

**THE BILL BLACKWOOD
LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF TEXAS**

Citizen's Police Academy:
Where do we go after graduation?

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to explore the subject of what to do with Citizen's Police Academy students after graduation. Based upon what has been seen to date, this is a problem for larger agencies as well as smaller ones. There is much information regarding Community Policing, and some limited information on Citizen's Police Academies. However, precious little was found on the topic of post-academy continual involvement programs.

Though the lack of resource material posed a problem in the initial stages of information gathering, once the project was underway, many programs presented themselves to be worthy of any agency, of any size, to consider. A debatable issue for the nature of this paper was the economic factor/s that may be involved in implementation of any program. This is because it was felt that agencies have already committed themselves to the Citizen's Police Academy concept, and more discussion on the topic would be redundant. However, agency resources are usually limited, and many programs are available that have nominal start-up costs, in terms of dollars, and implementation may be achieved by training from staff members. This paper studied and presents several viable programs contained in the appendix. This writer believed that since the economic barrier has been negotiated, there needed to be some type effort to make the programs presented herein manageable. This was accomplished by a simple, temporal based implementation platform, placing emphasis on time criteria for implementation rather than economic criteria. For purposes of simplicity, the categories were; those programs that are possible to implement within six months, and those that may take six months to a year. Usually, the more elaborate and complicated the schematic, as a norm, the more costly the program and the more time to develop procedures or guidelines. A warning flag should arise whenever one begins to talk about complex programs, i.e. money, time, and an ever-present danger to over-bureaucrasize or micro-manage. Remember to keep it simple!

As Academies have more classes, there will be more graduates, and more people to involve in the programs, thereby adding to the already sensitive nature of the problem. This presents an entirely different set of considerations, and is not within the scope of this study. If the original issue can be effectively dealt with, then perhaps it will provide insights that will prove beneficial to further studies..

It is hoped that this paper will be of benefit to those agencies who have no afterlife for Citizen's Police Academy graduates, and to serve as a precursor to the establishment of some type of clearinghouse, central repository, or compendium that will provide easy access and inclusion of programs peculiar to the subject. The Del Rio Police Department has established a web site for this purpose.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to explore the subject of what to do with Citizen's Police Academy participants after graduation. These interested and civic minded members of our respective communities have invested time on their own to learn about our environment. Do we, as the sponsoring agency, just discard them after their dedicated participation, or do we owe them something more?

While municipal police organizations have been in existence for well over a hundred years, the corporate philosophy of these entities has veered off course from Sir Robert Peel's envisioned and idealistic principles as written. We, in law enforcement, have come full circle from the original ideology instituted by Peel. The us versus them mind set is changing to one where the police are recognizing that the support of the public is required to effectively and efficiently fight crime.

Peel's principles were written about 170 years ago, but are as relevant today, as when they were first expressed. They bear repeating, to remind us of what our founder's philosophy was, and who we are supposed to be.

1. The basic mission of the police is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval.
3. The police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain public respect.
4. The degree of public cooperation that can be secured diminishes proportionately the necessity for the use of physical force and compulsion in achieving police objectives.
5. The police seek and preserve public favor, not by catering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law...by ready offering of individual service and friendship to all members of the society without regard to their race or social standing...by ready offering of individual sacrifice in preserving and protecting life.
6. The police should use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice, and warning is found to be insufficient to achieve police objectives, and police should use only the minimum degree of physical force which is necessary on any particular occasion for achieving a police objective.
7. The police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police are the only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of the community welfare.

8. The police should always direct their actions toward their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.
9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them. Seminar on Community Policing, AALEA, May 1996.

The very essence of these principles are at the heart of what community policing is all about. It has taken over 100 years to bring us to this turn around point, and this writer does not want to lose the momentum.

What does this have to do with continual involvement programs for Citizen's Police Academy graduates? These graduates are our community, a part of our community that has given of their time to learn about what we do. They deserve something more than just being ceremoniously dumped after this initial joint venture. Journal of Criminal Justice, Vol.24, No.3, pp.265-271, 1996.

Some of the issues this paper will explore are whether viable, low-cost continual involvement programs are available, are they available in a central repository or clearinghouse for easy law enforcement access, are these programs costly or complicated, and will the graduates and the agency benefit?

This paper should be of benefit to Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, Command Staff, CPA Coordinators, Supervisors who will be required to utilize the volunteers in continual involvement programs, CPA graduates who may want to initiate dialogues with their sponsoring agencies, and Community Policing Officers.

The sources of information were found to be scattered, piecemeal, and not available in one source. Information was gathered from Internet briefs, periodicals, newspapers, or other agencies continual involvement programs, as well as Del Rio Police Department self-generated tools such as questionnaires and interviews.

It is hoped that this paper will provide agencies that are currently conducting, CPA's as well as those that may consider them, low-cost, effective, continual effective programs in a single source document. These programs will be presented in a temporal based implementation platform, as well as being functionally and mutually beneficial to CPA graduates and sponsoring agencies.

HISTORICAL, LEGAL, OR THEORETICAL CONTEXT

The first Citizen's Police Academy conducted was called Police Night School. It was

it was established in England by the Devon and Cromwell Constabulary in 1977. It was considered an immediate success, as citizens were anxious to learn of the operation of their police force which had previously been private and obscure. Shortly afterwards, the Orlando Police Department in Orlando, Florida conducted the first Citizen Police Academy in the United States. (Ft. Worth Police Dept.)

All Citizen Police Academies are fundamentally based upon these two programs. Of the dozens of agencies across the country who now conduct Citizen Police Academies, many of them still face the problem, or opportunity, of continual involvement with graduates.

Community Policing has moved from a controversial theory to an accepted practice in many cities across the country. Community Policing is becoming more of an agency's philosophy than oriented to a single, particular project or problem. Community Policing taps into the creative resources of a department's personnel. The traditional model doesn't provide officers with opportunities for input, the opportunity to make a difference. We are witnessing a paradigm shift in the sense that we are seeing the community as our partners and allies rather than our enemy. (The State of Community Policing).

The same phenomenon is in progress in Citizen's Police Academies. The traditional model of achieving police objectives doesn't allow citizen's to provide input, except for negatives, nor for tapping the resources and creativity needed to collectively solve problems. Community Policing is sharing the issue of crime reduction and quality of life improvements, and Citizen's Police Academy post-graduation involvement should be seen as a natural corollary to this concept.

Legal constraints exist and yet the opportunities available to an agency are tremendous and should not be ignored. For instance, one idea that this writer's agency is considering is the use of graduates to process minor crime scenes. Vehicle and coin operated machine burglaries are classified as misdemeanors. Would the use of non-paid civilians impeach the evidence gathering and processing procedure? Does paid versus volunteer status affect court admissibility or evidence integrity? Not as long as the volunteer technicians receive proper training. (DRPD County Court-at-Law Judge Interview)

Some types of post-graduation programs involve exposure that is outside what would be considered the normal scope of a persons daily activity, such as cellular on patrol, citizen on patrol, assisting with traffic control at accident scenes and others. If personal injury or property damage occur, and personal insurance carriers will not honor the claims made by graduates, will or should the sponsoring agency be liable or responsible for making restitution? This writer recommends that sponsoring agencies contact their respective attorneys and insurance carriers to resolve the issue.

Would a citizen volunteer processing a minor crime scene and tagging the evidence be admissible in court? Since these are misdemeanors, it would be proper to try these cases in County Court-at-Law first, before trying them in the more serious and sensitive felony cases. (State of Texas, 63rd Judicial District Judge)

While this was from the court itself, the District attorney's Office reserved judgment on this program, but readily saw the advantage in utilizing the graduates to assist in the Texas Crime Victim's Compensation Act. Though the use of volunteers to work this program is not new, the use of Citizen's Police Academy graduates just might be. (State of Texas, 63rd Judicial District, District Attorney)

The idea was broached with the judge who would be presiding over the misdemeanor cases for his opinion. He felt that as long as the volunteers received the same training that police officers do, then there would be no problem in this court. This magistrate felt that without the volunteers receiving the same training as police officers, they would be subject to unwarranted attempts at impeachment by defense attorneys. Or at the very least, the defense attorney's job would be made easier by the establishment of reasonable doubt. (Val Verde County Court-at-Law Judge)

The theoretical context surrounding this issue is simply that most Citizen Police Academy Coordinators, graduates, and agency executives, want to go further in post academy relationship building. This is good for community policing efforts between citizens and the agency. (DRPD CPA Assistant Treasurer Interview)

With this in mind, it is believed that simple, low-cost programs can be implemented quite easily without complex schematics or over-organizing. If the Citizen Police Academy generated feelings of competency and concern for their police agency, it is these types of programs that will foster and maintain them. Surprisingly, most graduates of an academy are not wanting to be police officers, driving in police cars and carrying guns, they just simply want to stay involved, to keep the relationship they began with their officers. (DRPD CPA Questionnaire Analysis)

Since information on what other agencies are doing with their graduates in continual involvement programs is scattered and hard to find, this paper will be going further and exploring the necessity of an information clearinghouse containing Citizen Police Academy Continual Involvement Programs. The ability to pick and choose from a menu of programs those that are appealing or within departmental budget constraints would be both a blessing and a benefit. The most logical location for this type of clearinghouse to be maintained would be an agency website on the Internet. This agency has established one for this purpose and programs have already been entered.

Interested agencies can visit the Del Rio Police Department Citizen Police Academy Continual Involvement Programs Clearinghouse at [HTTP://WWW.DelRioPolice.Com](http://WWW.DelRioPolice.Com). Any agency may have their ideas or programs submitted for inclusion into the clearinghouse simply by contacting us by e-mail.

Since Community Policing is an information sharing environment, it is hoped that every agency involved in Community Policing, and every agency that conducts a Citizen Police Academy will contribute their ideas and programs for the betterment of the larger community. The criminals have controlled the street for too long, and the citizens are beginning to join us in the fight to get them back. Let's keep them involved and keep the pressure on the bad guys.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE OR PRACTICE

An attempt to review the literature revealed two things; first, that it was scarce, and second, that a single source for these programs was nonexistent. Several departments had Internet briefs and these ranged from the simple to the elaborate. Additionally, there were no details provided as to how these programs were set up and run.

The research centered around interviews with Del Rio Police Department Administrators and a questionnaire analysis returned from graduates of the Citizen Police Academy. What were the concerns on each side, and where did they want to go?

The research indicated there is a need for low-cost, simple to implement programs for agencies of all size. Further, these programs, with implementation guidelines, need to be available and accessible to any agency, anytime. As Community Policing is an information sharing law enforcement environment, this central repository or clearinghouse can be updated continuously, as agencies from across the state, the country, or the world provide information on successful programs they have used. It is this writer's belief that information sharing implies that viable and successful programs are public (law enforcement) domain, and are thus nonproprietary and non territorial. We are all in this together, and we all need to be willing to share good ideas. The more time that is spent trying to invent programs to satisfy a willing alumni, the less time is spent using them. (DRPD CPA Questionnaire Analysis)

Typically, involvement with Citizen Police Academies is the responsibility of the Community Policing Officers. Continual involvement programs may require home meetings to establish neighborhood watch program's or to begin neighborhood dialogues to address problem solving or quality of life issues.

The unique nature of this concept suggests that traditional performance evaluation systems are going to be found inadequate for the officers in any program that is community policing peculiar.

EVALUATIONS MUST BE DEVELOPED THAT REFLECT THE WORK OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED TO DO. (Ottmeier and Wycoff, 1997)

Though it is not within the scope of this paper to go into too much detail regarding performance evaluations, police managers must deal with this at some point. As Community Policing Officers infiltrate the community more and more, the greater the need for an appraisal system that accurately measures the type of work being done. It is suggested that when establishing the model of performance, that it is important that Role Consensus be established between and among citizens, officers, and managers. (Ibid)

Whatever strategies an agency may eventually take, administrators, Community Policing Officers, the graduates who will be involved in his/her community, and the rest of the community need to realize two things:

1. There are no overnight solutions;
2. The community itself has to become a full partner with the police.

When considering the prospect of a performance evaluation system, when trying to reach the above mentioned consensus, keep this in mind! The New York City Community Policing Model should be an important tool for consensus building. It states three goals are important:

1. Eliminate crime conditions;
2. Raise the quality of life;
3. Spur better police/community relations.

This agency obviously believes that simpler is better. No elaborate schematics here, just a back to basics approach. We can all benefit from this simple philosophy, not just in evaluation development, but in mission statements as well. (Parade, May 10, 1998)

Under Community Policing concepts such as beat, zone, district, or area managers, the needs for delivery of police services vary between geography, and again, a standard format may be less than appropriate to fairly and legally rate an officer's performance. The expectations of police management, the beat officer, and the citizen's of a particular beat, may easily be different between these geographys, and all three effected groups must work together to avoid a standard appraisal format. Though devising a performance appraisal system that is fair and legal may seem insurmountable, one can be developed and the dialogue by Ottmeier and Wycoff is an excellent guide. (Ottmeier and Wycoff, 1997)

Studying the practices and policies of other departments provided little information. Some was obtained from Internet briefs, law enforcement and other periodicals. The need for a clearinghouse becomes increasingly more apparent.

Agencies from across the country have different degrees and quantities of continual involvement programs for the graduates. Some have simple Bike Along/Walk Along programs. (University of Maryland, College Park Police, Internet). Some have more elaborate programs such as the San Diego Police Department's Volunteers in Policing, where trained volunteers process vehicle burglary scenes. (Reader's Digest, June 1998), and the Sussex Police Bike Rodeo's, Halloween Program, Stay Alert-Stay Safe Kids, Drug Education Seminars, School Visits, Hug-a-Bear, IDENT-A-KID, Police Department tours, Crime Victim Services, Neighborhood Watches, and more. (Sussex Community Based Policing Internet Brief) Though these programs are offered to the community at large, there is no reason to think that a Citizen Police Academy Alumni would not be able to be involved in programs such as these and really do well. The potential benefits to the graduates, the department, and the community in general is staggering.

The San Antonio, Texas Police Department has several programs that it's graduates may be involved in. Instead of being the focus of the Internet brief, they were provided as a trailer to an article which was geared toward recruitment into the Citizen Police Academy. Several ideas were simple, low-cost, and easy to implement. (San Antonio Police Department Internet Brief)

Contrasts or comparisons were difficult to make on occasion. What may work well for Agency A, may not work well for Agency B, for a number of reasons, such as economics, work force allocations to the Community Policing efforts, police management's commitment to the programs, Citizen Police Academy graduates commitment to the programs, and other considerations.

What appeared to be a norm, was that the bigger the agency, the more programs available to the graduates. This did not mean, however, that smaller agencies did not have good quality programs. It was primarily due to the large cities having more crime and having thus committed more resources to their Community Policing efforts in order to impact the crime in their areas as well as addressing quality of life issues.

What seemed to be the best route, to this writer, was instead of comparing or contrasting programs as to quality, was to break the available programs into a manageable system that would not alienate police executives from considering them based upon a ranking or economic precedent. What is good or bad should be left up to the agency considering the program. The manageable program decided upon for this paper was a temporal based implementation platform.

DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT ISSUES

Where do we go with the Citizen Police Academy after graduation? A single source or clearinghouse is not available. It is less than desirable, considering today's technology, to have agencies allocating work force and other resources to "discover" strategies that are already in place and working well. As Community Policing officers are creative, innovative and are usually involved with Citizen Police Academies, it is not likely that a clearinghouse would be an exhaustive work on the matter. New ideas would be surfacing frequently, and could easily be included in the library.

Some of the more obvious constraints are no strangers to police managers; work force, money, and equipment. Others are more subtle, such as liability issues for ride along programs, court admissibility of volunteer crime scene technicians, insurance carrier prohibitions, sanctions, and disclaimers. Also involved is the local polity, their knowledge and support of citizen's involvement in the police systems. There will also be reluctance on the part of the police organization itself to support management philosophy regarding the graduates in what is traditionally known as "their workplace", almost holy ground. Does the community itself, that is, the graduates, want to be involved at any level or to the level and degree the agency needs or wants them to be? Does the public, the graduates, and the at large, perceive the agency's efforts as simply finding help to perform "grunt" or unpleasant duties? This is an item that needs to be considered, for this group is where the next group will come from.

The opportunities are unlimited. The Citizen Police Academy can be used to initialize the community's interest and the support of the agency, and the continual involvement programs can maintain it.

Many of the programs are capable of being implemented at virtually no cost to agencies. The bulk of the costs for many of them would be in training the volunteers. The benefits are twofold for an agency: first, additional help in the face of ever diminishing budgets, and secondly, the department continues to foster the initial relationship by sponsoring many continual involvement programs. The graduates benefit by feeling the agency appreciates and respects them, and that they are serving their community in a special way.

The latter is backed up by the graduates themselves. Surely, the ride along is an exciting part of any Citizen Police Academy. But in reference to continual involvement programs, ride alongs are not ranked high in the graduates desire to keep involved.

It would surprise most administrators to know that other qualities are possessed by the graduates. An attitude of altruism, relationship building, and down to earth commitments to work with the agency at any level. It seems that most graduates know that they pose an additional concern for safety to the officer they ride with, and the academy has taught them that much. They want to continue to build relationships and help their sponsoring agency. (Del Rio Police Department CPA Questionnaire Analysis)

CONCLUSION

The need for continual involvement activities or programs for post Citizen Police Academy graduates is felt by this writer's agency as well as others. These citizen volunteers have committed to us, and now we need to commit further to them. In the Community Policing models with mutual accountability/responsibility precepts, graduates are a resource that we should not waste by neglecting them. They will provide more than just extra eyes and ears for the police, they will be vehicles for infiltrating the homes in the beat manager's area, to spread the ideology of mutual or shared accountability/responsibility and to bring the neighborhoods together for a common goal.

This writer believes that continual involvement programs cost so little to implement and maintain, and the need for citizen support to deal with crime and quality of life issues is so great, that we cannot do without them. In fact, these citizens should be moved from our mental categorization of nuisance to an ideal of partners in policing.

This topic is long overdue. Citizen Police Academies are continually being conducted across America. It was inevitable that this problem, or opportunity, as this writer sees it, would need to be formally addressed. What do we do with participants after graduation? Ignoring them is self-defeating, yet this is what many agencies are doing. Not only are these graduate citizens a rich resource in terms of working within an agency, but they are an information source within the community and Community Policing is an information driven mechanism.

It is possible that with enough information about programs availability being centrally located and readily accessible, a natural metamorphosis may occur in the operation and continual involvement programs associated with Citizen Police Academies. This writer envisions a basic Citizen Police Academy Curriculum being established as a statewide and/or national minimum requirement. Further, as TCLEOSE regulates peace officer academies and licenses in the state of Texas, a committee of graduates and officers from across the state would set the

minimum requirements and issue or accredit licenses for the Citizen Police Academy and Continual Involvement Programs.

Though not every program is applicable or desirable to any given agency, the programs should be available in a clearinghouse for easy access to any agency at any time. The Del Rio Police Department believes this to be the case so strongly that it has developed a web site to serve as this clearinghouse.

This paper has sought to address the issue of what to do with graduates of Citizen Police Academy after graduation. It is to this end that this paper hopes to reach as wide an audience as possible, in the civilian as well as the law enforcement community. It is recognized that the programs for continual involvement contained in the appendix of this paper are not exhaustive and that is their benefit to all potential users.

As the clearinghouse web site is developed over the course of time, the number of ideas and programs will continue to make the use of Citizen Police Academy graduate volunteers not only desirable, but the vogue thing to do, one of the standards by which an agency's Community Policing efforts are judged, by their own peers in the law enforcement community.

It is this writer's desire and hopes that the programs contained in the appendix will be considered by police managers as temporal based implementation platforms. There will be found no reference to pecuniary constraints or limitations. The only valid issues are whether an agency can and will utilize any of them, and then, how long it will take to do this? Time, not money, should be the key factor in deciding upon any of the contained programs.

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APPENDIX

The following programs are provided to give agencies some ideas of what they can do with Citizen Police Academy Students after graduation. This appendix does not attempt to provide all the possibilities, and is not meant to be exhaustive. It is hoped that the ideas presented here will save CPA Coordinators searching for programs that are effective, efficient, and not cost-prohibitive. Liability concerns should be addressed to the proper legal counsel and insurance carrier for further constraints or limitations.

Best of luck with your Citizen Police Academy Programs and let's not lose what we have worked so hard for---Community Involvement!

ADVANCED CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

CPA alumni who desire to continue their involvement with the agency by participating in any of the volunteer programs could be trained in an Advanced Citizen Police Academy. The ACPA would be shorter in duration and specific to the programs of the department. For instance, after the initial class, the students would begin attending classes specific to the training required to fulfill the needs of departmental units. For instance, warrants, records, telecommunications, crime scene processing, etc. While engaged in the ACPA, the attendees would enjoy the right to ride alongs as they did in the basic academy.

ASSOCIATION-CPA ALUMNI

Citizen Police Academy graduates should consider forming an alumni of some sort. The alumni could meet once a month and post the meeting date and time at their sponsoring agency and encourage attendance by officers. This would aid in continuing the relationship started in the academy.

BEAT MANAGER

This program has been around for several years. Beat Manager is basically a return to policing fundamentals. The Beat Manager is assigned one geographic area called a "beat." Agencies may call these districts, zones, areas, or whatever their local geographic breakdown is known as. The Beat Manager begins addressing the beats quality of life issues by networking. This requires coordination between other local government entities such as Animal Control, Code Compliance, and others. The Beat Manager works in public and private schools conducting Safety Presentations or Lectures. *The Beat Manager utilizes the Citizen Police Academy Alumni to introduce himself and the program in home meetings, beginning the groundwork for mutual accountability/responsibility philosophy.* For more information on how the Del Rio Police Department uses the Beat Manager, call 830-774-8580, ask for Lt. Manny Herrera.

BICYCLE RODEO'S

The Del Rio Police Department periodically conducts bicycle rodeos. CPA alumni can be very useful and helpful in these events. They can also serve as an invaluable resource for publicity and give-away items for the function. Additionally, they will enjoy the opportunity to interact with the community's youth, as well as the officers.

BLUE LIGHT/BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGNS

Every year at Christmas time, citizens are encouraged to show support for law enforcement by displaying a blue light in their windows. During National Police Week, support is shown by tying blue ribbons on car antennas. The CPA alumni would be highly effective in these two programs.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM

CPA alumni work with a control officer to manage the departments Child Safety Seat Loaner Program. The Del Rio Police Department has it set up in the following manner. A person is cited for a violation of the child restraint law and appears in court. The options are a guilty plea, a trial, or voluntary attendance in a class referencing the importance of child safety seats. Upon successful completion of the program, the violator is awarded a certificate of completion and returns it to the magistrate. The magistrate places the defendant on deferred adjudication for 6 months or 1 year. If at the end of that period the defendant has no other traffic violations, then the charge is dismissed. If the defendant is financially unable to purchase a child safety seat, then one is loaned to them for a prescribed period of time.

CITIZEN/CELLULAR ON PATROL

This is not to be construed as traditional police patrol where a citizen is given a badge and a gun and sent to the streets. However, it is to be construed as utilizing available and willing resources to supplement an agency's patrol force by being extra eyes and ears for them. CPA alumni are trained in the department's requirements to not engage, just observe and report. CPA alumni can be invaluable in seeing things that officers can't because of the many variables that officers deal with; deterrent patrol, responding to calls, being tied up for extended periods on reports or booking prisoners, and the like. Citizens can report by either department furnished radios or conventional telephone or cellular telephone.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDANCE

The Del Rio Police Department believes, corporately, that the CPA alumni needs to understand how the local polity effects the department. Attendance gives them a big picture perspective of how the entire process works. The CPA should use this opportunity as a tool in their support of their department and not convert these government meetings into a political platform.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS-PRESENTATIONS

The CPA alumni expressed a desire to address local civic organizations on behalf of the Citizen Police Academy. For instance, the Lion's Club, Rotary Club, United Civic Organization, and others. The intent is to expose these groups to some of the things they learned while in the CPA, hopefully dispelling some of the myths and misconceptions civilians may have about the department. The CPA may promote awareness about the agency at large, and about the CPA.

CRIME VICTIM'S COMPENSATION ACT MANAGER'S

Chapter 56.04 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure requires that each local law enforcement agency designate one person to serve as the agency's crime victim liaison. The Del Rio Police Department has designated one officer to supervise the requirements of this act, and uses CPA volunteers to effectively manage it's program by screening reports to determine eligibility criteria and coordinating with the Beat Managers. Training is minimal and forms and brochures are available from the Texas Attorney General's Office.

EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION FOR RECORDS UNITS.

With nominal training, CPA alumni can assist the records personnel by extending the hours of operation for the office. Many agencies make reports available to it's public during normal office hours . However, this is a great opportunity for an agency to show a willingness to accommodate another part of it's public, those who work during normal office hours and cannot get away from work to obtain a police report. This program can be tried for a predetermined length of time to ascertain if the need is present for the extended hours before making a permanent decision or policy change.

HALLOWEEN PROGRAM

Halloween used to be a time of harmless fun, monsters, witches, and goblins, and yelling trick or treat to a shaken but cooperative home owner as they dealt out handfuls of goodies to the little ones. Times have changed. Parents have become reluctant to turn their children loose on their own for this holiday fun. They look for places that cater to the event in a highly visible place with plenty of people. You find Halloween theme functions at churches, schools, and businesses. The CPA alumni can organize and sponsor a Halloween theme event held at the agency and with the assistance of police officers, (they are already in costume).

ANY HOLIDAY THEME CAN BE USED BY THE CPA ALUMNI TO GAIN PUBLIC EXPOSURE AND PUBLICITY FOR THEM AND THEIR AGENCY. The Sussex Police Force in Canada calls their Halloween event OPERATION SPOOKTACULAR! Have your alumni top this one.

INVOLVEMENT WITH FALLEN OFFICER'S MEMORIALS OR SCHOLARSHIPS.

An agency that has any type of Fallen Officer's Memorial can readily put to use CPA alumni. These citizen's have already shown that they care about the agency and it's officers. This type of involvement further develops and nurtures the relationship initially begun in the academy by allowing CPA alumni to feel more a part of the agency's heritage, and it's emotional attachment to the memory of the fallen, but not forgotten.

NEWSLETTER

A simple yet effective vehicle to keep your alumni informed as to the goings on of the department would be a newsletter. This could be generated and mailed out once a month and bring the alumni up to date on what has been going on in their department. This newsletter should not take the format of a political action paper. It should simply be for information sharing. Interested alumni could participate by being reporters, editors, doing the mailouts, etc.

POLICE ACADEMY ASSISTANTS IN FIELD EXERCISES

Many times, an academy will use officers to play the part of bad guys or victims in field training scenarios. The CPA provide a totally new and different twist to an academy's program. Many if not most of the alumni will not be known to the cadets and this will lend a certain realism to the scenarios, as well as engender a feeling of helping and belonging on the part of the alumni. And it's fun!

POLICE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

Who better to show off the department than officers working with CPA alumni to conduct briefings and tours of the department. These alumni have had the department opened up to them in an effort to bridge the chasm created by the us versus them philosophy of the past. CPA can provide coffee and refreshments while the open house is in progress. It is a good idea to have as many of the department's upper echelon on hand as possible to show corporate support for the event and the CPA.

PROCESSING MINOR CRIME SCENES

The CPA alumni who express an interest, could receive training in the processing of minor crime scenes such as vehicle and coin operated machine burglaries. Their training would probably need to be the same as a police officer, and would include locating and dusting for fingerprints, photographing of the scene, departmental supplemental reports, chain-of-custody forms, and other requirements as set forth by law and the department. A check with the local prosecutor and magistrate who's court will try the cases is highly recommended. The processing will be done under the auspices of a uniformed officer, generally the one receiving the call.

RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

Traditionally, most agencies shy away from post-graduation ride alongs, primarily due to liability purposes. However, an agency may consider incentives to make the ride along program still accessible to those alumni who contribute to the department in a volunteer capacity. For instance, CPA alumni who perform 50 hours of service to the department would be eligible for an 8 hour ride along. This limits and restricts the amount of ride alongs yet does not eliminate them completely. The 50 hour figure is arbitrary, however, the goal must be realistic so as not to discourage alumni from participating nor bury the department in a quagmire of alumni waiting for their turn.

SCHOOLS-PRESENTATIONS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

The CPA alumni expressed a desire to speak to local public and private school children regarding a wide variety of subjects, such as bicycle safety, drug awareness, gang awareness and other topics. This lends credence to the police officers who are continually in the schools speaking with the children about these same topics. Whereas a police officer may impress a child as an authority figure, the citizen volunteer will likely be perceived as less of a threat. These volunteers experienced the police officer's involvement with the youth who cause problems in the community while riding along in the academy, so they will have some unique insights and perspectives to relate to the children.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The CPA alumni can conduct social functions between the agency and the CPA. These can be simple cookouts to more elaborate dinners. The CPA will have to see what is best for them and their sponsoring agency. CPA will also need to consider doing some type of function quarterly to make an effort at including those officers who may have been working at night the opportunity to attend an event occasionally.

TAKING OF NON-EMERGENT AND NON-SENSITIVE TELEPHONE REPORTS

Since police reports are a matter of public record, CPA alumni can be trained in the proper completion of reports that are not emergency, sensitive, or complaints against officers or employees. These other types of reports would be referred to the station commander or other responsible officer for report completion.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE

CPA alumni may wish to volunteer to assist agency telecommunications officers by answering non-emergent telephone lines. This can be very beneficial due to the fact that in most agencies the largest percentage of the calls are not emergency or 911 in nature. A tremendous amount of relief may be afforded to TCO's by analyzing the peak times where assistance could be most efficiently used and making that information available to CPA alumni.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

CPA alumni are always looking for ways to assist the department. They can be trained in a limited scope traffic direction and control class, and used to augment officers at major functions and events with traffic control duties. Barricade placement in low water crossings during inclement weather was also suggested, however, due to the potentially dangerous nature of this program, it is recommended that the proper experts be contacted.

WARRANT PROCESS INVOLVEMENT

Since warrants are a matter of public record and are occasionally published in the newspaper, CPA alumni can be trained to assist in the warrant process. These volunteers can perform research functions, make telephone contacts and generate the necessary outgoing correspondence to warrant holders. If your agency's warrants have not appeared in your newspaper, this another possibility. This agency did just that, and warrant holder response was terrific! (not that they enjoyed the publicity, but they did contact the department).

YOUTH ORIENTED CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The CPA alumni would be very instrumental in developing curriculum, aiding in the implementation of, and continued involvement with, a Youth Oriented Citizen Police Academy. This type of academy will need to be different from the adult version and geared to address the youth of the community. The CPA alumni have first hand experience in participating in the adult CPA and would no doubt prove to be an invaluable resource in the YOCPA.