

# A Message from the Chair and CEO

Shawn Hohnstreiter, Chair | Justen R. Noakes, CEO | Board of Directors

## 2016 TEXSAR in Review

2016 was a tremendous year of growth for TEXSAR: Texas Search and Rescue, and we are poised to embrace 2017 with a level of enthusiasm and capability the organization has never seen before. 2016 was dedicated to making the Member experience a rich and rewarding one for our members. Through dedicated work by our Executive Director Karen Knox and our Membership Committee, many new dimensions have been introduced to provide every member the support they need to continue to have a meaningful experience as part of TEXSAR. Systems are in place to ensure new or prospective members receive the information they need to navigate successfully through the TEXSAR on-boarding process, and hopefully, to create a strong bond within the membership. Closing out 2016, we have a record number of TEXSAR Members with over 273 Active Members who hold over 1,600 Member certifications...very impressive numbers.

As of December 31, 2016, TEXSAR members donated approximately 27,737 hours to help Texans in need. According to *Independent Sector*, a volunteer hour in Texas is valued at \$25.11. That translates to \$696,476 worth of time and services the members of TEXSAR donated to the citizens of Texas. In addition, members cover their own expenses for training and equipment, travel, and incidental expenses.

Another important aspect of the membership experience is participating in the activities they have trained for...Search and Rescue. 2016 was another banner year for deployments across this vast state we live in, with 48 missions assisting authorities from Alpine to Galveston to San Antonio to Dallas. We've covered literally thousands of miles serving the citizens of our State.

2016 was our inaugural year for the TEXSAR Search Party and what a tremendous event and success it was! Over 300 guests were in attendance and enjoyed food, fellowship, silent and live auctions, and of course, Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes. This was an amazing evening as we took a moment to reflect on 2015 and the Memorial Day Flooding, and to thank publicly those who support TEXSAR on an ongoing basis. Through many generous donations, TEXSAR raised over \$60,000...simply humbling and amazing!

So many positive things happened to TEXSAR in 2016. Highlights include a new double decker trailer to haul two inflatable boats and equipment, a fire skid for our UTV, the kickoff of our TEXSAR Dive Team, an outstanding TEXSAR Training Weekend at McKinney Roughs, three crazy holidays on the Bolivar Peninsula, and a new Division in Corpus Christi.

2017 holds nothing but good things for this Team, as we will continue to focus on the Membership experience, growing our Team and honing our skills to provide the absolute best service to our Public Safety Partners. 2017 will no doubt have its challenges, but with every challenge comes a strengthening of skills and bonding of friendships. We value every Member of TEXSAR who so selflessly serves our Team and our Communities. Thank you to our donors, spouses and friends who make this crazy dream possible for all of us through your endless contributions of support, prayers and financial contributions. We could not do this without all of you.



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## Mission Statement | Core Values

*“Committing to service-above-self, perpetual training, and inter-agency cooperation to maintain a constant state of readiness for search, rescue, incident response and above all else, safety.”*

Core values:

- Integrity and Responsibility

*TEXSAR is founded on ethical behavior and values by our members and partners and our commitment extends throughout the organization as we interact with agencies, the public, and one another.*

- Fiscal Accountability

*We emphasize fiscal accountability by ensuring that all expenditures directly or indirectly reflect the trust placed in TEXSAR by its donors and grant providers.*

- Teamwork

*We maintain an environment of mutual respect founded on open, honest communication. We embrace the diversity of our team and individual perspectives in working together to achieve our common goals.*

- Excellence

*We achieve excellence through constant training and preparation as our members continually exercise their skills using the materials and equipment required to deliver the highest quality services possible in any environment.*

- Training

*TEXSAR will train and prepare to provide professional level skills and support to requesting agencies and communities. TEXSAR will act as a Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters in both the response and recovery phases of disasters and incidents.*

- Operations

*We will deliver service that meets or exceeds the requested assistance while ensuring the safety and well-being of our members and partners.*

## Board of Directors

TEXSAR wishes to thank the following Board members for their service during 2016.

- Justen R. Noakes, H-E-B Emergency Preparedness - CEO
- Shawn Hohnstreiter, Hohnstreiter Construction and Remodeling – Chair
- Chief Sean Ford, Sunset Valley Police Department – Vice Chair
- Jennifer Failla, Strada Wealth Management – Treasurer
- Michelle Nations, Community Volunteer – Secretary
- Brandon Goering, REAL-COMP Data and Marketing
- Dr. Tyler Jorgensen, Board Certified Emergency Physician
- Dawn Keller, Health, Slingshot Inc. and West Texas Team Leader
- Joe McComb, McComb Relocation Services, Corpus Christi
- Ed Norman, Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management - Community Preparedness Planning Coordinator
- Bill Sleep, Commitment to Coaching Inc.

In December 2016, TEXSAR member volunteers elected the following individuals to the Board of Directors for 2017 (one-year term).

- Justen R. Noakes, H-E-B Emergency Preparedness - CEO
- Shawn Hohnstreiter, Hohnstreiter Construction and Remodeling – Chair
- Jennifer Failla, Strada Wealth Management – Vice Chair
- Brandon Goering, REAL-COMP Data and Marketing – Secretary/Treasurer
- Jackie Dobson, Fund Racing Adventures
- Chief Sean Ford, Sunset Valley Police Department
- Dr. Tyler Jorgensen, Board Certified Emergency Physician
- Dawn Keller, Health, Slingshot Inc. and West Texas Team Leader
- Justin McInnis, Assistant Emergency Manager Coordinator, Hays County
- Joe McComb, McComb Relocation Services, Corpus Christi
- Ed Norman, Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management, Community Preparedness Planning Coordinator
- Deke Pierce, Travis County Sheriff's Office
- Bill Sleep, Commitment to Coaching Inc.

Ex-officio Board members include Greg Fair, North Texas Team Leader, Laura Norman, Gulf Coast Team Leader, and Lauren Ratzloff, Coastal Bend Team Leader.

Executive Director is Karen H. Knox.

Advisory Members for 2017 are:

- Troy Kimmel, Owner/Meteorologist, KimCo Meteorological Services
- Bryan Kassa, The First Responder Network Authority/ US Department of Commerce
- Jeff Mundy, The Mundy Firm PLLC
- Martin Ritchey, Chief – Emergency Management Coordinator, Caldwell County
- Gene Robinson, RPFlightSystems, Inc.



## Deployments | Statistics

TEXSAR: Texas Search and Rescue has been a significant leader in disaster response and recovery for more than a decade. TEXSAR serves all citizens of Texas and may only be deployed by the Governor; local, state and federal law enforcement; and relief agencies. We are proud to share the following statistics regarding our work during 2016.

- TEXSAR was called into action 48 times in 2016.

Deployments lasted from a few hours to several weeks in some cases, and covered the entire state from the Gulf Coast, to far West Texas, to North Texas. Some activations required one or two members, and others involved dozens of members, K9 teams, and incident command personnel. Some days we were handling two to three deployments at one time.

TEXSAR was called by Law Enforcement agencies, National Transportation Safety Board, The Texas Rangers, Texas Department of Public Safety, and offices of Emergency Management, to name a few.

The *Independent Sector* quantifies the value of a volunteer hour by state. The value of one volunteer hour in the State of Texas is \$25.11. Using that figure:

- o We estimate TEXSAR member volunteers gave approximately **27,737** hours of service to the citizens of the State of Texas during 2016, for a total value of **\$696,476**.
- o In addition, we estimate that each member spent between **\$150** and **\$5,000** of their own money on training, equipment, and deployment expenses. The average amount spent by each member is approximately \$500, totaling **\$136,500**.
- o TEXSAR members' donations total **\$832,976** worth of time and equipment dedicated to helping Texans.

## 2016 Deployments

### December

Missing Elderly Woman Search	San Antonio, Texas (multiple days)
Missing Autistic Child Search	Friendswood, Texas
Missing Woman Search	Briggs, Texas

### November

Missing Autistic Child Search	Pearland, Texas (multiple days)
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### October

Missing Person Search	Travis County, Texas
Harris County Search	Conroe, Texas
Missing Person Search	Alpine, Texas (multiple days)
Baytown Texas Search	East Harris County, Texas
Acres Homes Search	Harris County, Texas

### September

Travis County Search	Steiner Ranch, Austin, Texas
Missing Person	Hays County, Texas
Bolivar Labor Day 2016	Galveston County, Texas

### August

Santa Fe Missing Person	Galveston County, Texas
Hays & Caldwell County Standby	Hays & Caldwell Counties, Texas

### July

Missing Person Search	Hays County, Texas
Missing Dallas Officer Search	Oak Lawn, Texas
Caldwell County Balloon Incident	Caldwell County, Texas
Missing Person Search	Hays County, Texas
Missing Elderly Female Search	Lufkin, Texas
Missing Fishermen Search	Burnet County, Texas
Bolivar Independence Day 2016	Galveston County, Texas

### June

Jacob's Well Search	Wimberley, Texas
Evidence Search	Live Oak County, Texas
Missing Person	Williamson County, Texas
Missing Elderly Man	Friendswood, Texas
Hays & Caldwell County Standby	Hays & Caldwell Counties, Texas

### May

Missing Persons Search	Southeast Travis County, Texas
Missing Person Brazos River Search	Weatherford, Texas
FAST Staging Request	Caldwell County, Texas
Trinity River Search	Hutchins, Texas
Wood County Cold Case	Yantis, Texas
Bolivar Memorial Day 2016	Galveston County, Texas

### April

Central Texas Weather Event	Hays & Caldwell Counties, Texas
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### February

Hays County Search/Training	San Marcos, Texas
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### January

Hays County Search	Blanco River and I-35, Texas
Missing Person Search	Dallas, Texas



## Training Highlights

TEXSAR member-volunteers were offered ongoing training opportunities throughout the year. Membership meetings are held in conjunction with basic training and members are asked to attend a minimum of 50% of these sessions to be considered for deployments. In addition, TEXSAR offers certification workshops for members in different disciplines such as Ground Search and Rescue, Mantracking, Rescue Boat Operator, and Swiftwater Rescue. These certification courses are paid for by the member-volunteers themselves.

Members reside across the state from North Texas (Dallas based) to Central Texas (Austin based), from West Texas (Odessa based) to the Gulf (Galveston based), and the newest region to join TEXSAR in the Coastal Bend (Corpus Christi based). TEXSAR is the largest wildland search and rescue organization in the State of Texas and it continues to grow.

In April 2016, the TEXSAR Annual Meeting was held at McKinney Roughs Nature Park in Bastrop, Texas. 75 members from across the state gathered for three days of team building, training, and fellowship.

### *TEXSAR Training*

- Major Training Certifications (2 days' duration or more)
- Flood and Swiftwater Rescue (FAST)
- Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)
- Mantracking
- Rescue Boat Operator (RBO)
- Vertical Response
- Wilderness First Aid
- Wildland Fire

### *Medical Training*

- Anaphylactic shock
- CPR
- Hypothermia/Hyperthermia
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Orthopedic Injuries
- Patient Packaging

### *All Purpose Training*

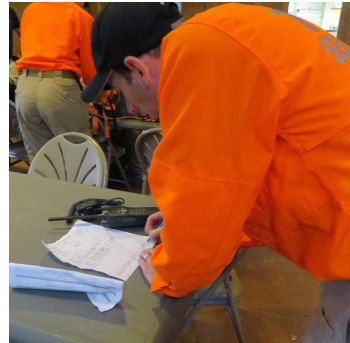
- Child Advocacy
- Communications
- Evidence Collection
- Fitness & Fitness Pack Test
- Haz Mat & PPE
- Hydrology
- Incident Management Team & Incident Command
- Low Slope Evacuation
- Field Fitness
- Land Navigation & Maps
- Ropes & Knots
- Safety
- Snakes, Spiders, & Critters
- Swiftwater Bank Support
- Witness Interviews
- Alzheimer/Dementia
- Electric Shock Drowning
- UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle)
- Field Packs

In addition, TEXSAR member-volunteers participated in FEMA self-paced training programs that provide training and resources on the Incident Command System (ICS). All members are required to complete ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. Advanced courses ICS 300 and 400 expand upon the basic information covered in the basic courses and prepares members for Command Leadership positions within the organization.

### *Training Venues*

TEXSAR wishes to thank Sunset Valley City Hall, Camp Mabry, Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management, and Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management for allowing TEXSAR to hold meetings and training sessions in their facilities.

TEXSAR's ultimate goal is to have its own training facility and equipment storage facility, combined in one building. The search for funding and a proper facility is in progress.







## Executive Director's Report

TEXSAR completed its first year with a part-time paid staff member, hired in November 2015.

Executive Director Karen H. Knox was able to put systems in place to ensure TEXSAR operates with accepted business practices within the business and nonprofit arenas.

She was able to realize financial accountability through QuickBooks software, allowing accurate financial tracking and reporting on spending and income. Along with that, she implemented use of best practice accounting forms such as expense reports and payment requests to ensure transparency of spending. Other general areas of nonprofit management that she structured include donation management and tracking, creation and implementation of a Fundraising Plan, and accumulation and organization of all corporate records including Board Minutes and corporate documents.

One of the challenges TEXSAR faces is agencies that can utilize our services are unaware of our existence. TEXSAR deploys at the request of local and state law enforcement, fire service and emergency management agencies, the Office of the Governor, and relief organizations. The counties that call on us on a regular basis are aware of our services, but there are a large number of agencies across the great state of Texas who do not know of our existence and how we can help them. For that reason, we approached the Sheriff's Association of Texas and the Texas Association of Counties and asked if TEXSAR could attend their conferences to inform their constituents of our capabilities. Both organizations welcomed our presence and we were able to provide hundreds of law enforcement and state agency professionals with information on our services, capabilities, and assets. We believe that knowledge led to new counties calling on us for our services throughout the year.

TEXSAR received Unit Citations, Certificates of Appreciation, and Commendation letters for services performed in 2016. Some include:

- Martin Ritchey, Chief/EMC of Caldwell County, presented TEXSAR with a **Unit Citation** from the Office of **Homeland Security and Emergency Management** for "*Meritorious Conduct Responding to the Memorial Day Weekend Flood and All Saints Day Flood Events of 2015. Members of Texas Search and Rescue worked to preserve life and stabilize emergency conditions.*" This was presented at the Annual Meeting held in April.
- Erik Grosf and Rolando Garcia of the **National Transportation Safety Board** sent a letter and **Unit Citation** for "*Meritorious Conduct Responding to the Maxwell Hot Air Balloon Accident*" and expressing "*sincere thanks for the time, effort, and professionalism exhibited by TEXSAR*" at the Hot Air Balloon incident on July 30, 2016 in Caldwell County.
- Detective Darrell Gibson of the **Travis County Sheriff's Office** presented a **Certificate of Appreciation** to TEXSAR for their outstanding K9 team work on a case. "*TEXSAR did an awesome job in confirming information and locating the victim. We value what you bring to a case.*"
- Police Chief Steve Perry, **Hutchins Police Department**, thanked TEXSAR for our assistance in searching for a missing person. "*...your team members were professional, knowledgeable, and assisted without hesitation.*"

Another way we realize the extent of our reach is with support from groups who host fundraising events to benefit TEXSAR. **The Lost Creek Dad's Club (Austin)** held a Chili Cook-off on a rainy Saturday in April and presented TEXSAR with a check for \$20,000. Because of that donation, we designed and built a state-of-the-art stacked trailer with storage that will enable us to haul two inflatable rescue boats and equipment to any deployment.

TEXSAR also received a \$15,000 grant from **Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation**. These funds were used to add a wildland fire skid unit to the UTV they previously donated. Says Chairman Shawn Hohnstreiter, *"The wildland fire skid unit for our UTV will drastically increase our wildland fire team capabilities. This is the first piece of apparatus to aid our certified personnel that are prepared to work the fire line. The majority of fire departments do not have this lightweight and highly maneuverable asset to supplement their off-road capabilities in the rugged Texas terrain. With TEXSAR serving the entire state, this is an amazing asset that departments can call upon as a force multiplier. In addition, this unit increases our rescue capabilities for patient transport in remote areas."*

For the first time, TEXSAR applied and was accepted to participate in the **State Employees Charitable Campaign and Combined Federal Campaign (SECC/CFC)**. Between September and December 2016, Central Texas TEXSAR members manned tables at "fairs" where state and federal employees learned about our services and were given the opportunity to support TEXSAR through one-time or monthly donations. The extent of this effort will be realized in February 2017.

TEXSAR members also honor those in Law Enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty. For each fallen brother and sister, TEXSAR makes a donation on behalf of our members.

One of the biggest funding achievements was the premiere **TEXSAR Search Party Gala** held in October. Over 300 guests gathered at Creekside Austin in Driftwood, Texas to support TEXSAR. Proceeds from sponsorships, silent and live auctions, and ticket sales exceeded \$60,000. Videos depicting TEXSAR members in action, along with a letter from flood survivor and new lifetime member Jonathan McComb, highlighted the true spirit and vision of TEXSAR: Texans Helping Texans. The next TEXSAR Search Party will be held September 30, 2017.

Outreach is another aspect of TEXSAR and we had several opportunities this year to present to groups. In Austin and North Texas, TEXSAR members met with Boy Scout troops and gave tips on wilderness safety, survival, search and rescue. They were shown equipment including a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) and helmet for water safety, what to carry in a well-stocked backpack when in the great outdoors, how not to get lost and, most importantly, what to do if one does become lost. The best received demonstration was "10 ways a garbage bag can help in a survival situation, showing how to turn it into such items as a poncho, a tent, rain catcher, sunshade. We also spoke to Rotarians, state agencies, and civic groups. Our personnel continue the tradition of volunteering at the Austin Rodeo.

On the social media front, TEXSAR will launch a newly designed website in 2017. Our social media platforms – principally Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn – are maintained and active. We received a grant from Firespring.com that will help us strengthen our presence on social media. We hope to engage an intern to manage our social media accounts.

*"This has been an amazing – busy and sometimes trying – year as the Executive Director of TEXSAR. I am continually amazed, but not surprised, at the dedication and compassion every TEXSAR member has for service to their fellow Texans. Heat, cold, rain – none of these elements deter the determination to find, save, rescue anyone in peril. When the rescue turns to recovery, each and every member is saddened that the results were not different. They never give up or give in. I have seen members covered in poison ivy, exhausted from heat and exertion, drenched from the elements, and they all keep "going back in." Knowing the dedication of time and effort TEXSAR members give, I am humbled and honored to serve as their first Executive Director.*

## Regional Teams Reports

**Gulf Coast (Laura Norman, Team Leader):** The Gulf Coast Team had a busy 2016 with local activations in Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Brazoria, and Montgomery Counties. In addition to providing resources for missing person cases, the Gulf Coast division provided Bleeding Control training for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Patrol Deputies and worked as force multipliers in Galveston County during the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holidays.

**North Texas (Gregory Fair, Team Leader):** The North Texas Team held two GSAR<sub>1</sub> training events during 2016 and helped in the search for the missing Southern Methodist University officer swept away by floods on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

**West Texas (Dawn Keller, Team Leader):** *1/3 of Texas' land mass and 2% of the state population.* The West Texas Team has spent a considerable portion of 2016 growing ranks, with members from Sweetwater to El Paso, and training in core areas. Pack Testing, Mantracking, Ground Search and Rescue techniques including evidence/criminal investigation searches have been taught and practiced in the austere conditions that are part of the West Texas ecosystems. Physical conditioning and strength training have been the focus for a number of members and there is a great deal of pride in the group's stamina for long days. The search for Zuzu Verk in Brewster County was a tremendous effort by TEXSAR traveling from as far away as South Texas--every TEXSAR division was represented in this large scale search that remains open at the end of 2016. West Texas TEXSAR, and all of TEXSAR, remains committed to the Zuzu Verk search and to support of our Law Enforcement Partners in 2017 on additional missing persons' cases.

**Central Texas (Shawn Hohnstreiter, Team Leader):** The Central Texas Division had another year of explosive growth, gaining many talented members who bring lots of experience and devotion to the team. Central Texas members found themselves traveling to searches all across this vast state from the shores of Galveston to the desert of West Texas. From tracking the lost, covering thousands of miles in searches, staging for water rescues to documenting the hot air balloon tragedy, our members stand ready for anything this diverse state throws at them. We provided training for our members that includes land navigation and maps, UAV, low slope evacuation, electric shock drowning, how to administer an EpiPen, and how to interact with Alzheimer's patients.

We hosted an amazing annual meeting and training, as well as the first annual Search Party with terrific results. We are excited to have made great progress on planning 2017's event and look forward to seeing you there. Together with our partners and supporters, TEXSAR will lead the way into 2017 and provide hope and comfort for many of our fellow Texans in their darkest of hours.

**Coastal Bend (Lauren Ratzloff, Team Leader):** The Coastal Bend team was formed in January 2016 and quickly grew to 21 active members. These members have participated in deployments across the state from Bolivar Peninsula to West Texas, and have been active in trainings. We look forward to continued growth and stand ready for the next incident.



## Financial Position

TEXSAR ended 2016 in healthy financial standing. Due to continuing monetary donations received from individuals, families, foundations and corporations, TEXSAR met all financial obligations and maintained strong working capital.

TEXSAR maintains three bank accounts at Wells Fargo; Savings, Checking, and Deployment. At year-end 2016, our combined banking account balance was **\$136,916.71**. TEXSAR estimates the value of its equipment inventory to be **\$685,636.00**.

With the increased budget for 2015, TEXSAR filed our first full 990 tax return. We will again use the professional accounting firm of Montemayor Bratton Binder PC to prepare and file this tax return and all other forms and documents.

- To ensure the public knows TEXSAR is committed to handling charitable donations and running the organization as professionally as possible, we maintain our presence on GuideStar, the nation's largest repository of information about nonprofit organizations. By sharing comprehensive information to ensure TEXSAR's commitment to public transparency, we have maintained the gold seal designation.
- TEXSAR maintains a profile on GreatNonprofits, a partner website of GuideStar.
- TEXSAR continues to communicate regularly with the public and its supporters via e-newsletters and informational emails. Using iContact, we distribute several e-newsletters and e-notification to an ever-growing list of supporters. Links to each newsletter are on the TEXSAR website.
- TEXSAR participated in two annual giving days, #GivingTuesday (national) and Amplify Austin (Central Texas). Profiles were created for TEXSAR on both platforms, making implementation of campaigns easier going forward. TEXSAR implemented a new online donation platform, iGiveHere.

TEXSAR's future depends on identifying and securing financial support from current and new individual, corporate, foundation, and other contributors. Extensive prospect research continues. We anticipate submitting grant proposals for equipment, training, event sponsorship, and other projects throughout 2017.

## Donors

TEXSAR wishes to thank the following individuals, companies, and foundations for their generous contributions. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) provided in-kind contributions as well. Texas Search and Rescue also wishes to thank those donors who have asked to remain anonymous.



### ***\$20,000 and Larger***

Richard Belliveau

Hohnstreiter Construction & Remodeling\*

Lost Creek Dad's Club



### ***\$10,000 - \$19,999***

Cruising Kitchens\*

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation

Jeffrey M. Turk\*



### ***\$5,000 to \$9,999***

H-E-B

Heritage Ranch

Michelle Nations



***\$1,000 to \$4,999***

CentEX Independent Electrical Contractors

Carine Chalfoun

Chapman Woodworks

Donna DiCarlo

Dave Drayer

Early Alert

Jennifer Failla & Joshua Hoffman

Get You in Shape

Horizon Printing\*

ionDesign

Kelly Janysek

Liliana & Sean Jones

John B. Knox, CPA, PC

Rachel Lindsay

David Loeb

McBee Family Foundation

PowerHouse Energy

REAL-COMP Data and Marketing

Kit & Roberta Riley

Martin Ritchey

The Stewart Law Firm

SunCoast Resources

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Phillip Taylor

Anne Vrba

Maritza & Darryl Wong



**200 to \$999**

Andy Anthony	Mary & Jim Frye	Jonathan McComb
Andrew Assir	Brandon Goering	Charles Moore
Melinda & Bill Barber	Carolyn Greene	Sandy Morris
Ron Beauford	Lyndall Groos	Ralph Munoz
Michael Bradley	Kim & Troy Hargroder	Justen Noakes
Doug Bradshaw	Dianne & Robert Harris	Michele & Mike Ploch
Ken Burger	Margaret & Paul Hinkley	Allen Robinson
Deberah Cain Trust	Howry Breen & Herman, LLP	Diana & Mark Seery
Gregory Casey	Joe Huston	Bill Sleep
Monica Cooke	Ken Jamilosa	Barry Spotts
Cirrus Logic	Tyler Jorgensen	Jeremy Stillman
Wills Conley	June & Matt Julian	Erik Strelnieks
Thomas Cross	Karen Knox	Matt Tomlinson
Cristen & Alan Daniel	Cathy Kubica	Travis County Kennel Club
Tricia & Floyd Davis	Kate Mackie	United Health Group
Dell Employee Engagement Fund	Paul Martin	James Wesselski
Jackie & Steve Dobson	Lynn Marie May	Bo Wingo
Elaine Edwards		



**\$100-\$199**

Christi Adams	Brenda Gerland	Denise Schneyer
Dorothea Adams	Margaret Huston	Dave Shearer
Erica & Hobbs Allison	Maria & George Johnson	Richard Soule
Mehmet Atesoglu	John Khosravani	Pam & Mike Spann
Mark Bohling	BB Knox Family Fund	Peter Steppe
Terri Bornsen	Jennifer & Darrin Larson	Chris Vetromile
Toni Turner & Jim Bruseth	Mary & Joe McComb	Aaron Ward
Ricky Carothers	Mary Ann & John McGregor	Sarah Warner
Jamie & Tim Doty	Julie & Mike McNeil	Gary Whittington
Stacey & Guy England	Andrea & Steve Moynihan	Candy York
Andrew Fitch	Laura & Ed Norman	
Dot & Chris Garbe	Payal Pandey	



## **Agencies and Organizations**

TEXSAR wishes to thank the following organizations with whom we worked in 2016.

- Alpine Police Department
- Balcones Wildland Preserve
- Brewster County Office of Emergency Management
- Brewster County Sheriff's Office
- Caldwell County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management
- City of Sunset Valley
- Galveston County Office of Emergency Management
- Galveston County Sheriff's Department
- Hays County Office of Emergency Management
- Nueces County Office of Emergency Management
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM)
- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Travis County Sheriff's Office
- Texas Rangers
- Williamson County Office of Emergency Management

TEXSAR also maintained memberships with the following during 2016.

- Capital Area Council of Governments
- State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association
- Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster





## TEXSAR Member Volunteers

Our members define TEXSAR. Their continued dedication to the mission and the vision of *Texans helping Texans* goes beyond the time they spend in continued training and the financial commitment, it goes to compassion and caring and the innate desire to help people in need. On Christmas Eve 2015, a call went out to the members for a lost person in Lufkin, Texas. 35 members responded that they were available to search that evening and the next day. Thank you does not begin to say what these people and their families give.

Adam Crispin  
 AJ Collins  
 Al Benson  
 Alan Huddleston  
 Alex Hutton  
 Alex Perotti  
 Allen Robinson III  
 Amanda O'Malley  
 Amy Shoe  
 Amy Thomas  
 Andrew White  
 Andy Anthony  
 Arnold Steed  
 Bill Sleep  
 Blake Guidry  
 Bo Bowles  
 Bo Carlin  
 Bo Wingo  
 Bobby Macpherson  
 Brad Gwatney  
 Brad Muirhead  
 Bradley DeRoo  
 Brandon Goering  
 Brandon Lott  
 Brian Boyd  
 Brian Kassa  
 Brian Sailors  
 Brianna Acevedo  
 Bruce White  
 Bryan Bible  
 Bryan Blakely  
 Bryan Henson  
 Bryan Poe  
 Bryan Sky-Eagle  
 Carine Chalfoun  
 Carol Harper

Carol Wilson  
 Chance Berry  
 Charlie Grove  
 Cherie' James  
 Chris Garbe  
 Chris Scharff  
 Chris Vetromile  
 Christa Landowski  
 Christi Adams  
 Christian Torres-Lopez  
 Christopher Boyce  
 Christopher Osborne  
 Clay Cobb  
 Clayton Aldrich  
 Connor Byer  
 Courtney Brown  
 Courtney Crawford  
 Craig Trimble  
 Danny Harris  
 Dave Harris  
 David Garcia  
 David Unger  
 Dawn Keller  
 Dawn McGee  
 Dawn Santangelo  
 Deanna Worden  
 Debbie Rich  
 Derek Georg  
 Derek Moreland  
 Diane Morrow  
 Don Gentry  
 Donald Shuck  
 Donis Rhoden  
 Donna Fugitt  
 Doretta Jenison  
 Doris Clark

Doug Bradshaw  
 Doug Haggard  
 Dustan Jesko  
 Ed Norman  
 Edie Wiley  
 Ellen Humpert  
 Eric Nagel  
 Erik Jackson  
 Fernando Gonzalez  
 Fernando Moreira  
 Floyd Davis  
 Frank Lappin  
 Frank Rich  
 Frankie Hefley  
 Garrett Minter  
 Gary Jones  
 Gavin Finlay  
 Gay Crocker  
 Glorie Ritchie  
 Grant Taylor  
 Greg Fair  
 Greg Fuqua  
 Greg Griffin  
 Greg Roseberry  
 Heather Garman  
 Hector Padilla  
 Holly Sailors  
 Jackie Dobson  
 Jackie Ruppert  
 Jaime Carlin Jenkins  
 Jake Saunders  
 James Dodson  
 Jamine Doty  
 Jamie Going  
 Jamie Hatcher  
 Jamie Leigh-Powell

Jason Kihlberg  
Jason Martin  
Jason Pierce  
Jason Samp  
Jason Webb  
Javier Hernandez  
Jay Hoffman  
Jeb Kaffaga  
Jeff Burns  
Jeff Ide  
Jeff Turk  
Jeffrey Stalder  
Jennifer Blanton  
Jennifer Failla  
Jennifer Hrobar  
Jennifer Myers  
Jessi Galindo  
Jesus Gomez-Arizpe  
Jim Ashmore  
Jim Dodson  
Joe Huston  
Joe McComb  
Joey Hastings  
John DeAngelis  
John Gunnoe  
John Khosravani  
Johnny Nichols  
Johnpaul Claeys  
Jon Parry  
Jonathan McComb  
Jonathon Smith  
Josh Mintz  
Joshua Hoffman  
Jp Hominick  
Judy Sybert  
June Zhang  
Justen Noakes  
Justin Degrate  
Justin McInnis  
Justin Whitley  
Kally Marbach  
Karen Knox  
Karen Martin  
Kasey Jorgenson  
Kelly Janysek  
Kelly Noakes  
Ken Jamilosa  
Kevin McInerney  
Kiersten Legge  
Kimberly Morgan  
Kirk Stolzenburg  
Krystal Stalder  
L.J. Cruz  
Larry Dunn  
Laura Norman

Lauren Ratzloff  
Lee Hutchins  
Lee Wedlake  
Leroy Brown  
Les Avant  
Lin Avey  
Lisa Dodson  
Lisa Reyes  
Lucas Leishear  
Lynn May  
Lynn Stender  
Marcus Gellner  
Mario Contreras  
Mark Bohling  
Mark Huff  
Mark Mitchell  
Mark Richardson  
Martina Petrovic  
Matt Morales  
Matt Tomlinson  
Matt Tracey  
Matthew Bane  
Matthew Maloney  
Matthew Warren  
Mauricio Gonzalez  
Meg Hinkley  
Megan Whitley  
Melissa Frederick  
Michael Bradley  
Michael Brown  
Michael Dikovitsky  
Michael Redditt  
Michael Tutton  
Michelle Acevedo  
Michelle Nations  
Mike Pennington  
Miki Schmeisser  
Miranda Griffin  
Misty Bradfute  
Misty Cobb  
Neil Summer  
Nick Guerra  
Niki Bender  
Noel Lee  
Pam Simek  
Pam Spann  
Paul Hinkley  
Paul Olsen  
Penny Goering  
Philip Harralson  
Philip Marley  
Phillip Taylor  
Phree-Ranier Phillips  
Rachel Lindsay  
Ralph Munoz

Ram Torres  
Randy Collins  
Renee Hollie-Thigpen  
Richard Belliveau  
Richard Fleischer  
Rob Naylor  
Robert Harris  
Roberta Riley  
Rolan Rast  
Ron Beauford  
Ryan Stafford  
Sam Lancaster  
Sarah Baldner  
Scott Brammer  
Scott Luke  
Scott Tiller  
Sean Johnson  
Sean Jones  
Shawn Bodine  
Shawn Hohnstreiter  
Shawn Tracy  
Sheila Dolbow  
Stela Moctezuma  
Stephanie Dill  
Steve Eckart  
Steve Moynihan  
Stuart Viney  
Susan Rodenko  
Susan Sybert  
Suzanne Johnson  
Tammy Robertson  
TC Crippen  
Terri Lucas  
Thomas Couch  
Thomas Fuqua  
Tim Powers  
Tim Ritchie  
Tim Stevens  
Tom Bell  
Tom Brown  
Tom Hanson  
Tony Landrum  
Travis Williams  
Trice Humpert  
Tricia Davis  
Troy Youngblood  
Tyler Jorgensen  
Tyler Pankonien  
Vince Devine  
Wesley Howell  
Will Boettner  
Will Davis  
Wyatt Talbot  
Zack Czelada



Number of TEXSAR Member-Volunteers by Certification at the end of 2016:

- Active Members: 253
- Deployable Members: 186
- Ground SAR Technicians: 138
- K9 Handlers: 9
- K9's: 13
- Flood and Swiftwater Technicians: 66
- Rescue Boat Operators: 21
- Vertical Rescue Technicians: 12
- Medical Personnel (EMT-B or greater): 24
- Incident Management Team Members: 19
- Wildland Firefighters: 23
- Structure Firefighters: 14
- Mantrackers: 24
- National SAR School Certified Search Planners: 7

TEXSAR Member-Volunteers by Region at the end of 2016:

- Central Texas: 135
- Coastal Bend: 19
- Gulf Coast: 28
- North Texas: 42
- West Texas: 13
- At Large: 16

In addition, TEXSAR has the following administrative committees. We thank our committee chairs and co-chairs.

- Logistics: Derek Moreland | Michael Bradley
- Membership: Jackie Dobson | Jamie Doty
- Technology: Charlie Grove
- Training: Bill Sleep
- TEXSAR Search Party: Suzanne Johnson | Sean Jones | Michelle Nations



## TEXSAR K9 Team

The TEXSAR K9s continue to be one of the elite K9 Search and Rescue teams in the state. They have been instrumental in searching for and finding missing children and adults, searching for evidence at potential crime scenes, searching for victims of violent crime.

Dogs fall within two categories, HRD (human remains detection) and Live Find. Every K9 team in the unit dedicates many hours working with their dogs in agility, obedience, and scent work. They train weekly at different locations with different scenarios across the state. The teams travel thousands of miles each year, by car and plane, to seminars and certifications throughout the U.S. In 2016, **three** dogs certified in Trailing, **six** certified in HRD, and **three** certified in Air Scent.

In 2016, team units attended seminars in California, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, and Virginia. They obtained certifications in Texas, Kansas, and Arizona.

Several members of the TEXSAR K9 unit also instruct at SAR seminars across the U.S. In 2016, that included Arizona, Louisiana, FACTS (Forensic Anthropology Center) body farm in San Marcos, Texas, and Virginia.

In May 2016, the K9 unit hosted its first SAR seminar, an HRD Water Seminar with participants from across the United States. K9s and their handlers learned about searching for drowning victims by shore and boat. K9s trained in this discipline can typically detect a victim more than 200' below the surface of the water.

For 2017, we are hoping to grow our K9 unit from within as well as develop a working relationship with other local teams. We will continue to travel to seminars for learning and pursue National Certifications.

Our goal is to continue to have an elite K9 team, known throughout the law enforcement and Search and Rescue arena.

Meet some of our team:



**Wink**  
Handler Jennifer Blanton



**Twist**  
Handler Jennifer Blanton



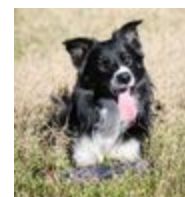
**Seeker**  
Handler T. C. Crippen



**Orion**  
Handler Joe Huston



**Gabe**  
Handler Diane Morrow



**Crash**  
Handler Jennifer Blanton



## Conclusion

2016 was a tremendous year of growth for TEXSAR as we established a solid foothold organizationally that will support the Team for years to come. We continue to grow our numbers, expand our outreach, better equip our members, and build our skills to provide the best volunteer experience for our Team and service to our Customers. We look forward to a productive 2017 as we continue to focus on our Members and ensuring we continue to provide a quality product to our Customers, while always maintaining our core values. We are eager and optimistic as we enter 2017 to continue our Mission of Texans Helping Texans!

TEXSAR looks forward to continuing its service to the citizens of Texas in 2017 and beyond. For information, please contact Karen H. Knox, Executive Director ([karen.knox@teksar.org](mailto:karen.knox@teksar.org)).

Texas Search and Rescue

P.O. Box 171258

Austin, Texas 78717

(512) 956-6727

*IRS EIN for TEXSAR Inc.: 84-1644603*



### **Photos:**

*Cover; Page 3: San Marcos River 2/2016*

*Page 16: Travis Co. Sheriff's Office Citation*

*Page 5: Hot Air Balloon, Caldwell Co.*

*Page 19; 20 top: Alpine Search*

*Page 7; 8; 17: Annual Meeting 2016*

*Page 20: K9 Team*