"I still can't believe it," were the first words I heard as Deputy Russ Day answered the phone, you could hear the excitement in his voice. Deputy Day works out of the Daviess County Sheriff's Office as a school resource officer covering Daviess County High School, two middle and several elementary schools. An enthusiastic Day said, "I got a call from the President of NASRO he wanted Todd Brendel's phone number, our Kentucky SRO President. As I was getting it for him, he asked if I was going to the National Conference in Baltimore this year. I answered that funds were tight and I probably wouldn't be going. He said that he might as well tell me to find the money because he guessed it wasn't a secret anymore, that I had been named the National SRO of the Year. I am still reeling with excitement." Day continued, "Today has been full of phone calls, congratulations and a short faculty meeting just to announce that I won."

Listening to Deputy Day explain about his regular day as a Resource Officer, how he counsels kids, works with his K-9 Abby, guest speaks in classes and listens to students when they need help, sums up why Russ Day is this year's winner - National SRO of the Year. He represents a hard working group of school support staff and is truly dedicated to the students, staff and schools. Day sees his job as more than putting in the time. He knows that the time invested in students pays off when they graduate.

When I called to get a comment from Tom Shelton, Superintendent of the Daviess County Public Schools district, he was in a meeting and he twittered me the following, "Congratulations Russ Day, Daviess County High School Resource Officer, who is National School Resource Officer of the year. Way to go Russ!" That sums up how everyone who knows Day feels.

Russ hopes that the attention this honor brings to Kentucky will help school systems choose, even in hard financial times to keep SROs in schools whenever possible.

Source for article and picture: Daviess County School Press Release
Letter From the President

KYASRO Members,

It was great seeing everyone at the June conference. The conference committee did an outstanding job with the conference. The presenters were excellent, and this conference just keeps getting better. I would also like to thank everyone that worked at the conference. Seeing all the Past D.A.R.E. Presidents at the luncheon was impressive.

School has just started but we will begin planning for the 2010 conference in a few months. Also, KYASRO Board members have already began working on the 2010 NASRO conference that will be coming to Louisville. We will need KYASRO members help in making this conference a success. Anyone that is willing to help please contact your board members.

The website is up and running and looking great, please go to www.kyasro.com or www.kyasro.org and sign up for the forums.

I hope everyone has great start to the school year.

Todd D. Brendel
KYASRO President

SAVE THE DATE: NASRO CONFERENCE

This year the NASRO annual conference will be held at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. Be sure you save the dates of August 2 - 6, 2010! Go to www.nasro.org for more information.
Kentucky statutes define a SRO as a sworn law enforcement officer who has specialized training to work with youth at a school site. These SRO’s serve in a variety of roles, including law enforcement office, law-related educator, problem-solver, and community liaison. There are approximately 215 SRO’s in over half of Kentucky’s counties.

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ARE YOU READY FOR THE 15th ANNUAL SAFE SCHOOL'S CONFERENCE?

It's here! Online registration is now open for the 15th Annual Kentucky Safe Schools Conference scheduled for October 12-13, 2009. This annual event continues to provide the latest information and trends on safety issues that schools face daily.

For complete details on this cost-efficient conference and registration options, please visit: www.ksba.org or www.kysafeschools.org.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!
TRI-STATE CONFERENCE ON GANGS

The purpose of this conference is to provide and share current information about criminal gang activity in southern Ohio, southern Indiana, and eastern Kentucky. Instructors include national, regional, and local experts on gang crimes. Time is set aside for networking with professionals from your area and region. This conference is located at the Sharonville Convention Center in Sharonville, Ohio and takes place September 21-22-23. The registration fee is $55. Registration will remain open until September 11th or until they reach their space limit. Please make checks payable to MGIA (Tax ID # 39-1575322). Purchase orders are accepted. Attendees are responsible for their own lodging reservations. If you have any questions please contact Linda Schmidt at 513-314-9387 or email at: linda.schmidt47@yahoo.com, or, John McConnaughey at 513-779-4131 or email at: JRM4299@fuse.net

KYSRO BACK TO SCHOOL - LUCY RIFFLE, KYASRO EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR

It is "that" time of year again. Students are heading back to school and it's hard to determine who is more excited, the students or the parents! Students have their pens and paper, and their outfits for the first day of school, but have you thought about safety and what you need to do to prepare for a safe school year?

An effective SRO will spend the start of school working with administrators, teachers and students about what steps need to be taken to keep their school safe. Plans for safety drills such as fire, tornado, earthquake and lock-down should be made. The SRO should be an integral part of this planning.

Back to school meetings with parents and students are an opportune time to review internet and cell phone safety. The SRO could lead this training and explain the legal ramifications for harassment and other offenses relating to internet or cell phone misuse.

The start of a new school year is the best time to instruct parents and teenage drivers about proper driving on school property. The SRO should be visible during arrival and departure and be persistent in assuring that all traffic rules are followed – including but not limited to designated traffic patterns. If the rules are enforced strictly at the start of the year, persons will be more likely to follow them throughout the school year.

Lastly, the start of a new school year is the time when the SRO needs to make acquaintances with new students and staff. By creating these personal relationships early on, the SRO has developed a sense of trust. This is crucial for information sharing as the year progresses. Students who “know” their SRO are more likely to relay information about concerns or situations that could be potentially dangerous.

Here's to a great start for a new school year!!
A new report is out that shows improvement in some areas but one offense is on the rise in school safety.

The Kentucky Center for School Safety just released their report Monday afternoon but school officials say parents should be encouraged.

It's summer and for many kids school is the last thing they are thinking about.

But school safety is always a concern for parents and the Kentucky Center for School Safety released their annual report this afternoon.

They say their 5-year study shows great improvement in student behavior.

The safe schools report shows a reduction in school district violations. There was a 10% decrease in suspensions from last year to this year.

It shows a 34% drop in drug abuse incidents from 2003.

But there is one offense that the center has seen a spike significantly over the years.

The number of disciplinary actions for terroristic threatening has increased by 74% over the past 5 years, and its partly due to anti-bullying legislation.

This legislation includes any type of verbal threat being taken much more seriously.

"I'm seeing more and more principals and superintendents really crack down on verbal threats more kids were punished for that," said Jon Akers of the Center for Safe School.

Akers is in Richmond, Kentucky and is the Director of the Kentucky Center for Safe Schools.

This independent agency also says that disciplinary actions for alcohol offenses have increased 27% from last year.

But the number of handguns brought to school dropped from 30 last year to 14 this year.

So are Kentucky schools safer than they were five years ago?

“They are safer today than they ever have been. Are we perfect? The answer is no,” said Akers. “In our society no one is absolutely 100% safe but the schools are better equipped today than they ever have been to handle most anything that can come our way."

The number of rifles and shotguns brought to schools rose some this year but that was mostly rural areas where kids would go hunting afterschool.

Those guns were never brought inside a school building.

Source for article: WHAS11 News Coverage in Louisville, KY
2009 SRO Survey Report

In the fall of 2008, the Kentucky Center for School Safety sent out their bi-annual survey to all Kentucky SROs. The Center received responses from 149 SROS (70.6% response rate). Some of the findings are:

✦ 1 in 3 three SROs had between six and ten years of experience as an SRO.
✦ Over half of the SROs were funded by their board of education while about two in five (38.9%) were funded by the police agency for which they worked.
✦ 1 in 5 SROs were assigned to one school while 1 in 3 were assigned to one school but on call for other schools.
✦ 20% of the SROs spent on law related counseling and a lesser amount spent as law-related educators. Most SROs participated with some form of extracurricular activity at their school, including sporting events, Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD), etc.
✦ SROs felt that the most serious school safety problem at their school was theft, followed by disorderly conduct and dress code violations.
✦ More than 9 in 10 SROs agreed that the principal at their assigned school: was supportive of the SRO program, welcomed their presence at the school, has a genuine concern for students, was a strict enforcer of the rules, was cooperative with law enforcement investigations, has a genuine concern for the teachers, and has a low tolerance for violence, gangs, and drugs.
✦ Almost one in three SROS agreed that the Safe Schools budget reductions over the past fiscal year had impacted their programs.

In sum, Kentucky SROS are generally experienced law enforcement officers who enjoy their positions, work well with the school administrators at their school, and feel the schools in which they work are relatively safe environments. SROs generally work at least 40 hours per week in their positions as SROs and are generally assigned to more than one school (typically middle and high schools). Even though they respond that the majority of their time is spent in law enforcement duties, SROs engage in a wide variety of activities at school that would not traditionally be considered law enforcement activities (e.g., monitoring hallways, parking lots, clearing hallways, counseling students). SROs perceive disorderly conduct, theft, verbal harassment, and bullying as the most serious safety problems at their schools and have a wide range of ideas on how to solve these problems. Given the findings from this report, it appears that the SROs who work in schools in Kentucky generally enjoy their work and are an asset to the schools in which they perform their duties.

For a complete copy of the survey report, please email Lee Ann Morrison at leeannmorrison@ymail.com.

THE 2009 FOCUSING ON TREATMENT AND CARE CONFERENCE

Planning has begun for the 2009 Focusing on Treatment and Care (FOTC) conference. The Adanta Group has various divisions working on the conference planning process including the following: Regional Victim Services Program, Adult and Children Clinical services, and the Regional Prevention Center (RPC). FOTC conference topics of interest include, but are not limited to, rape/sexual assault, human trafficking, clinical services, substance abuse treatment and prevention, as well as interpersonal violence prevention and self-care. The FOTC conference will take place on October 15 and 16 at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY. The hours of the conference will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time. For more information please contact Heather Hurt-Klepper at h_hurt11@hotmail.com.
A jurisdiction-wide ban on driving while talking on a hand-held cellphone is in place in 7 states (California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) and the District of Columbia. Utah has named the offense careless driving. Under the Utah law, no one commits an offense when speaking on a cellphone unless they are also committing some other moving violation other than speeding.

The law in 5 states (Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) specifically authorizes a locality to ban cellphone use. Localities in other states may not need specific statutory authority to ban cellphones. Localities that have enacted restrictions on cellphone use include: Chicago, IL; Brookline, MA; Detroit, MI; Santa Fe, NM; Brooklyn, North Olmstead, and Walton Hills, OH; Conshohocken, Lebanon, and West Conshohocken, PA; Waupaca County, WI; and Oahu, HI.

Localities are prohibited from banning cellphone use in 8 states (Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah).

The use of all cellphones while driving a school bus is prohibited in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

The use of all cellphones by novice drivers is restricted in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

Text messaging is banned for all drivers in 17 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, novice drivers are banned from texting in 9 states (Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, and West Virginia) and school bus drivers are banned from text messaging in 1 state (Texas).

The table below shows the states that have cellphone laws, whether they specifically ban text messaging, and whether they are enforced as primary or secondary laws. Under secondary laws, an officer must have some other reason to stop a vehicle before citing a driver for using a cellphone. Laws without this restriction are called primary. California and Utah have unusual provisions noted below.

Source for article: *Insurance Institute for Highway Safety*

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**Technical Assistance**

The Kentucky Center for School Safety has identified successful Kentucky practitioners who are ready and willing to provide on-site technical assistance for SRO programs in a variety of areas. Some topics include:

- Emergency Management Planning
- How to Have An Effective SRO Program
- School Safety on a Budget

If you have other technical assistance needs, the Center can try and accommodate the topic you are requesting. To learn more and to request training for your district, please complete the technical assistance application on the KCSS website (www.kysafeschools.org) and fax to Tamara Stewart at 866-287-2610 or email to tamara.stewart@ksba.org.
FREE ANTI-DRUG RESOURCES for BACK to SCHOOL

To help you and parents in your community, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign is offering unlimited copies of resources that provide information, ideas, and examples of the skills busy parents and caregivers can use with their teens. All publications are thoroughly researched and reviewed by scientists, parents, and others to ensure accuracy. Materials include three short brochures on keeping teens drug-free for all audiences, or specifically African American or Hispanic audiences. Two other resources provide information on parenting skills and how to raise healthy teens. Also available in unlimited quantities is a brochure that addresses an emerging threat: the abuse of prescription and over-the-counter-drugs by teens, as well as a colorful handout highlighting the danger zones where drugs can be found in each room of the home with a printed "house tour." To order the materials please call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Health Information Network at 1-800-788-2800. To view and/or download parent materials, go to http://www.TheAntiDrug.com/Resources. To view and/or download the House Tour Print Insert, go to http://www.TheAntiDrug.com/resources/teen-rx.aspx

Guide on Bullying in the Schools

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has published a new guide on bullying in schools as part of its Problem-Specific Guide Series. The guide provides police of all ranks with information about the causes and extent of bullying in schools, as well as recommendations for developing practices and policies that promote student safety. The guide endeavors to increase prevention and improve the overall response to bullying incidents, but does not discuss the investigation of offenses or the handling of specific incidents. To see the guide please visit, http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/files/RIC/Publications/e07063414-guide.pdf

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

This year, State Farm’s Youth Advisory Board expanded its disaster preparedness issue area to include grants addressing societal disasters like nutrition, exercise, bullying, abuse and diversity. Applicants may request any amount from $25,000 to $100,000 based on a required budget which outlines project expenses. Request for Proposals (RFP) must be submitted online by Oct. 2. The five issues that grant requests must focus on are:

- Natural and Societal disaster preparedness
- Driver safety
- Accessing higher education/closing the achievement gap
- Financial education
- Environmental responsibility

Complete details and contact information is available at www.statefarmyab.com.
On July 28, Vice President Joe Biden announced that the Department of Justice COPS Office has awarded $1 billion in Recovery Act funding through its COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) to state, local and tribal law enforcement to create and/or preserve nearly 5,000 law enforcement positions. The chart to the right shows each recipient of the grant.

The COPS Office has prepared a CHRP Announcement Toolkit that provides additional information on how the application was created, reviewed and final awards were selected. Included for your review is the final award list; CHRP applicant rankings by state; state summary sheets that includes the number of agencies that applied and were awarded, dollars requested and awarded, and a list of agencies awarded; frequently asked questions and the methods used to develop and evaluate CHRP applications. You can view the toolkit by going to www.cops.usdoj.gov.

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### FALL FLU SEASON GUIDE

Updated federal guidelines offer state and local health and school officials a range of options for responding to the 2009 H1N1 influenza in schools, depending on how severe the flu may be in their communities. The guidance says officials should balance the risk of flu in their communities with the disruption that school dismissals will cause in education and the wider community. To watch the video of the school guidance news conference please visit The Kentucky Center for School Safety website, www.kysafeschools.org.
KYASRO AWARD WINNERS

Pictured to the left is Bruce Watson receiving the Region 1 SRO of the Year Award.

Pictured to the right is Glen Woodard receiving the Region 2 SRO of the Year Award.

Pictured to the left is Michael McCauley receiving the Region 3 SRO of the Year Award.

Pictured to the right is Tony Trimble receiving the Region 4 SRO of the Year Award.

Pictured to the left is Max Graves receiving the Region 6 SRO of the Year Award.
KYASRO AWARD WINNERS

Pictured above is Iman Talaat receiving the Educator of the Year Award.

Rookie of the Year, Greg Popham, is pictured above accepting his award.

Jackie Holt is pictured above receiving the Award of Merit.

Pictured above is Rita Bierly receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pictured above is Raptorware receiving the President’s Award.

SRO of the Year, James Harris, is pictured above accepting his award.
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