

June 15, 2015

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

A deputy chief with more than 20 years of service to the Burleson Police Department was tapped as the new president of the Texas Police Association.

Deputy Chief Chris Havens was sworn in at the 116th Annual Training Conference at South Padre Island on June 10. He will serve a one-year term.

Havens said his goals are to ask each member of the association to focus on the youth in their communities and the young officers in their agencies in hopes of continuing to build partnerships and trust throughout the community, as well as professionalism with the young officers. The new president said he also wants the association to continue to offer training to help officers deal with the obstacles that they face on a daily basis.

The Texas Police Association, organized in Fort Worth in 1895, is the oldest law enforcement organization of its type in the state. Havens served as first vice president of the state's seven-member executive board in 2014. He has worked his way up the ranks from sergeant at arms.

The new executive director of TPA is Tim Ryle. The new board includes Major Dwight Mathis, Texas Department of Public Safety, sergeant at arms; Chief Paul Thompson, West Rusk County ISD Police Department, 5th vice president; Sgt. Sam Garrison, Texas Woman's University Department of Public Safety, 3rd vice president; Ryle; Havens; Chief Deputy Joe Hamilton, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, 1st vice president; and Major Raul Vargas, Department of Public Safety, 2nd vice president. Not pictured is Capt. Gabriel Ortiz, DPS, 4th vice president.

Represented in the Texas Police Association membership are officers from municipal police departments, sheriff's departments, constable's offices, the Department of Public Safety, federal agencies, and others. The Association strives to upgrade the efficiency and professional status of all Texas law enforcement officers. TPA devotes a sizable amount of its resources to the sponsorship and support of law enforcement training and education.

Havens started his career with the Dallas Police Department in 1988 where he worked patrol, auto theft, and with the street level narcotics task force. He was hired by the Burleson Police Department in 1994. Havens is currently in charge

of the Operations Division, which includes the patrol section, traffic, SWAT, negotiations and community resource officers. He has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, undercover narcotics investigator, property crimes detective, crimes against persons detective, crimes against children detective, patrol supervisor, sergeant over criminal investigations, and public information officer. Deputy Chief Havens is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, is a TCOLE state instructor, and has his Master Peace Officer certificate from the State of Texas.

The TPA president's badge which was presented to Havens dates back to 1895 and has been passed on to each president the last 120 years.