

EYE OF THE S.T.O.R.M.

SOBRIETY TRAINED OFFICERS REPRESENTING MISSISSIPPI • JUNE 2014

SAFE STREETS IN MISSISSIPPI'S HOT SUMMER

by **Tammy Shelbourn**, *Chairman of the Board*

Summer is upon us. The weather is warming up, kids are out of school, and vacation planning has begun. For law enforcement, this time of year simply reminds us that diligence to our duties is paramount as our streets will now be filled with thousands of additional motorists enjoying the beaming days of summertime. Unfortunately, many of those drivers will also choose to drive impaired!! Don't let the heat keep you inside; get out there and be proactive to remove these drivers from our roadways. Let's keep our families, friends, neighbors and communities safe!!

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IMPORTANT DATES

August 13-September 1—Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over blitz

September—Registration begins for Fall Conference

September 14-20—Child Passenger Safety Week

October 5, 2014—Registration Deadline (to guarantee T-Shirt size availability)

November 4-6, 2014—Fall Conference

May 5-7, 2014—Spring Conference featuring Lt. Col. Dave Grossman
www.killology.com

FUTURE CONFERENCES TO BE AFFORDABLE

Remember the old days when the first 100 members to register for the conference had free lodging?

Well, guess what. Those days are returning this fall!

After much work and planning, the Board secured enough funds through sponsorship and good, old-fashioned fundraising to pick up the lodging tab for the next conference (for the first 100 registrants). That means registration will drop from \$150 per person to \$40.

Also, attendees who pre-register for the FALL 2014 conference will receive a ****newly designed**** T-Shirt with their paid registration. Members who don't attend the conference or who register late may also purchase the time-limited shirts, but only those who pre-register are *guaranteed* correct sizes due to T-Shirt printing deadlines.

Shauna Harvey, Sergeant-at-Arms and Sponsorship Director, asks that members pitch in to help continue this new trend. "Anyone who would like to serve

on the Sponsorship Team is welcome. We are working to bring new ideas to the table and create events members enjoy," said Harvey. (See page 5 for more information.)

To contact Shauna, email her at sharvey380@gmail.com.



HB 412: AGREE OR DISAGREE, IT'S THE LAW

by **Creston Berch**,
Legislative/Membership Liaison & 2003-04 Past President

At the May 2014 conference, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Molly Miller gave a synopsis of the changes that House Bill 412 will make to §63-11-30 as of October 1, 2014. The information can be seen on the S.T.O.R.M. website by typing "HB 412" into the "Search News by Keyword" bar.

You should pay strict attention to §63-11-30(1), as it has changed the order of and the format of charges. The real damage created by HB 412 is 1) in the structure of the sentencing penalties and 2) in the number of loop holes opened for defendants to have at their disposal.

S.T.O.R.M. attempted many different avenues to have this bill rewritten, killed in committee, or defeated by vote. We were unsuccessful in our endeavors to prevent the passage of this bill, so it will be the law of the land.

Now What?

Our job as LEOs is still the same. We are to enforce the laws as written and do that to the best of our ability. We must not allow the sentencing penalties, which many believe impotent, to discourage us from doing our part. Our part in the fight against impaired driving is to detect, arrest, and present a case, clearly and convincingly to the Trier of fact. After that, it is out of our hands! If we have done our utmost, then we can lay our heads down and sleep with a clear conscience, no matter what hour that may be.

The real damage...
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2014—2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board—Tammy Shelbourn

President—Harrison Matory

Northern Region Vice President—Donald Ray Thomas

Central Region Vice President—Taylor Wells

Southern Region Vice President—Ashley Bice

Treasurer—Markas Marbury

Secretary—Melissa Harvey

Sergeant-at-Arms—Shauna Harvey

MASEP Representative—Billy Brister

Alcohol and Traffic Safety Representative—Dean Anderson

Member-at-Large—Samac Richardson

Chairman Emeritus—Mike Vick



Pictured Left to Right: Taylor Wells, Starkville Police Department / Central Region Vice President; Dan Bickford, Southwire; Donald Ray Thomas, Belmont Police Department / Northern Region Vice President; Andy Round, Starkville Police Department / Active S.T.O.R.M. Member; Chris McBrayer, Southwire

Southwire Supports S.T.O.R.M.'s Aspirations

Southwire, located in Starkville, became a Platinum Level Sponsor for the 2014-2015 year by presenting a \$2,500 donation to S.T.O.R.M. on May 12.

Following the presentation, Dan Bickford stated "Thank you for all you do. If this money helps save one life, it's worth it. Thank you for making us aware of [S.T.O.R.M]."

You can visit Southwire at www.southwire.com.

CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT—DONALD RAY THOMAS



Donald Ray Thomas,
Northern Region Vice President

I am Donald Ray Thomas, from Belmont, MS. I am 57 years of age and have been in Law Enforcement 21 years. I started out as a ride along reserve deputy with Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office in Iuka, MS. With my full-time job working at U.P.S., I went from being a driver into management and was transferred to Tupelo and then Jackson, MS. I was promoted from supervisor to manager and after seven years, I was transferred to Greenwood, MS. While living in Greenwood I joined up with the Leflore County Sheriff's Office where I was a reserve. After leaving U.P.S., I moved backed to Tishomingo County and started working in New Albany, MS at Merit Distribution as an Operational Manager. While I worked there, I was with the Union County Sheriff's Office as a reserve. During this time I went to a part-time academy with Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office. After leaving Merit, I was hired at the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office serving in the position as road deputy. I went to the full-time academy at Harrison County, Gulfport, MS. I received my certificate from the Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training. Later I was promoted Investigator with Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office. After leaving the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Office, I went to Booneville Police Department serving as PFC Patrolman. I have returned to my home town currently work for the Belmont Police Department in the position of Investigator. If I can ever be of any help or service to you please do not hesitate to call me.

***Have ideas for conference speakers?
What activities do you want to see at conferences?
Know of a way to make S.T.O.R.M. better?
We want to hear from you!
Drop us a line at stormMS96@gmail.com!***

NORTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT—TAYLOR WELLS

I have been employed with the Starkville Police Department since 2009. In 2010, I was certified in SFST and became an SFST Instructor in 2013. In 2010, I became a member of S.T.O.R.M. and have been a member ever since. I attended and was certified in Accident Reconstruction at MLEOTA with the Mississippi Highway Patrol Crash Team in 2012. In the beginning of 2012, I became one of the first Starkville Police Officers to obtain the title of Motor Officer / Traffic Enforcement since the late 1970's. The Motor Officer certification class was taken in Gulfport, MS, under the instruction of the Harley Davidson Corporation and North Western University. Since my time on the road, I have tried to keep the streets and highways of Starkville, MS, safe from impaired drivers and traffic offenders. I look forward to serving the State of Mississippi and the members of S.T.O.R.M. to the best of my ability, so that we as officers can move forward as safely and as professionally as possible. Thank you to all who have taught me and believed in me during my time in law enforcement. God Bless!



Taylor Wells,
Northern Region Vice President

SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT—ASHLEY BICE



Ashley (Ruple) Bice,
Southern Region Vice President

by Ashley Bice, Southern Vice President

My name is Ashley Bice (Ruple), and I am employed with the Hattiesburg Police Department. I started my law enforcement career in late 2004 as a dispatcher at the Forrest County Sheriff's Office. I attended the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in 2007 and started working as a Patrol Officer for the Petal Police Department. While at Petal, I was fortunate enough to attend the S.F.S.T. training and found my path. That same year I attended my first S.T.O.R.M. conference, and I fell in love with this wonderful organization. I found myself attending every possible class I could. As of today I am a S.F.S.T. instructor, A.R.I.D.E. certified and instructor, and also a D.R.E. As a D.R.E., I am on call for the J Troop area. I am always accessible by phone for call outs or questions. So please don't hesitate to call if you need any assistance.



by Dean Anderson, Alcohol and Traffic Safety Advocate

MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving focuses on three important steps we all can take today to stop drunk driving tomorrow:

- Support our heroes. Support high-visibility law enforcement to apprehend impaired drivers and discourage others from driving under the influence.
- Sober to start. Require ignition interlock devices or in-car breathalyzers for all DUI drivers to ensure they are sober before they drive.
- Secure the future. Support the development of technology that will automatically determine whether the driver's BAC is above the limit and cause the vehicle to become inoperable the driver is over the limit.

In 2012, 10,322 people were killed and approximately 335,000 were injured by an impaired driver. Every 53 minutes on average, someone is killed in a drunk driving crash. Every 90 seconds, someone is injured because of this preventable crime.

Keep up the hard work!!!! It does make a difference!

For more information, go to www.madd.org.

STORM's Website Assists Law Enforcement

by Rob banks, Webmaster

First of all let me thank all of those who utilize our website, members and non-members. If this site can ever assist any of you in your law enforcement duties, please do not hesitate to ask.

We try to keep updated training and law enforcement-related news on the site. If you know of any upcoming training or newsworthy information that would benefit law enforcement please let me know.

If any member has obtained donations from sponsors, please remember we can post a thank you on the website and if the donation is of a certain amount, we can post an advertisement banner of the business or donor on the home page of the site.

Please keep in mind that as a member, you have the right to a "S.T.O.R.M." email address as well as a member login to restricted portions of the website. If you'd like to activate that email address, please let me know.

If this office can assist you in anyway just go to the website at www.msstorm.org or www.msstorm.net and send a contact request. That request will be directed to me and I will respond as quickly as possible.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE DEDICATED TO SERVING MEMBERS

by Shauna Harvey, *Sergeant-at-Arms*

S.T.O.R.M. was founded in 1996 to achieve two primary goals: provide officers with the opportunity to network with officers around the state and to provide continuing education and training for law enforcement officers at little to no cost for members.

In the last couple years, STORM has been forced to find new avenues of funding and support in order to continue the excellent training provided to members. While our conferences have been planned and conducted at minimal cost to the attending officer, we are striving to provide even more training for even less out-of-pocket costs to members.

At the May 2014 conference, the board of directors implemented a sponsorship program overseen by a committee. That committee has taken on the task of doing our best to find and secure funding for our organization.

We are working to ensure that training conferences return to being a free service to our hardworking, dedicated officers who continue to battle impaired driving.

We need your help. Listed to the right are committee members in each region. Please take time to contact them with any ideas you may have for fundraising or sponsorships.

We are also asking you to help by securing anything from one simple scholarship to corporate sponsorships. I have ready-to-mail letters that can be sent out to potential sponsors—just email me and I'll get them to you. You can make a difference—any help with this task would be greatly appreciated.

2014 Sponsorship Committee

Northern Region

Ryan Winters
Oxford Police Department
rwinters@oxfordpolice.net

Matt Defore
Southaven Police Department
mdefore@southaven.org

Central Region

Rylon Thompson
Madison Sheriff's Department
thompson.rylon@gmail.com

Shawn Word
Starkville Police Department
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Southern Region

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Wiggins Police Department
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jfordb07@gmail.com

Michael Green
Lamar County Sheriff's Department
mwg007ppd@gmail.com



Labor Day Crackdown

August 15 - September 1

2014

S.T.O.R.M.

Sobriety Trained Officers Representing Mississippi
Post Office Box 54365
Pearl, Mississippi
39288



Don't get caught in the S.T.O.R.M.

www.msstorm.net

Address Label Here

Labor Day Crackdown • August 15-September 1

NO EXCUSES. DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER.

S.T.O.R.M. is teaming up with Mississippi's law enforcement agencies to put an end to the tragedies caused by drunk driving. Join us in this year's *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* high-visibility enforcement campaign, which will run from mid-August through the Labor Day holiday (August 15 through September 1), targeting a particularly dangerous time for encountering drunk drivers.

- Drunk driving kills more than 10,000 people every year.
- On average in 2012, one person was killed every 51 minutes in an alcohol-impaired driving crash.
- Holiday weekends bring a surge in drunk driving. Of all traffic fatalities over the 2012 Labor Day weekend (6 p.m. Friday to 5:59 a.m. Tuesday), 38 percent involved drunk drivers.
- During the Labor Day weekend in 2012, there were 147 people killed nationwide in crashes involving drivers or motorcyclists whose blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) registered at .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher.

