Danny Chandler of Dallas became chairman of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation at the annual Ranger Reunion Weekend in Waco in June, succeeding Gary Crawford, who completed his two-year term.

Chandler had been vice chairman and previously had served as chairman of the organization’s audit committee. Danny and wife Elizabeth were instrumental in the success of the TRAF Gala in 2011 at the Gaylord Hotel in Grapevine.

Chandler is joined on the executive committee by Jim Chionsini, Constance White and Tom Lacy. Crawford also serves as the immediate past chairman.

More than 500 retired Rangers and their families, plus active Rangers, TRAF Directors, Beneficiaries, sponsors and other friends and guests of friends attended the two-day event at the Waco Convention Center.

Festivities started Friday morning with the annual Captain Bill Wilson Memorial Golf Tournament, played this year at a new venue, Twin River Golf Club. LaSalle Corrections, Inc. cookers once again feted golfers and volunteers with their annual barbecue luncheon. A wide assortment of prizes and raffle items were passed out after the luncheon.

Proceeds from the golf tournament are deposited in the TRAF scholarship fund.

Special gifts were presented to all retired Rangers, who were introduced

Retired Texas Ranger and former Tom Green County Sheriff Joe Hunt was the 2013 honoree at the Waco Texas Ranger Association Foundation annual Reunion Weekend. He was joined by a large turnout of family members. He regaled the audience with stories about his days as a Ranger and explained how friends he made have remained close to him throughout his life. There’s a lot of anticipation for his new book, which recounts his life as a lawman. He reproved the adage “Once a Texas Ranger, Always a Texas Ranger.”
Legislative session, border safety occupy Rangers

By Kirby Dendy, Asst. DPS Director, Chief, Texas Rangers

Hello from Austin!
The 82nd regular session of the Texas Legislature is behind us and special sessions have been continuing throughout the summer months. Overall, the Texas Department of Public Safety did very well.

Our legislators obviously recognize the public safety challenges facing our state and want to insure DPS is adequately funded in order to meet and overcome these challenges. We are appreciative of their support.

After a short break, the planning and preparation for the next legislative session will start all over again. Legislative preparation is an ongoing and amazing process that most Ranger (and DPS) employees aren’t aware of unless they are exposed to it by working in Austin.

Mexican drug cartels are violent, working the border is dangerous to officers and Texas Rangers don’t take well to being shot at.

All of these statements were once again proven to be accurate during a recently completed Texas Ranger RECON mission in the Rio Grande Valley.

During this mission, a section of the Rio Grande River was exposed to a concentrated presence of law enforcement marine units from the U.S. Border Patrol, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Highway Patrol and Texas Rangers.

The Texas Ranger boat received an urgent radio call for assistance from a Border Patrol boat which was receiving gunfire from the Mexico side of the river.

The Ranger boat, comprised of Rangers and SWAT personnel, responded and found the Border Patrol boat grounded on the Texas side of the river, with its’ occupants taking cover while visually indicating the fire was coming from Mexico.

Personnel on the Ranger boat (PVT Stanley Guffey) observed several individuals in heavy brush, around a vehicle parked near the river.

Not seeing any weapons or hearing gunfire, they deployed aerial dispersing tear gas above the vehicle and individuals. Apparently, having not developed a taste for CS tear gas, the individuals jumped in the vehicle and were last seen driving south, further into Mexico.

No injuries were received by law enforcement personnel and the mission proceeded.

Later that afternoon in the same area, the Ranger boat came under fire from a sniper, positioned in a tree in Mexico. Ranger personnel returned overwhelming fire, silencing the sniper. The sniper was later seen by air assets fleeing south to safety.

Dendy continued page 3

New staff executive director

Liz looks back at first 100 days as TRAF exec

By Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director

My first 100 days with the Texas Ranger Association Foundation has flown and what a ride it’s been! I have gotten better acquainted with the Foundation, how it executes its mission, and I’ve experienced my first Retired Ranger Reunion.

My start date was April 15, and as I look back on my goals I set when I began, I admonish myself about impatience. I see how much I’ve learned, how far we have come in many areas, and how much more we can do as an organization to propel us to the next great phase.

Listening has been my priority as I’ve immersed myself into TRAF. How can we better fulfill our promise to serve and in what ways can I help get to that destination? I will continue to seek out opinions and ideas so we, as an organization, are always sensitive and nimble to the needs.

Accomplishments

The Reunion, declared a success by all accounts, was a revelation to me. It was extreme hands-on training with the chance to witness the camaraderie, to see the lives and hear the stories that make the Texas Rangers legendary. I look forward to working on the Reunion in the years to come so that it continues to be an incredible experience.

One of TRAF’s key functions is outreach and communication. We are testing economical yet effective solutions to keep the TRAF contact lists as accurate and refreshed as possible. There is no silver bullet to this, and

Myrick continued page 4
Gearing up for two great years ahead

By Danny Chandler, TRAF Chairman

I would like to thank everyone for supporting my nomination as chairman for the next two years. I would also like to thank those who helped with and attended the reunion June 14-15. Our final head count was 444 and thanks to Constance White the golf tournament attracted 116 golfers (+45 percent v 2012) and raised $27,655 for the scholarship fund. Saturday night's silent auction and merchandise sales yielded $25,380.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's Reunion -- June 13-14, 2014.

Plans are in works for the Feb. 21-22, 2014 Winter Meeting in South Padre Island. We’ve been in contact with Major Palmer at Co. D and Liz Myrick is checking out hotels and restaurants. Details should be finalized by Labor Day.

Early planning for the 2015 Gala has started. We want to keep it fresh and we’re open to suggestions.

Much like the Ranger Service, within the TRAF the big news is change. As we discussed in our past two business meetings, we’re finalizing the guidelines to set up an Advisory Board.

This volunteer group of non-voting members will be comprised of successful and motivated individuals, and from its ranks, we hope to cultivate the next generation of board members. Our objective is to put this to a final vote at the Winter Meeting.

Moving from concept to practice is our plan concerning new board and associate member training. Newly elected board members will receive a mission overview, fiscal oversight and governance training so they can take on their roles more quickly and comfortably.

All members will receive a briefing concerning personal conduct. We aim to launch this training by June 2014.

Our website is one of the best tools we have to promote our mission. Whether it’s 3 a.m. or Christmas Day, the internet never closes – which means our foundation is open all the time.

The better it looks and more up-to-date it is, the better impression it will make to the public. For these reason we’re revamping and updating ours. Our target is to have it completed by year’s end.

Other components will assist the Historical Committee in their oral/video interviews of retired rangers while others will support the website. This equipment was funded from a private donation with a corporate match.

Today, there are approximately 60 percent more active duty rangers than when our foundation was founded 31 years ago and the Texas population is expected to grow at least 50 percent by 2050 (37 years).

Our commitment to the children of active duty rangers has grown from $500 for one child per company in 1988 to $4,000 to any eligible child today, an 800 percent increase. We must stand by our commitment of preparing these children for success which will require thoughtful and strategic solutions to this challenge.

Just as we have made a commitment to Rangers’ children, we must find innovative new ways to support the Retired Rangers. Please contact Captain(s) Jack Dean, Richard Sweeney or me directly to share your suggestions.

This will be a priority. Our foundation must continue to cut operational costs and find new revenue streams which will enable us to keep our commitments cited above. To cut our printing and postage expense, most items will be electronically routed when possible.

We’ll continue seeking new grants, sponsorships and initiate new fundraising events. Suggestions are welcome.

The Texas Rangers and TRAF connection has evolved into a great working relationship and is rooted in shared values and mutual admiration. My goal is to advance this partnership and over the next two years, travel to each company office and meet as many active duty and retired rangers as I can.

I’m truly honored to have this opportunity to serve.

Thanks again and be safe.

Dendy cont. from page 2...

No Ranger or law enforcement personnel were injured and the mission continued with numerous arrests of illegal aliens and marijuana seizures being made before it concluded. While some politicians and pundits would say our border is more secure than it ever has been, law enforcement activities and statistics indicate otherwise.

During fiscal year 2012, over 175,000 illegal aliens were apprehended and over 160,000 pounds of drugs were seized.

Even though our resources are limited, it is our intent to continue border operations to impact the flow of illegal aliens and drugs entering our state from Mexico, regardless of the dangers and challenges this presents.

Note: Chief Dendy is in his 42nd year of service and is the most senior employee with the Texas Department of Public Safety.
we encourage you to communicate with our office if you have a change in address, email, or phone number.

But we have a system, and are making every effort to stay on top of this.

With projected growth and increased activity, we’ve hired a new part time bookkeeping position. Wanda Gilliam of Hillsboro has ably assumed the role and already has made an impact in the operations of the TRAF office as we develop and modify systems for accuracy, efficiency, and increased transparency. Wanda and I benefit from Betty Middleton and her TRAF experience as she continues her role as part-time administrative support.

Moving Forward

Growth means it’s an exciting time to be involved! The promise of potential collaborations, grants and new events means increased support to the Rangers, retired and active, and their families. They allow us to expand education and preservation projects and initiatives. As a board member said to me last week, “Good things are ahead.”

In my first 100 days I am grateful for TRAF friends like Byron Johnson of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Cheryl Iselt of Texas Rangers DPS office, and Barbara Pratt of the Company “F” office. They have been very generous.

We are making progress. I promise my commitment to the TRAF mission and endeavor to serve. I look forward to many more illuminating days ahead.

THE ANNUAL Ranger Reunion Weekend is always a great time for retirees to get together and tell plenty of old stories and reminisce about their days in the service of Texas. (Front row, l-r) Joe Hunt, Billy Peterson, Carl Weathers and Jimmy Hailey. (Back row, l-r Gary Henderson, Phil Ryan and Dick Johnson.

JIM CHIONSINI, a TRAF director, presents a bouquet of flowers to Linda Hunt, given to her by her husband, retired Ranger and Tom Green County Sheriff Joe Hunt. Chionsini also lives in San Angelo and is a friend of the Hunts. The director introduced Joe Hunt as the 2013 retired Ranger honoree.
Rangers retire, change duties

MAJOR ALVIN ALEXIS
Retiring from San Antonio

RANGER BRANDON BESS
New in Liberty

RANGER RICKY “Bo” BROWN
New in Childress

CAPTAIN JEFF COLLINS
New at headquarters

LT. GROVER “Frank” HUFF
New in Huntsville

MAJOR BROOKS LONG
Retiring from El Paso

MAJOR CRAYTON McGEE
Promoted in El Paso

DINO HENDERSON is transferring back to the Ranger Division from the Office of Inspector General. He will assume the responsibilities of the Ranger Recon Administrative Captain.

LT. GARY SHAW
Retiring in El Paso

RANGER DOMINIC ZUNIGA
New in Lubbock
ASHELY Dale Dixon is the daughter of Texas Ranger Roger Dixon, Co. D, stationed in Del Rio. She is attending Texas Tech University as a senior this fall. She plans to graduate in May 2014. Ashley is majoring in economics.

JACOB Wayne Buxton is the son of Texas Ranger Calvin Wayne Buxton, Co. C, based in Plainview. He is a sophomore at Texas Tech University, and plans to major in exercise and sports sciences.

WILLIAM Cole Henderson is the son of Texas Ranger Richard D. Henderson, Co. F, stationed in Austin. He’ll be a freshman this fall at Blinn College with plans to major in psychology.

JORDAN Garcia is the son of Texas Ranger Randy Garcia, Co. D based in Cotulla. He is a freshman this fall attending Palo Alto Community College. He plans to major in kinesiology.

Spotlight shines on more TRAF scholarship recipients

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Above: TRAF DIRECTOR Emeritus Randy Watson kept the public safe during the golf tournament along with Regional Commander Randy Prince and Majors JD Robertson and Freeman Martin had an “official” foursome at the golf tournament.

At right: VOLUNTEER LINDA Baker, administrative assistant with Co. A, sells raffle tickets to Laura Hartman prior to the golf tournament teeing off. The raffle follows the tournament and is always a big attraction with a great array of prizes up for grabs. This year’s auction was with the benefit of air conditioning for the first time.
CHERYL ISEL T and Cindy Goll register golfers at the annual Reunion Weekend golf tournament at Twin Rivers Golf Club. This was the first year for the tournament to be held at Twin Rivers. Cheryl and Cindy were busy long before the golf began until the final prizes were claimed.

TEXAS RANGER Jake Burson and wife Brandi were among the many volunteers who lent their efforts to ensure a successful weekend for Retired Rangers and their families. It takes a large number of people volunteering each year for the weekend’s festivities to come together.

GOLF TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS Constance White and Chairman Danny Chandler gave thumbs up approval to the LaSalle Corrections BBQ cookers. This group of cookers has done a tremendous service to the TRAF Reunion Weekend and can always be counted on for top-notch food and pleasant conversation. The LaSalle representatives seem to have as much fun as the guests who devour their barbecue.
Reunion cont. from page 1...

through their former companies. Additionally, Texas Ranger Chief presented an update of all Ranger activities across the state, including updates in equipment, methodology and he highlighted some of the top cases the organization had been involved in during the past year.

Former Ranger and retired Tom Green County Sheriff Joe Hunt was the 2013 honored Retired Ranger. Hunt, who has a book coming out about his days as a lawman, recalled many stories and people he had encountered during his career. Director Chionsini, who lives in San Angelo, introduced Hunt and also presented a bouquet of flowers to the honoree's wife, Linda.

Saturday morning was set aside for the annual memorial service to honor Rangers who had died during the year. This event is held in the chapel area at the Texas Ranger Museum and is always a solemn occasion, but enjoyable because many of the deceased’s friends recall stories about cases and antics over the years, many times humorous events.

The mid-year TRAF board meeting is also held on Saturday. Two directors were added: David Wilson and Jerry Welborn

Financial investments were discussed and the annual discussion of bylaws was updated. Chandler and members of the communications committee and others are heading a study to update and upgrade the TRAF website, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Saturday night’s annual banquet was also highlighted by the annual silent auction where outstanding items donated by Rangers and friends of TRAF went to the highest bidders.

Perhaps the single most popular time of the weekend is the opportunity for old and new friends to sit around tables, share stories and renew their kinship. It also gives the younger active Rangers an opportunity to meet some of the legends they’ve heard about all their working careers.

It would be a writer’s dream to sift through the countless tales of criminal investigations, hijinks and funny recollections these retired Rangers have to offer.

To all men, they are all walking encyclopedias of Texas law and folklore, lived by them and passed down by their predecessors.
The Beaumont Foundation of America, located on Orleans Street in Beaumont, has again contributed $10,000 to the Texas Ranger Association Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The grant lasts from August 2013, until December 2014.

TRAF is required to give a six-month report and a final report on how the funds are spent.

The Beaumont Foundation provides grants and scholarships to a broad range of charitable, religious and educational organizations across the country.

The foundation also participates in the Fallen Heroes Program.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE TEXAS RANGER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER INCLUDE:

Liz Myrick, Byron Johnson, Macy and Jim Chionsini, Aubrey Mathis, Kirby Dendy, Cheryl Iselt, Danny Chandler, Constance White and Bill Hartman.

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Ranger Hall of Fame belongs to you

By Byron Johnson, Museum Director

A while back a Texas family on spring break stopped me during a walk through the galleries. They had a question. They were impressed by what they saw and had just listened to a “real Texas Ranger” talk about his work and gear. The kids were fascinated, the parents even more so. Their question was, “Who owns all of this?” To them, it made sense that a private “museum” group or a wealthy collector had to own the place. My answer was simple: “You do.”

It took a few moments to sink in, then you could almost see the pride grow. Like the Texas Rangers themselves, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is a heritage, a legacy owned by the people of Texas and their descendants. One part of this is a growing collection of outstanding historic Texas artwork.

For example, the collections include the oldest known oil painting of a Texas Ranger, the legendary Captain Jack Hays at Enchanted Rock. It was done in 1851 during the California Gold Rush by W.S. Jewett. “Captain Jack” ran for sheriff of San Francisco and among the clamor, dirt and rowdiness found time to sit for a piece of campaign literature.

It was probably displayed as a “prop” in oil lit saloons during debates and occupied a proud place in his children’s parlors. At the urging of Bob and Vera Thornton of Dallas, Mrs. Roblay McMullin, the wife of a descendant, donated the unique art to us.

Another rarity is an oil painting of Sam Houston done by C. Edward Schnabel. The “Father of Texas Independence” was U.S. Senator from Texas when he sat for it between 1846 and 1859. Looking at it is being in the presence of crusty old Sam. He sat no further from the canvas than visitors stand today while it was painted.

This year the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame has an opportunity to show its art by Thomas C. Lea III, or simply Tom Lea. Lea was a well-known Texas artist, war correspondent and writer. His murals, found from Washington D.C. to El Paso, are some of the best-known public works art created during the Depression.

During the month of October the Tom Lea Institute in El Paso celebrates his career through the creation of the Tom Lea Trail. The trail is a tour of the sites holding his works throughout the country.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is privileged to have several artworks by Lea, including: Yonder’s Fort Fisher and Here’s a Recruit, a gift of the artist on the occasion of the opening of the Hall of Fame and Museum in 1968. A Little Shade, is an oil done late in his career in 1965 and donated by the Brown-Olds Corporation.

Ranger Escort West of the Pecos, is a pencil on paper study, the gift of Dr. H. F. Connally, 1968. All can be seen through the summer of 2014 in the Hall of Fame, along with several of the books Tom Lea wrote and illustrated.