On April 5, DPS employees will receive an e-mail from the UT Survey of Employee Engagement. Please do not delete this e-mail—respond to it as soon as possible. The University of Texas conducts a state employee survey every two years, as required by law. (The survey was formerly called the Survey of Organizational Excellence.)

In the past, approximately 37 percent of DPS employees have participated in the survey.

“This year, I am encouraging every DPS employee to participate in this important survey,” said Steven C. McCraw, DPS director.

“The Department’s Leadership Team is accountable to me and I am accountable to you, the Public Safety Commission and the State Legislature. We must have open communication and dialogue in order to address issues in their embryonic stage rather than when they become a crisis,” he said.

McCraw said it was essential that as many employees participate as possible so that Department leadership can gather information on organizational strengths, weaknesses and working conditions. “We will share the results of the survey and I request that you take the time to complete it,” McCraw said.

The survey is confidential and your security and anonymity are assured. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cindy Torres at 512-424-5756 or by Department e-mail.

**DPS leads registration to save lives during “Donate Life Month”**

April is National Donate Life Month and it’s a great time to talk about organ donation and how things are going with the Glenda Dawson Donate Life - Texas Registry.

Talk about progress.

Nearly a year went by before the Texas Registry captured its first 50,000 registered organ donors, but fast forward three years and in just one month nearly 50,000 Texans registered to save lives through organ donation.

With the numbers progressing steadily, the Glenda Dawson Donate Life - Texas Registry is on pace to contain the names of more than one million Texans who are committed to saving lives by the end of this year.

Texas is among the nation’s leaders in registry growth rate, thanks to outstanding efforts by the Department of Public Safety.

Every month, DPS adds more offices to an exciting new electronic process that has tremendously increased registrations.

In the early days of the registry at DPS, a big month meant registering 10,000 Texans as donors, yet in the last quarter of 2009, DPS registered an average of 30,000 per month, and DPS registered nearly 50,000 Texans in January.

DPS accounts for 85 percent of all registered donors in Texas and with all DPS offices going electronic later this year, the monthly numbers are sure to increase.

The nearly 10,000 Texans awaiting transplants are more hopeful with every registered donor. The Texas organ procurement organizations have expressed heartfelt appreciation to DPS for its support of the Texas Registry.
DPS’s volunteer Chaplains always lend a hand to those in need

By Harry Mergel, Psychological Services

They respond to calls in their personal vehicles, frequently over long distances, and at all hours of the day and night. They sacrifice time from their homes and families to meet with others who are facing some of life’s most difficult challenges. They are well-trained, yet pay out-of-pocket for their training. They receive no salary for their labors and currently receive no reimbursement of their expenses. They must buy their own uniforms. They hold themselves to the highest of personal and professional standards and in return ask simply to be of service to others.

Can you name this DPS program? Many of our troopers can, as can the Rangers and other commissioned personnel who witness their work and rely on their counsel and assistance throughout the state.

Without them, Psychological Services’ ability to respond to DPS employees, innocent victims of crime, and the needs of our communities after disasters would be greatly diminished.

They are there for us and our loved ones at hospitals when we are away from home, worried, facing pain and uncertainty. They are there for us at our duty stations, present in the aftermath of crimes, comforting us and our neighbors during the most devastating of moments. They are our friends and our heroes. They are the men and women of the DPS volunteer chaplain program.

For more information on how you can support the program, email Dr. Frances Douglas at frances.douglas@txdps.state.tx.us.

Badges for retirees

If interested in ordering a 75th Anniversary badge but you don’t have access to the Internet, you can call the Media Relations office at 512-424-2080 and ask for a mailed form.

75th Anniversary book orders

Part of the DPS 75th celebration will include an Anniversary Yearbook. The book costs $39.47 for a hardcover book or $61.12 for a leather-bound book. The pre-sale deadline for ordering books is May 1, 2010; prices will increase by $5 after that date. Retirees are welcome to purchase a copy of this special book.

If you have a photo that you would like to be considered for publication, submit a copy to Lula Schuler, General Services, 5805 N. Lamar, Austin, Texas 78752.

Promotions

Director’s Staff

Jose P. Ortiz, Dep. Asst. Director, CID Austin to Capitol Commander, Director’s Staff Austin-Capitol.

Office of Inspector General

Steven K. Radney, Maj., HP Austin to Dep. Inspector General, Office of Inspector General Austin.

Law Enforcement Support

Todd M. Early, Director, Bureau of Law Enforcement Support

On the mend...

Tr. Larry M. Vaughan, HP Winnsboro, shot during fugitive arrest.

Tr. Charlie P. Potter, HP San Marcos, injured when unit struck by alleged drunk driver.

Tr. Ruben R. Soliz, HP Alice, injured during a struggle with a suspect.

Tr. Bobby Bowlin, HP Crockett, injured while working a traffic crash.

Tr. Michael Box, HP Magnolia, injured in a traffic crash.

Tr. Richard Black, HP Dallas, injured during a fugitive felony arrest.

Sgt. Inv. Armando Lopez, CID Hurst, shot during fugitive arrest.
Comm. and Technology Austin to Dep. Asst. Director, Law Enforcement Support Austin; **Dennis Pat Johnson**, Director, Crime Lab Austin to Dep. Asst. Director, Law Enforcement Support; **Karen A. Duke**, State Communications Coordinator, Public Safety Communications Austin to Deputy Administrator, Safety Communications Austin; **Melissa L. Valadez**, Forensic Scientist III, Crime Lab Austin to Lab Section Manager, Crime Lab Austin; **Alyssandra Shaffer**, Analyst II, Crime Lab Austin to Section Supv., Crime Lab Austin.

**Criminal Investigations**


**Administration**


**Highway Patrol**


**Capitol District**

**Eric S. Park**, Cpl. V, Capitol District Austin to Sgt., Capitol District Austin; **Roy D. Bristow, Jr.**, Tr. IV, CVE San Marcos to Sgt., Capitol District Austin; **Gabriel F. Huber**, Tr. II, Capitol District Austin to Sgt., Capitol District Austin.

**Retirements**

**James Douglas Wrentz**, Capt., CID Waco, 23 yrs., 1 mo., 8 days; **Robert Richard Gribble**, Sgt., HP Clarendon, 32 yrs., 2 mos., 21 days; **James Leon Blodgett**, Capt., Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Austin, 31 yrs., 1 mo., 18 days; **Patricia Ann Duplechain**, Supervisor, DL Houston, 30 yrs., 3 mos., 12 days; **Edgar Leon Berry**, Manager, Law Enforcement Support Corpus Christi, 29 yrs., 8 mos., 14 days; **Anthony Wayne Banks**, Sgt., CID Richmond, 23 yrs., 1 mo., 20 days; **Therese S. Linthicum**, Supervisor, Vehicle Inspection Austin, 18 yrs., 11 mos., 10 days; **David Schaefer**, Specialist I, IMS Austin, 13 yrs., 3 mos., 10 days; **Herminio Santiago**, Tr., HP Texas City, 19 yrs., 10 mos., 4 days; **Pamela Kay Yurk**, Entry Operator, DL Austin, 17 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days; **Linda Foley Taylor**, Inspector, CMV New Waverly, 9 yrs., 1 mos.

**Deaths**