

TCPAAA

State Board DISPATCH



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TEXAS CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

IT WAS HOT IN AUSTIN

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And Austin was a wonderful place to be. I rained, rained, and rained some more. It interfered with our BBQ at Stubbs, and anywhere you wanted to walk. However, the spirits of those who attended the 2007 State Convention were not dampened. The Hilton was complete with a Starbucks in the lobby, so who needed to go outside. Joe Munoz and Austin CPAAA did an outstanding job making this one of the best conventions yet. The Ice Breaker began with the gathering of old friends and making new ones. It lasted well into the evening with everyone having a wonderful time. Opening ceremonies started Thursday off, and the delegates meeting got everything going in the right mood. Classes were outstanding, and the exhibit hall was the focus of attention for the entire week. Austin broke with past events and hosted the continental breakfast in the exhibit hall each day. This was more than well received as it gave everyone a chance to eat and shop at the same time. Exhibitors were as pleased as the attendees. Austin is the music capital of the state and some of the best were at our convention. Thursday evening at Stubbs was as good as it gets. Each class was a stand alone with no duplications. This made you really stop and decide what was important to learn at this show. There were folks from other states visiting this convention. Oklahoma was converted to a Texas Longhorn, Colorado was well represented, Indiana, and Tennessee were also in attendance. The Thursday luncheon was an outstanding event, with Paul Brown News 8 Austin who had covered the UT Tower Shooting. Friday began with classes for everyone's interest just as Thursday had. Lunch brought us Special Olympics couple Wendy and Ben Erdman from College Station's "Team Aggie Bombers", who came to share their story with us. If this did not move your heart you just don't have one. We presented them a check for \$1,000.00, which was a surprise, but listening to the story of this young challenged couple was more than heartwarming. Friday night's banquet was the highlight of the week. Our entertainment was better than it gets. The thunder and lightning could not be heard over the laughter of comedian We also had a phone call from the new Austin Chief of Police Art Acevedo stating his commitment to community policing. Saturday we all boarded buses and took off for the UT Tower. This was a typical hot and humid Austin day. The Tower was very historical seeing where the shooting of many innocent victims took place and feeling the tragedy of that day. From the Tower we boarded the buses and journeyed to Highland Mall for lunch at the Food Court. Lunch ended and we began the last phase of the day with the trip out to the Austin Travis County Communications Center. We were treated to a complete tour of the facility and the grounds. We then went to visit the Helicopter Squad next door. This was another education for most of us.

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The buses took us back to the Hilton which for some of us began our trip back home. The evening was spent with an outing to Sixth Street. No report has been filed on this outing.



Ben Hernandez and Joe Munoz welcome first time convention goes Kay Redburn and Mary Ann Callaway



Dickinson was here in numbers as always



President Hernandez and Evalyn Phillips enjoy the Music



View from the Texas Tower



Darlene Stuples from Oklahoma becomes Long Horn No 1



Good Music Abounds in Austin