicants who have made mistakes in their past, as long as the crime would not directly affect their duties granted by their license.

TLA had a great session, and now we must begin work with the PSB in drafting and implementing the new laws into board rules. Often times, the 'devil is in the details', and TLA will be there to make certain that the working environment for locksmiths continues to improve in Texas.

Letter From Your Editor

Christina Whitney

Greetings Advisor readers, I am the new editor of the Advisor. I intend to serve the locksmith community to the best of my abilities and hope I do not disappoint you too badly after the selfless work and years of experience we have enjoyed of our previous editor Laurence Simon, RL.

I have been a locksmith for only a couple of years and am fortunate to work with several locksmiths with natural talent and the years of experience to develop their skill. I will endeavor to bring you an Advisor that you will find informative, well rounded, and that meets or exceeds your expectations.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their guidance and support in the course of my learning as well as their freely offered friendship, it is more than I could have expected.

Please feel free to contact me through the TLA website with any requests for content, my e-mail "door" is always open!

I look forward to this next year as editor,
Christina Whitney

DO YOU HAVE AN AD FOR US?

POSITION WANTED, FOR SALE,
NEW PRODUCT NOTIFICATIONS

Just send your ads to editor@texaslocksmiths.org and all ads deemed suitable by TLA policies will be placed. Members may run ads free for the first three months with a \$25.00 per mo charge thereafter. Position wanted ads are always free. Help wanted ads are prohibited. Please limit for sale ads to locksmith business related items.

EL PASO TEXAS ROADSHOW REPORT

On May 29th safe penetration enthusiasts from Colorado to Nevada to Texas gathered to fill a hotel meeting room with various types of security containers. Their hopes were to pick up new skills, tips and tricks from each other on how to best attack a safe that needs to be penetrated due to lock or door malfunctions. The real star of the show was the instructor himself, Mr. Dave McOmie, the authority on safe penetration. On May 30th Dave spent the morning hours of the class sharing and presenting years of experience in a clear and concise manner.

Experienced and novice safe technicians were able to see a *new angle* and shine a *new light* on penetration techniques.

After a quick lunch the class assembled back into the meeting room to let the chips fly. An incredible selection of safes were brought to become the victims of Bullet drill rigs and Strongarm drill bits. Some GSA product was present to wet the appetite of our technicians who perform service at government facilities.

Day two of the event was similar to day one. The first portion of class was dedicated to review. The photos taken by Dave on day one had already been organized into a powerful presentation to let the entire class see what was done to each container the day before. After lunch we started rigging up boxes again and the instruction continued. Several safes were penetrated more than once at different drill points. We would open a container and strip off the old lock. Then install an electronic lock body and secure the door for another student to attack.

The venue overflowed into the parking lot. There was a trailer loaded with large safes that were not hotel friendly. They didn't stand a chance when a fully equipped safe technicians' van pulled up next to them. Several students braved the El Paso heat to conquer the steel beasts.

What a weekend! I personally have been in this business for over 25 years and enjoy a good class. This particular hands on class was by far the best I have ever attended. Many students took advantage of the incredible information and tools that Dave makes available at discounted prices.

And for those of you that were unable to attend, look for Dave McOmie to present another penetration party in Plano at the 2010 TLA convention.

Thanks again go to Dave McOmie for his passion to educate our industry, and to Lockmasters for providing the many door prizes given out to the students.

Mark Dawson

HELLO FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
Nick Heath

I would like to thank all of you for the privilege of being your membership director for the past ten months it has been very challenging as well as rewarding. A lot has happened during these last months so I wanted to give all of you a little update on what has and is going on with TLA and the membership status.

First the new database system is in full swing, we have compiled all of our active, inactive and new members into one system so we can easily track everybody's status! This has been a great undertaking to say the least and I would like to thank all of you for your patience and support as we have been compiling and building this system. This is the reason why so many cards and certificates have been late getting to you however this problem has been fixed, so thank you again for all of your patience. Every year there will be an update letter that will accompany each of your registration packets so we can better serve our members, so please take the time to go over and correct any wrong information and return them either via fax, email or mail. Also please take special note that there is now only one address that ALL correspondence should be sent to. This has been a very serious problem since many have had different address and literally mail has been sent all over the state of Texas and we have had to track items down from past board members (Texas is BIG). Ok now the membership status,

Active members:321

Associate Members:15

Life Members:102

Pending Members: 7

Inactive Member: 297

Inactive Associate Members:46

As you can tell many have decided, Regular members as well as Associate members, not to support you and your association. So we are calling on all of you for help to build your association and help our industry to be strong. WHY? One of the main reasons is to help protect your rights with the changing laws that will effect you and your business. I'm sure all of us have heard the term "There is strength in numbers" and it is true. When we the board and members represent you at DPS meetings and Senators we have much more pull if we can say we represent thousands instead of hundreds.

Every member makes a difference. Also members enjoy special prices on classes, news updates thru the advisor, and much more. Don't forget that a portion of the membership fees support your legislator as well. Besides that there are some incentives when you sign up new members outlined on your TLA website, check them out!

Starting in the next couple of months non-members and non-associate members will no longer be getting the Advisor or any of the special benefits that active members receive, so if you're not currently an active member come on and support your TLA now.

What's new? I'm currently working on adding information into the existing or a new database for tracking all of your classes that have been taken using the TLA license starting this year. I will keep all of you updated thru this process.

As always if you have any suggestions on how we can make your association better please feel free to contact us.

Your Membership Director

Nick Heath

PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

Daniel T Alcalá, Austin, TX
Donald R. Brazil, Las Cruces, NM
Margo R. Courreges, Austin, TX
Mark Lee Dawson, Spring, TX
Richard R. Hidell, JR, Austin, TX
Tommy Mull, Arlington, TX
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