

# TEXAS INSIDER

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## 2013 TCJIUG CONFERENCE APRIL 22-26, 2013 HOLIDAY INN - EMERALD BEACH (make your reservations now)



### Current Officers

President	Pam Pierce	<a href="mailto:Pam.Pierce@co.travis.tx.us">Pam.Pierce@co.travis.tx.us</a>
Vice President	Tammy Cannon	<a href="mailto:tammy.cannon@tdcj.state.tx.us">tammy.cannon@tdcj.state.tx.us</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Tomas Stokes	<a href="mailto:Tomas.Stokes@co.bell.tx.us">Tomas.Stokes@co.bell.tx.us</a>

### Board Members.

Position 1	Les Smith	<a href="mailto:LSmith@TarrantCounty.com">LSmith@TarrantCounty.com</a>
Position 2	Elaine Thornton	<a href="mailto:ethornton@cityofirving.org">ethornton@cityofirving.org</a>
Position 3	Eddie Musgrave	<a href="mailto:e.musgrave@calhouncotx.org">e.musgrave@calhouncotx.org</a>

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## Do you have ideas/suggestions for course training at next year's conference?

Email them to [tcjiugwm@yahoo.com](mailto:tcjiugwm@yahoo.com) with the subject line "2013 Training Suggestions". Be sure to include your contact information and a brief description of the suggested course and any known potential presenters for that material topic.

Newsletter By:

Windy Kraus,

Communications Supervisor

Lubbock County Sheriff's Department

[wkraus@co.lubbock.tx.us](mailto:wkraus@co.lubbock.tx.us)

## A President's Perspective

By Pam Pierce

### TCJIUG Conference 2012

What a whirlwind! We had awesome participation this year from both the attendees and the vendors, as well as having a well-rounded group of topics and associated speakers. I have to tell you, on Friday before the conference was to start, we actually had approximately 50 people registered and paid for the conference itself, and only 21 people registered for the TxDPS TCIC Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) Class on Monday. I was a "bit concerned" to say the least.

The week started with tornados in the area on Monday morning- one as close as Portland, a mere 20 miles North of the hotel with other nearby cities suffering from flooding. What could I think except "Lovely." Then I walked into the classroom. Even though the classroom had been set up for twice as many people as were registered, there was standing room only a full 30 minutes before the class was to even start. What a way to start the week! We had another twenty chairs with table space added to the room lickety-split - the

Holiday Inn staff was incredibly responsive and it was only 8:10AM. The day ended with the Hospitality Suite being opened an entire day early because we had so many conference attendees in the lobby getting to know one another that we simply needed to get out of everyone else's way.

Take a look at the things that go on "behind the scenes"...Lunch is provided for the TAC class (in addition to the rest of the week)- so the kitchen staff had more mouths to feed than initially expected with less than four hours' notice, and more tables had to be set up accordingly in the banquet room. This became the standard for the week, each day brought more people into the conference, the classroom accommodations had to be changed almost every session, more food had to be prepared, and more tables set for breaks and lunches. Each morning at some point during the first training session, I was advising the Banquet Facilities staff on how many people were to be fed that day for lunch.

We had almost 90 people at the President's Reception Wednesday night. Remember,

we had only 50 people registered for the entire week a mere three days prior to the first class commencement.

It was totally awesome how the week turned out compared to how it had appeared it would be! The increased attendance also meant there were more tickets for door prizes to rummage through...and OH MY, let's not forget the quantity of door prizes that poured in from the various agencies. SMILE!

I saw a lot of human 'networking' and business cards exchanged accordingly this year without people being nudged to reach out. Breakfast roundtable discussions happened spontaneously. Dinner groups were arranged amongst the attendees at will and without a lot of fanfare and coordination needed by the TCJIUG Board Members.

We gained new Executive Board Members. Eddie Musgrave joined the board bringing his experience in the "jailer" world, currently at Calhoun County Sheriff's Office. Les Smith joined the board bringing his experience as the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Coordinator.

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*"Even though the classroom had been set up for twice as many people as were registered, there was standing room only a full 30 minutes before the class." - Pam Pierce*

## FCC - VHF/UHF NARROWBANDING INFORMATION

BY FCC

On January 1, 2013, all public safety and business industrial land mobile radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz radio bands must cease operating using 25 kHz efficiency technology, and begin operating using at least 12.5 kHz efficiency technology. This deadline is the result of an FCC effort that began almost two decades ago to ensure more efficient use of the spectrum and greater spectrum access for public safety and non-public safety users. Migration

to 12.5 kHz efficiency technology will allow the creation of additional channel capacity within the same radio spectrum, and support more users. After January 1, 2013, licensees not operating at 12.5 KHz efficiency will be in violation of the Commission's rules and could be subject to FCC enforcement action, which may include admonishment, monetary fines, or loss of license. For further information visit

<http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html>

## Social Media and 9-1-1

www.911.lubbock.tx.us

However you might feel about social media, it appears to have become a large part of our everyday life. For many, it permeates everything they do: work, play, shopping, and more. Nearly everywhere you look; there are references to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and similar sites. Social media has changed the way we communicate as a society. With the enormous impact it has had on communication, it should come as no surprise that emergency response agencies are interested in leveraging that power. Many public safety groups are looking for innovative ways to mine social media data to look for threats and help them respond to crisis situations.

In the early days of 9-1-1, call takers were always looking for more data to aid first responders, no matter if

it came automatically with the call or had to be acquired from the caller. Those days of limited data seem to be over. The problem has now become how to filter that data and sift through the enormous amount of information that is available in order to find something relevant. Conservative estimates state there are roughly 200 million "tweets" sent each day through Twitter. As incredible as that number sounds, during that same timeframe there are an estimated four billion status updates to Facebook. With all this information, how does public safety manage to coalesce the many different types of social media into one format?

In 2011, New Zealand hosted the Rugby World Cup. In anticipation, local police set up a system which scraped YouTube, Twitter, and Flickr (a photo sharing site). This system plotted messages,

photos, and video uploads on a map. By hovering over one of these icons on the map, an officer could see the tweet, photo, or still image from the video. In addition to this, officers were able to filter these results to look for items posted from homes of known offenders. There system also offered accurate time stamps for each event.

Despite the ability to filter and narrow the results, the system collected more than twenty million tweets over the six week period. The sheer volume of data was impossible to examine effectively. Useful information became the proverbial needle in a haystack, overwhelming law enforcement.

(Continued on page 4)

*"Useful information became the proverbial needle in a haystack" - Nathan Kizer*



## Do you have ideas/suggestions for the TCJIUG Newsletter?

Email them to wkraus@co.lubbock.tx.us with the subject line "TCJIUG Newsletter idea". Be sure to include your contact information, a brief description and a source site for documentation purposes.

## No Longer an afterthought: Using your budget to make grant applications shine

By Linda Gilbertson

www.PoliceGrantsHelp.Com

You know the importance of a well-defined project narrative to your grant application that clearly demonstrates to the funder that you understand the needs of your community and how well your project will meet your stated goals. Funders need to know what you are going to do and how you will do it so they can

determine if they want to support your project.

But an equally important part of your application is the budget. To often a budget is the last thing that's thought about when putting together an application. And too often, unfortunately, that's exactly how it looks to the funder. A bad budget can ruin your chances of getting

funded. And it can actually cost you money if you do get the grant.

So what do you need to know about developing a good budget that supports not only your project but your agency as well?

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*"To often a budget is the last thing that's thought about" - Linda Gilbertson*

## No longer an afterthought

**1. The amount of funding requested should be reasonable for the project.** They may do a "cost per unit" analysis on your budget, and an overly-inflated budget will show that the costs are unreasonable. An obviously padded budget makes it appear that you are only interested in the money, not in completing your project and improving your service to the community. Funders have a good idea about how much things cost, so your budget needs to reflect the current market value of what you are requesting.

Along those same lines, a budget that seems too low may have the funder questioning if you really know what you are doing. If you haven't taken the time to determine how much things actually cost, or you omit items in the budget that are needed to accomplish your goals, the funder may assume that your project is poorly planned overall.

**2. Everything requested in the budget must be included in the project narrative.** If you are asking for equipment (say night vision goggles or new computers), make sure the narrative justifies why the equipment is needed and how it will be used to

further the project. Sometimes, as the application is being developed, budget items are added and no one remembers to include them in the project narrative. To avoid this problem, do a final read-through to make sure every item in the budget shows up, with details, in the narrative where appropriate. Definitely don't add items you don't need for the project just to see if you can get them. If you can't justify it in the narrative, don't ask for it in the budget.

**3. Be specific.** If you are asking for overtime, determine (and show) what the actual salary and benefits are for each position, and how many hours it will take to accomplish your goals. If it's for equipment, list each item separately with its individual cost. Travel and training should state the "why" for each event, as well as the cost breakdown (airfare, lodging, per diem, registration fee, etc.). This is the kind of detail that shows you have thought about - and fully understand - every aspect of your project.

But an accurate and well-considered budget doesn't just meet the funder's needs.

**4. Make sure you have considered how the entire project will impact your own budget.** For instance, what are the maintenance costs for the equipment after the funding ends? Can you afford it? If not, you may want to reconsider what you are asking for.

Don't create your budget request based on discounts promised by a specific vendor. Itemize the cost that's available to everyone when figuring out your grant budget. If you do get a discount, that's great. But if you don't, where will the additional funds come from? Certainly not from the funder.

The bottom line is, your budget is an integral part of your grant application. Treat it as importantly as you do the details in your project and not as an afterthought.

### About the author

Linda Gilbertson is a Grant Writer. She has 10 years of law enforcement grant-related experience in both grant writing and management. She also spent three years as a crime analyst and police planner/researcher. Past experience includes being a newspaper editor and reporter, and working in public relations for non-profit agencies.

*"Along those same lines, a budget that seems too low may have the funder questioning if you really know what you are doing." - Linda Gilbertson*

## Social Media and 9-1-1

To help filter social media information, geo-location can be a useful tool, but the same information is available to everyone, even those with less than honorable intentions. For people in mission-critical roles, this can be a blessing and a curse.

Social media has become the first instance of communication about a crisis which surpasses first responders. To complicate things further, not all the

information can be trusted. The level of anonymity provided by the Internet can lead to misinformation or conflicting view points about a situation.

During the Rugby World Cup, local authorities were concerned about a visiting ambassador from another country who was inadvertently broadcasting his location through Twitter, creating a security risk. Status updates about large

incidents can quickly go viral. the quick spread of information might be helpful to officials, or possibly spread misinformation and complicate matters.

While public safety is looking for better ways to manage the massive amounts of data, it is also struggling with how to use it internally. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has developed (Continued on page 5)





**TCJIUG**

P.O. Box 53092  
Houston, Texas  
77052

**E-mail:**

tcjiugwm@yahoo.com

**TCJIUG:**

A statewide organization of law enforcement, communications and information systems personnel working to improve the criminal justice system throughout the state, to improve working relationships and to promote the education of its membership..



**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.tcjiug.com>

## Social Media

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a model social media policy that agencies are free to base their own policies on. It was created in 2009 in response to demand from their members. the model also includes ways that agencies can use social media to improve their investigations.

Just like any tool, social media can hold great potential in the right hands or do serious damage in the wrong ones. As public safety looks to NG 9-1-1, the use, benefits, and dangers of social media must be closely examined.

*"...social media can hold great potential in the right hands..." -  
Nathan Kizer*

***IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE PERSON TO  
HAVE SUCH A GREAT CONFERENCE SO  
BE THINKING... WHAT CAN I(you) DO  
FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE?***

## President's Perspective

(Continued from page 2)

What a diverse set of experience we have on the Executive Board now!

Alas, an era came to an end though at this conference.

**\*John Braun has been a member of TCJIUG for years, and has been a member of the Executive Board for a lot of those years, many of them he served as the Secretary/Treasurer and at the Conference Registration desk. He's retiring from Harris County soon and thus he elected not to continue as a member of the Executive Board.**

**\*As she served her last weeks before retiring from TxDPS, Tena Watson was recognized by TCJIUG for her many numerous contributions to the Texas Criminal Justice**

**community via her tenure and tenaciousness as the "TLETS Guru".**

TCJIUG also has a Facebook page now so if you're a Facebook fiend, visit TCJIUG page and post any (*appropriate*) photos from this year's conference. Please take a moment to complete and mail the conference survey you received with your training certificate. In addition to anything you add to that survey, don't hesitate to send me an email later on if you have suggestions either for classes or speakers or entertainment for next year's conference. Although there is an organization email address of TCJIUGWM@YAHOO.COM you can more quickly reach me personally at Pam.Pierce @co.travis.tx.us

I bet you didn't know (and

probably don't believe it), but I am an introvert. Yes, I've taken the Myers Brigg type indicator class and testing multiple times. There's no getting around it. I have learned how to "be public" over the years, between the "job" and being a Cub Scout/Boy Scout mom, cubmaster's/scoutmaster's wife, and pack/troop committee chair.

I think I've recovered now from this year's conference and its exhausting week. But I wouldn't trade the experience of the TCJIUG Conference this year for a day on the beach with a book. It was totally awesome and your TCJIUG Executive Board has already started working on details for next year's conference.

Sincerely,

Pam Pierce, President