

The Briefing

Official newsletter of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement | December 2022

Table of Contents

[MyTCOLE](#)

[Page 2](#)

[Sunset Report](#)

[Page 3](#)

[Commission](#)

[Page 4](#)

[TCOLE Conference](#)

[Page 5-8](#)

[Retired IDs](#)

[Page 7](#)

[Staff Updates](#)

[Page 10-12](#)

[FSA Region Map](#)

[Page 13](#)

[Employment](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Page 14](#)

[Salary Study](#)

[Page 12](#)

[Peace Officers'](#)

[Memorial](#)

[Page 16-17](#)

[Law Enforcement](#)

[Achievement](#)

[Awards](#)

[Page 17](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Page 18](#)

[Gov Delivery](#)

[Page 19](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Page 21](#)

The mission of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, as a regulatory State agency, is to establish and enforce standards to ensure that the people of Texas are served by highly trained and ethical law enforcement, corrections, and telecommunications personnel.

Target 100 Initiative

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) looks forward to working with you all towards the common goal of ensuring that Texas is served by law enforcement professionals. TCOLE needs your help to make this happen.

TCOLE is prioritizing and targeting a 100% compliance rate as the goal in the current training period ending on August 31, 2023. The ultimate aspiration is to eliminate the number of licensees subject to suspension or revocation.

To achieve this goal, TCOLE plans to consistently communicate with agencies and their appointed licensees about incomplete or missing training during the coming year.

As a start, TCOLE is asking that all appointed licensees check their MyTCOLE account to confirm their current email address, phone number, and mailing address to better communicate with them in a timely and effective manner.

For reference, please see page 2 for information on how to review, confirm, or change MyTCOLE information as needed.

Thank you again for all your support, service, and dedication to the law enforcement profession.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO IN YOUR MYTCOLE ACCOUNT

TCOLE may notify you through email, text message, or U.S. mail of changes or deficiencies impacting your license status. Make sure your phone number, email address, and mailing address are up to date so you receive these important notifications.

MyTCOLE Features:

Connect to
Free Online
Training

Order Your
Proficiency
Certificates &
Photo ID
Card

Print your
License

View Your
Personal
Status
Report (PSR)

How-To:

1. Log into your MyTCOLE account:
<https://tcledds.tcole.texas.gov/mytcole/Login>
2. Click on 'My Information' along the top toolbar

My Information

3. Scroll down to the Personal Tab

4. Update your information

5. Click the Save Changes button

The screenshot shows the 'My Information' page with the 'Personal' tab selected. The form includes the following fields and options:

- High School: Yes No
- G.E.D.: No
- Citizen: Yes
- Gender: Male
- Race: MultiCultural
- *Telephone:
- *City:
- *Height (ft):
- *Primary Email:
- *State:
- *Height (in):
- *Alternate Email:
- *Zip:
- *Weight:
- *Address 1:
- *Driver's License #:
- *Hair Color:
- Address 2:
- *Driver's License State Issued:
- *Eye Color:
- Save Changes



Sunset Advisory Commission

TCOLE Report

The Sunset Advisory Commission is conducting a limited-scope review of the mission and performance of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), and ideas to improve its operations and services. The Texas Sunset Act requires the Sunset Commission to periodically review all state agencies and recommend whether to continue the agency and change state law to improve the agency's efficiency and effectiveness.

In recent months Sunset staff have evaluated TCOLE and have been taking public input on the agency.

In November 2022, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission issued a report on the agency outlining recommended solutions to its findings.

[View Report](#) >

On December 6th, 2022, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement testified at the Sunset Advisory Commission hearing on the staff report and the agency.

[Watch Here](#) >

On January 11th, 2023 the Sunset Commission will hold a decision meeting to adopt recommendations to the Legislature based on the report and public comments. The January 11th hearing will be viewed from the same link as above.

The 88th Texas Legislature will convene on January 10th, 2023, and will consider the Sunset Commission's statutory recommendations in a Sunset bill for TCOLE.

Visit www.sunset.texas.gov to sign up for email alerts on the Sunset staff report and the Sunset Commission's public meetings on TCOLE.

Thank you to the Sunset Commission members and staff for all their hard work on this review!

Regional TCOLE Commission Meetings



Throughout 2022, the Commission held formal meetings in various regions across the state to allow for more accessibility and engagement with our law enforcement community and stakeholders. The Commission visited regions such as Dallas, Corpus Christi, and Odessa, and ended the year with a warm South Texas welcome in Edinburg, Texas. Thank you to all who have attended and spoke at our meetings, we greatly appreciate the engagement and feedback!



2022 TCOLE Conference

This year in Corpus Christi, TCOLE held our largest conference to date which was a huge success thanks to our wonderful sponsors, vendors, and partners! We hope everyone enjoyed their time at the conference and left with some invaluable knowledge and resources.



**Special thanks to our partners
in Corpus Christi!**

American Bank Center

Visit Corpus Christi

Distance Brothers Transportation
Services



Thank you to all who attended the 2022 TCOLE Conference this October in Corpus Christi!



\$10,504 Raised for the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial!

Thank you to our Fun Run Sponsors and participants, and all those who donated to the silent auction benefitting the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial!

This year we raised \$5,343 from the Fun Run and \$5,161 from the Silent Auction for a total of \$10,504!



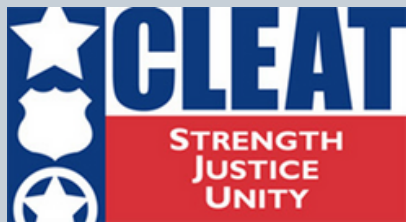
Thank you to all the Fun Run participants, it was a great morning for a run!



Fun Run Sponsors
Texas Municipal Police Association
JUSTICE Federal Credit Union
Strategic Government Resources
Paradigm Preparedness International



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 TCOLE CONFERENCE SPONSORS!



The 2022 TCOLE Conference could not have been such a success without the support of our wonderful sponsors!



Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officer Credentials (QRLEO)

TCOLE receives numerous inquiries from officers seeking credentials denoting their status as “Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers” under 18 U.S. Code § 926C - Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. The information below is designed to clarify the process.

Process for Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers (QRLEO):

1) Review 18 U.S. Code § 926C - Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. (Please review that FEDERAL statute to see if you meet ALL of the requirements which includes at least 10 years of aggregate service as a law enforcement officer OR that you separated from service with your agency, after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by your agency.)

2) If you are a QRLEO AND your license was not suspended or revoked during your term of service AND you have no psychological or physical disability that would interfere with your proper handling of a handgun, then a head of a state or local law enforcement agency MAY allow you an opportunity to demonstrate weapons proficiency. Ref: TX Occupations Code 1701.357(b)

3) As an alternative to step 2, a qualified handgun instructor MAY allow you an opportunity to demonstrate weapons proficiency if you provide to the instructor a copy of the sworn affidavit at the bottom of the second page of this Qualified Retired Firearms Certificate packet. Ref: TX Occupations Code 1701.357(b-2)

4) Complete the Qualified Retired Firearms Certificate packet and send it, with the required fee, to TCOLE.

5) TCOLE will process the packet. If approved you will receive a certificate of proficiency in the form of a TCOLE ID card that expires in one year.

6) You may present that TCOLE certificate of proficiency to the head of the state or local law enforcement agency from which you retired or most recently separated. That agency will issue you an identification that indicates you honorably retired or separated from the agency. The identification card may have an expiration date.

Process for Chief Administrators Dealing with QRLEO requests:

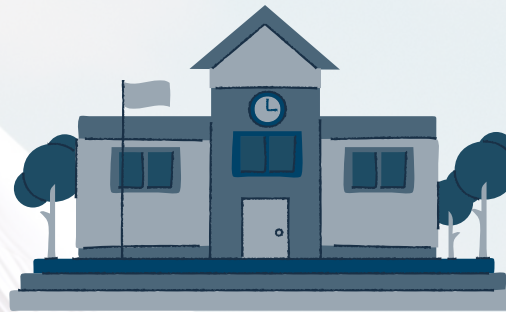
1) When presented with a TCOLE certificate of firearms proficiency you should determine that the QRLEO candidate was either: a. appointed or employed by your agency for 20 years or more and the officer is receiving retirement or pension benefits, OR b. your agency was the last agency to have appointed the QRLEO as a peace officer in TCLEDDS.

2) If the candidate is eligible for the issuance of the ID card under the previous step, your agency is obligated to issue the QRLEO ID card meeting the standards set forth in TX Government Code Section 614.1241

TCOLE Staff Updates



Katie Skrhak has joined TCOLE as our new School Marshal Coordinator. She comes to us from the field of dentistry. Katie currently lives in Elgin, Texas with her Husband, dog (Dixie), and her three horses (Taco, Bugs, and Chili). She is looking forward to this new and exciting career change.



Ben Lusby has joined the IT team as the Software Development Team Lead. Ben has worked in software industry for over eight years working both in developing code and project planning as a scrum master. Excited for his first time working for a public agency he will be helping build out our software development processes as we grow our in-agency software solutions. Ben Likes to hit any of his 3 gyms for practicing Krav Maga, power lifting, swimming, and yoga. But mainly just has time to snuggle his 7-month-old first born son. Also, has a 100 pound pure Great Pyrenees puppy that gives fantastic hugs and never wants the walks to end. If you wish to see a bunch of baby or puppy photos or talk about the wonders of Agile software development methodology, Ben is your guy. Also, he needs more hunting buddies.



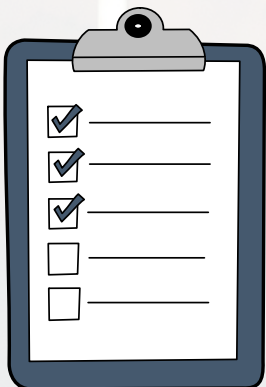
TCOLE Staff Updates



Daniel Mireles has joined the Enforcement team as a Sergeant Investigator. He recently retired from the Austin Police Department after 22 years of active LE service. Dan has extensive investigative experience having worked in the Robbery, Cold Case Homicide / Missing Persons, and Special Investigations Units for Austin Police Department and was lead investigator for several high-profile investigations. Dan has also worked on investigations with several partnering agencies as well as an investigative task force with the Texas Rangers. Dan was also part of the departments Organized Crime Division, and Specials Operations Teams.

Prior to his law enforcement career, he was an investigator for a Texas Worker's Compensation Fund and employed with the Texas Attorney Generals Office Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.

Dan is a long-time resident in the Austin area. His family life is centered around raising his three boys. Outside of the office, Dan enjoys participating with his boys in their busy school schedules, outdoor time with his dog "Booker", golfing, and friends.



Rhonda Chamberlain is enjoying her new role as an Instructional Designer in TCOLE's Education Services Division. She grew up in the Houston area, but now calls Round Rock home with her husband Ted. Although she and her husband are dog people, somehow, they ended up with two adorable cats. They enjoy hiking around the hill country, camping, and spending time with family. Writing, reading, doing bible studies, and volunteering with the Round Rock Police Department are her favorite things to do. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Stephen F. Austin State University and made the move to Austin in 2000. She began her career with the state of Texas in 2001 as a case manager, working with people who are elderly and have disabilities. After her time as a case manager, her career with the state has focused on training and curriculum development, with a short stint as a contract manager. She is looking forward to many years with TCOLE serving the law enforcement community.



Chris Cogan has joined TCOLE as a Field Service Agent in Region 7. Chris grew up in the small-town of Thurmont, Maryland and moved to Texas in 1996 to take a job at the Frisco Police Department. Chris held various assignments such as, Dispatcher, Patrol Officer, Detective, and Training Coordinator during his employment at Frisco PD and recently retired after 26 years of service there. Chris has a son who is a freshman in high school and enjoys watching son play football and his other activities when he is not working. Chris' other hobbies include camping, motorcycle trips and BBQ competitions/catering.



After 16 years serving the State of Texas as a TCOLE Field Service Agent, Carey McKinney has retired to serve as the County Judge of Anderson County. Carey was one of the first TCOLE Field Service Agents when the program was initially created. Our loss is Anderson County's gain. We wish Judge McKinney all the best!



TCOLE Employment Opportunities

At the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, we highly value our employees! We know that our success is a direct result of their efforts day in and day out. TCOLE is proud to provide our employees with State benefits and a positive work environment for all.

The Executive Director position has been taken down and will be posted again after the 88th Texas Legislative Session Adjourns in May 2023. Applicants will need to reapply at that time.

Administrative Assistant I (Enforcement Division)

Reports to the Enforcement Division Captain and performs entry-level administrative support or technical program assistance work. Work involves disseminating information, maintaining filing systems, and performing internal administrative support work. Works under close supervision, with minimal latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

Education Specialist II

The Education Services Division supports Texas law enforcement agencies and training providers by producing state mandated educational policy materials for distribution. This position will create engaging, effective learning experiences in person and online. Work involves revamping educational policy, resources, and analyzing outlines to make sure they meet legislative standards.

Software Developer (Programmer III)

The professional selected for this position will be experienced in object-oriented programming and the ability to engage in a collaborative, results oriented environment. TCOLE dev team is tasked with developing and managing the software tools for law enforcement in Texas to have the best training and track mandatory compliance for peace officers and jailers. This is an outstanding opportunity to serve the entire Texas community in professionalizing law enforcement.

APPLY NOW



As an equal opportunity employer, we hire without consideration to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or veteran status, unless an applicant is entitled to the veteran's preference.

This position requires the applicant to meet Agency standards and criteria which may include passing a pre-employment criminal background check, prior to being offered employment by the Agency.

[Click here to view statewide peace officer vacancies.](#)



New in Education Services



Peace Officer Salary Study:

TCOLE was tasked by the 87th Texas Legislature with creating a peace officer salary report due before the 88th Texas Legislative Session begins in January 2023. Education Services analyzed data collected from municipalities, country sheriff offices, and county constable offices. Click the button below to view the summary.

[Salary Study Summary](#) >

Scheduling an Exam at Headquarters

To schedule an exam at TCOLE Headquarters, please email proctor@tcole.texas.gov. Examinees must bring a photo ID and a \$25.00 exam fee on the day of testing. Cash or check only. We will not provide change.

*If an agency needs to schedule a licensing exam for more than ten (10) people, please call 512-963-7700, option 4, then 5.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

If you would like to volunteer to be on a committee for creating or revising educational materials, please email education@tcole.texas.gov. Please include your resume and a letter of interest that focuses on your subject matter expertise.

Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony



Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Monument, a permanent part of the state capitol grounds, was dedicated in 1999. The monument is inscribed with the names of thousands who have died in the line of duty while protecting our communities.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement is honored to be part of the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony Committee, established by the 85th Texas Legislature, comprised of elected officials, state agencies, and organizations who are tasked with coordinating the annual memorial ceremony in honor of the previous year's fallen officers.

Additional information about the annual ceremony and names inscribed on the monument can be found at www.texaspeaceofficersmemorial.org.

***May we forever honor.
May we never forget.***

Peace Officers' Memorial Nominations

If your agency has lost an officer or jailer in the line of duty, please be sure to send in nominations for the 2023 Peace Officers' Memorial Monument. We want to honor any fallen officers and make sure they receive the recognition they deserve. Please be aware that inclusions on the Peace Officers' Memorial Monument for medical deaths, including those related to COVID-19-related, are based on determination for benefits eligibility by the Employees' Retirement System of Texas. The nomination form can be found on the TCOLE website at <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/texas-peace-officers-memorial>.

Law Enforcement Achievement Award Nominations

We need your help! Each year TCOLE hosts an annual achievement award ceremony to recognize peace officers, jailers, and telecommunicators that have gone above and beyond in their service to their community. We know there are many worthy candidates out there, but without a nomination we may never hear about them.

The awards are issued in the categories of valor, public service, and professional achievement. Nominations will be accepted through January 15th, 2023 for the 2023 Achievement Awards Ceremony. For the nomination form and additional information, please visit <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/state-texas-achievement-awards>



TCOLE Calendar of Events



**Texas Sunset Commission
Final Decision Hearing**
January 11th, 2023
Austin, TX

**The 88th Texas Legislative
Session**
January - May 2023
Austin, TX

Commissioner Workshop
February 1st @ 1:00 pm
Austin, TX

Commission Meeting
February 2nd @ 9:30 am
Austin, TX

Commissioner Workshop
April 19th @ 1:00 pm
Austin, TX

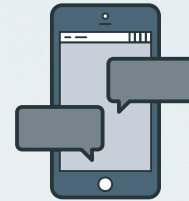
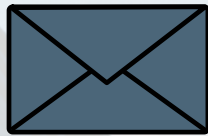
Commission Meeting
April 20th @ 9:30am
Austin, TX

Commissioner Workshop
June 14th @ 1:00 pm
Austin, TX

Commission Meeting
June 15th @ 9:30am
Austin, TX

[Click here to view upcoming TCOLE Commission meeting dates,
locations, agendas and recorded meetings.](#)

Gov Delivery Mass Communication System



You can now subscribe to our new mass communication system, Gov Delivery. The sending email address is: TXCOLE@public.govdelivery.com, please add this email to your contacts to ensure delivery.

You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.



Current TCOLE Statistics



(SCAN QR CODE)



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Presiding Officer

Assistant Chief Jason D.
Hester
Assistant Presiding Officer

Patricia Burruss
Secretary

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Martina Dixon

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Texas Commission on Law
Enforcement

6330 E. Highway 290, Ste. 200
Austin, TX 78723-1035

Phone: (512) 936-7700

Fax: (512) 936-7714

Website:

www.tcole.texas.gov

The Briefing Editors:

Gretchen Grigsby
Sarah Flautt

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Follow us on:



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Happy Holidays from TCOLE! We wish you all a wonderful and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

