

May 2014

THE "BEAR" NEWS



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Should you move,
please send us your
new address

The content of the articles in this publication reflect each author's opinion or view.

The author's opinions or views do not necessarily reflect the view(s) of the Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers.



President's Corner

Hello OSSO the news is both good and interestingly common.

So lets get to it, OSSO is preparing to add a powerhouse attorney to its staff for a very good price.

The attorney is Scott Siscoe, most of you have heard of him or may even know him. This is a big step for OSSO, and it is a big step in the right direction.

There is also a surge in membership into the organization and that may have something to do with the recent OSSO elections. The two new OSSO Board Members are Roland Benavides and Leopold Rubio. Not only did their recent big victories bring a great deal of attention to OSSO, they also brought new and good ideas.

The organization is moving in the right direction and faster than you think.

Now lets take a step back and examine what is going on in our department.

In fact, allow me to present the following observations:

Now that 6 out of the top 10 Cartel Organizations have settled in Texas comfortably and for the record the 2012-2014 Captains list produced no Hispanic Captains. Do you think we are on the right track?

Not a single Hispanic was promoted to the rank of Captain in the last 2 years!

How does this happen? My answer it happens just like the Method B system happens. So if someone is promoting the method B system you can expect that there will be less opportunity for OSSO members and possible OSSO members. You officers who patrol the downtown area get ready for less opportunity if they are successful in implementing the Method B system there. Now back to promotions, you can expect the next round of promotions to go the same way as the last 4 years unless, they take those assessment videos to the Texas valley instead of New Orleans.

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OSSO Election Committee

03-08-2014

The OSSO Election Committee and family members assisted in the preparation of the election ballots at the OSSO Building. It took a lot of work to put them together. The OSSO organization would like to thank Joe Barrera and his committee and the family members for an outstanding job. The ballots went out that day and the committee is hoping that the members will participate. Good Luck to all the candidates.



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Continued from Page 1

There in the Texas Valley, they will encounter seasoned veterans officers and deputies on the front line of the drug war invasion.

Those officers and deputies in the Texas Valley know the value of promoting officers with the experience and knowledge of Hispanic culture, and the Spanish language. So how will OSSO rise to the occasion? The answer lies with you, if you are a member of OSSO you are standing with me and those members of the board who will support you if you need to challenge a position or a promotion. OSSO will also provide the ideas on how to form a more effective law enforcement agency and request that commanders share the opportunities. Now for my conclusion, there are naysayers in OSSO, but they are few, they are stumbling and they are falling, and two of them recently fell hard. If you are not a members of OSSO join OSSO and grow OSSO so we can play a little harder on the issues.

Domingo Garcia

President of OSSO

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Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for "fifth of May") is a celebration held on **May 5**. It is celebrated in the [United States](#)^[1] and in [Mexico](#), primarily in the state of [Puebla](#),^{[note 1][2][3][4]} where the holiday is called *El Día de la Batalla de Puebla* (English: The Day of the Battle of Puebla).^{[5][6][7]}

It originated with [Mexican-American](#) communities in the [American West](#) as a way to commemorate the cause of freedom and democracy during the first years of the [American Civil War](#).^{[8][9]} and today the date is observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.^[10] In the state of Puebla, the date is observed to commemorate the [Mexican army](#)'s unlikely victory over French forces at the [Battle of Puebla](#) on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General [Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin](#).^{[3][11]} Cinco de Mayo is not [Mexico's Independence Day](#)—the most important national patriotic holiday in Mexico—which is celebrated on September 16.

Events leading to the Battle of Puebla

Cinco de Mayo has its roots in the [French occupation of Mexico](#), which took place in the aftermath of the [Mexican-American War of 1846-48](#), the Mexican Civil War of 1858, and the 1860 [Reform Wars](#). These wars left the Mexican Treasury nearly bankrupt. On July 17, 1861, Mexican President [Benito Juárez](#) issued a moratorium in which all foreign debt payments would be suspended for two years.^{[13][14]} In response, [France](#), [Britain](#), and [Spain](#) sent naval forces to [Veracruz](#) to demand reimbursement. Britain and Spain negotiated with Mexico and withdrew, but France, at the time ruled by [Napoleon III](#), decided to use the opportunity to establish a Latin empire in Mexico that would favor French interests, the [Second Mexican Empire](#).

French invasion

Late in 1861, a well-armed French fleet stormed Veracruz, landing a large French force and driving President Juárez and his government into retreat.^[15] Moving on from Veracruz towards [Mexico City](#), the French army encountered heavy resistance from the Mexicans close to Puebla, at the Mexican forts of Loreto and Guadalupe.^[16] The 8,000-strong^[17] French army^{[18][note 2]} attacked the much smaller^[19] and poorly equipped Mexican army of 4,500.^{[20][note 3]} Yet, on May 5, 1862,^[21] the Mexicans managed to decisively crush the French army, then considered "the premier army in the world".

Mexican victory

The victory represented a significant morale boost to the Mexican army and the Mexican people at large. In the description of [The History Channel](#), "Although not a major strategic win in the overall war against the French, Zaragoza's success at Puebla represented a great symbolic victory for the Mexican government and bolstered the resistance movement."^[25] As [Time](#) magazine recently noted, "The Puebla victory came to symbolize unity and pride for what seemed like a Mexican David defeating a French Goliath."^[26] It helped establish a much-needed sense of national unity and patriotism.¹

Events after the battle

The Mexican victory, however, was short-lived. Thirty thousand troops and a full year later, the French were able to defeat the Mexican army, capture Mexico City, and install [Emperor Maximilian I](#) as ruler of Mexico.^[2] However, the French victory was also short-lived, lasting only three years, from 1864 to 1867.^[2] By 1865, "with the American Civil War now over, the U.S. began to provide more political and military assistance to Mexico to expel the French".^[2] Upon the conclusion of the [U.S. Civil War](#), [Napoleon III](#), facing a persistently tenacious Mexican guerilla resistance, the threat of war with Prussia, and "the prospect of a serious scrap with the United States", retreated from Mexico starting in 1866.^[27] The Mexicans recaptured Mexico City, and Maximilian I was apprehended and executed, along with his Mexican generals [Miramón](#) and [Mejía](#), in the [Cerro de las Campanas](#), [Querétaro](#).^{[2][14]} "On June 5, 1867, Benito Juarez finally entered Mexico City where he installed a legitimate government and reorganized his administration."¹

Significance

The Battle of Puebla was important for at least two reasons. First, although considerably outnumbered, the Mexicans defeated a much better-equipped French army. "This battle was significant in that the 4,000 Mexican soldiers were greatly outnumbered by the well-equipped French army of 8,000 that had not been defeated for almost 50 years."^{[28][29] [note 4]} Second, since the Battle of Puebla, no country in [the Americas](#) has subsequently been invaded by any other [European](#) military force.

OSSO Election Committee Ballot Counting

03-26-2014

The Election Committee met at the OSSO Building and quickly conducted the process of verifying the membership list and who sent in the ballots. They started the count and continuously checked with each other making sure that the count was accurate. **Final Results:**

Roland Nieto Board Pos#2 - 99 Votes (unopposed)

Greg Henson Pos#4 - 33 Votes

Roland Benavides Pos#4 - 73 Votes

Jose Rosas Pos#6 - 39 Votes

Leopoldo Rubio Pos#6 - 68 Votes

Congratulations goes out to Roland Nieto and New In-Coming Board of Directors Roland Benavides and Leopoldo Rubio, Good Luck in your work with OSSO.



OSSO Swearing in Ceremony

04-02-2014

The New Board of Directors and New Parliamentarian had their Swearing Ceremony at the OSSO Building in front of friends and family members. There was plenty of food and the new board started getting to work right away servicing its members, good luck to the entire board for a prosperous new year.



Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial



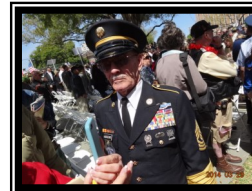
03-29-2014

Austin, Texas

The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial pays honor to those Texans who served the United States in that hard-fought conflict.

We Should Never Forget the POW/MIA and Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice for this Great Nation.

A Special Thanks goes out to Joe Barrera, Steve Benavides and Ignacio Aranda and current and past HPD officers and families for their service in the Vietnam Conflict.





Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers

Chair: Dee Leal, P.O. Box 3444 Houston, Texas 77253 Direct: 832.605.3645 Email: deeleal@aol.com

Scholarship Committee Report

Wednesday, April 02, 2014

901 North Loop Road, Houston, Texas 77022

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Dolores C. Leal
Chairperson

Sgt. John Pohlman
Co-chair

Rebecca Flores
Historian

Ismael F. Flores Jr.
Past President

Joe Barrera
Lieutenant

Paul Ogden
Sergeant

Ernest Leal Jr.
Senior Officer

Rafael Pantoja
Senior Officer

Johnny Sessuma HCC
Director

Jeremy Dafoe
U of H Advisor

Dear OSSO Board,

The Scholarship Committee met on Tuesday, April 1st, 2014. Seven (7) applications were received and four were selected as finalists.

After review by the Scholarship Committee members, the following four applicants were selected to receive the 2014 OSSO Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee unanimously agreed to increase this year's scholarships to \$1,250.00 per scholarship recipient. This is still in compliance with the \$5,000.00 we were allowed. It is my honor and privilege to congratulate the OSSO Board members and their families on a job well done.

Applicant: Celysa Bryana Garza
Parents: Daniel Garza & Elvia Garza
Attending: Baylor University

Applicant: Michael Rocha
Parents: Sgt. Jose Barrera & Mitzi Barrera
Step grandfather: Lt. Jose A. Barrera
Attending: San Jacinto College

Applicant: Armando Gilbert Gonzalez
Parents: Rafael Pantoja & Dyanira Pantoja
Attending: Cypress Fall High School, graduating June 6, 2014
Wishing to attend: Lone Star College

Applicant: Mireya M. Lopez
Parents: Eleazar Lopez & Daisy Lopez
Attending: Mac Arthur High School, graduating June 6, 2014
Currently attending: Lone Star College
Wishing to attend: Texas A & M

All applicants will be notified via letter and email advising them of the results. The Scholarship Committee selected Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to host the OSSO Scholarship reception. The selected venue is the HPOU, 1602 State Street.

Respectfully,
Dee Leal, Scholarship Chair
Board of Directors Member

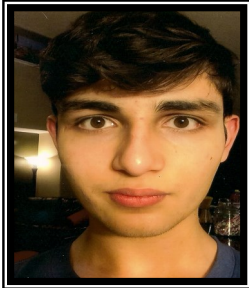
The Scholarship Committee Hard At Work

04-01-2014

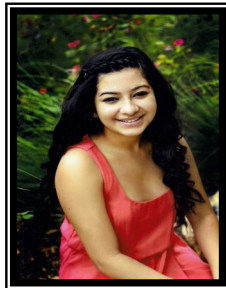


OSSO Scholarship Recipients

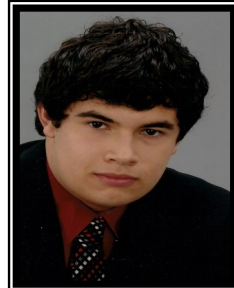
2014



Armondo Gonzalez



Celysa Garza



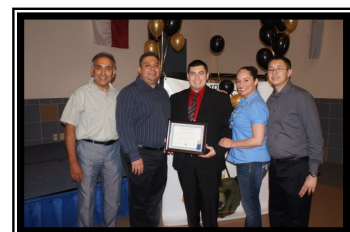
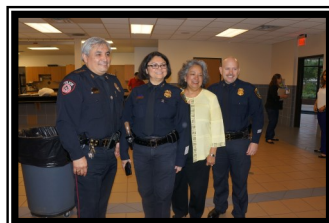
Michael Rocha



Mireya Lopez

OSSO Scholarship Ceremony

04/24/2014



Middle Rio Grande Law Enforcement Academy Hosts

April 21st & 22nd
8 am to 5 pm

Middle Rio Grande
Law Enforcement
Academy
2401 Garner Field Rd
Uvalde, TX 78801-6221

Price is FREE for 35
slots for this one of a
kind course. Students
will receive 16 hrs
TCOLE credit for
attending.

Instructor certifications
available for those that
qualify



Departments today lack the training they need to keep up with criminals who are training everyday to harm officers. The problem is compounded by programs that teach the same old methods that have never really worked properly. Come certify in a program that is giving real solutions to the real problems officers face on a daily basis. When training fails you have less officers on the street due to injury and liability increases. Let's break this chain and get on the right track.

The S.T.A.R. Method is the only Defensive Tactics course of it's kind offering real solutions in critical situations to officer survival. Other courses may work sometimes or for some officers but not all. Some have good tactics but lack the teaching methodology to help you train your officers back at the department. Let's get rid of those outdated ineffective programs and solve these problems once and for all!

Others try to copy this course BUT NEVER DUPLICATE IT!!

To register, contact the Middle Rio Grande Academy secretary at (830) 591-4158, Fax preregistration form to (830) 591-4159, or email thzamarripa@swtjc.edu before April 16, 2014. You may check out course info at www.stonewalltactical.com/star.html



About the Instructor:

Professor Green has over 30 years experience in the Martial Arts as well as over 15 years in private security & personal protection fields. He is the special projects director for the I.C.S.D.A. as well as the Alabama State director for the N.F.O.C.A.

Come learn an anti-assault and restraint and control course that actually works from someone who has used it and proven it!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 472 MARIO GALLEGOS SR. SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

Honoring Senator Mario Gallegos Jr. "FUEGO ETERNO" Award

When: Sunday, April 27th, 2014

Time: 8:00 AM

Where: Gus Wortham Golf Course

Format: Four Person Scramble

Donation: \$85.00 per player

Hole Sponsorship * \$100.00

COMMITTEE

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Munger Gaitan 832-274-6947

Fie Gonzales 713-921-7925

Eddie Carrion 281-948-0152

Coordinator: Izzy Gomez

832-689-4518

Izzygomez3@aol.com

AMERICAN LEGION POST 472 "Serving the Community"

Over the past 33 Years, American Legion Post 472 has used the proceeds from this tournament to provide college scholarships to Houston area students and other educational programs throughout the year. Thank you for your support of these programs

Last year, we lost a great person, Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr.. To ensure that his legacy lives on, his family has agreed to recognize a community leader who shares the Senator's passion for helping others. The "Fuego Eterno" will be awarded annually.

HIS FLAME WILL LIGHT OUR SKY FOREVER!

***On behalf of all our members, our families, and most importantly, the children that we support, we
THANK YOU for allowing our dream to bring forth tomorrow's LEADERS.***



***PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A
PLAYER OR SPONSOR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY***



TGIA Training

Texas Gang Investigator Association

2014 Training Conference

San Antonio Texas

June 23-27, 2014

www.tgia.net

Texas Narcotic Officers' Association

2014 Conference

Will Be Held in South Padre Island on

August 18 - 21, 2014

Make your hotel reservations now Hotels are filling up fast!!

Any questions should be directed to the Regional Vice President John Garza 832.875.1377
or one of the directors.

www.tnoa-eastregion.org

**Intersted in CHL's for friends or family? OSSO members are instructors. Look for additional
information in the near future.**

THE "BEAR" NEWS



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O.S.S.O. Meetings

All general membership meetings begin at 1130 hrs. and are on the first Wednesday of each month.

We also serve a complimentary lunch for members and their guests.

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