

The South Carolina SHERIFF

A special newsletter from your South Carolina Sheriffs' Association



Summer
2023



President Wallace's Remarks

Sheriff Brian Wallace, President South Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Surreal. That is the only way I know how to describe this moment standing before you all. I see men and women who I have admired my entire career in law enforcement. Surreal because it seems that just yesterday it was 1999, and I was a rookie patrol officer with a new Camaro and a full head of hair.

Yet here we are almost 25 years later, and now I stand before you with a heart full of gratitude. I am honored and privileged to accept this nomination as your new president.

Since becoming Sheriff, I have enjoyed learning about the history of my office. I have learned that ordinary men, (including grocers and meat cutters), served as Sheriff before me. I learned of Marion County Sheriff Archie Carmichael, who in 1842, sacrificed his own freedom and that of his family because he refused to enforce tax collections on an already impoverished community. The Sheriff and his family remained in jail for 22 months until the debts were all forgiven. For his courage and compassion, Sheriff Carmichael was called a "martyr to his kindness".

Honoring the sacrifice of Line of Duty deaths is an area where your association, my association,

OUR association, the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association has stepped up to take care of families left behind. With only a \$25 honorary SCSA membership, after having placed such a costly sacrifice on the altar of public safety, the surviving family of a Line of Duty death would receive a benefit equal to the fallen deputy's full year salary. It is my hope that every Sheriff will be able to provide a membership for everyone under their watch.

Another area of focus for our association this year is advocating for more mental health funding. As your President, I will encourage our association to coordinate with our counterparts in the mental health field to advocate for funding to address this crisis. We forget that those who wear our badges and enforce our laws are human beings, not robots. We are losing good deputies because we are not offering the help and support they so desperately need.

In dealing with these and other issues, as your president, I vow to carry on. I vow to press on. I vow to fight on!

May God bless you all and may He continue to bless this great state of South Carolina.



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A Sheriff Focused on His Community

SCSA's 2023 Sheriff of the Year, Sheriff Bryan 'Jay' Koon of Lexington County



Sheriff Bryan "Jay" Koon, Lexington County Sheriff's Department, award presented by Chief Terrence Green, Lexington Police Department

Lexington County Sheriff Bryan "Jay" Koon was nominated for Sheriff of the Year by one of his peers, Sheriff Duane Lewis of Berkeley County. Duane offers a unique perspective on Sheriff Koon, as the two are true contemporaries, noting they both were elected to office in 2015. The nomination letter Duane composed begins, "Since that time, I have come to know Jay as the professional, innovative, community-minded law enforcement officer he is, and I am proud to call him a friend."

He continues, "I have no doubt that Jay began his professional career exhibiting the same characteristics I observe in him today; he seems to have always known who he is, what was important to him, and what he wanted to do with his life. Jay is an Eagle Scout, a 1994 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in criminal justice, and began his law enforcement career almost 30 years ago as a reserve officer. He began as a police officer at the Town of Lexington, was expeditiously promoted, and ended his time there as Assistant Chief of Police."

Since his election, Sheriff Koon has creatively enhanced the Lexington County Sheriff's Office. Under Jay's leadership, the LCSO hired gang

specialists and sexually violent predator specialists to better meet challenges in those areas of law enforcement. Under his watch, LCSO has built a robust social media presence with active YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, raising community awareness and deepening community ties. He finds ways to make himself relatable and approachable to the citizens he serves, too. For example, Jay won the 2022 Boiled Peanut Eating Championship at the South Carolina Fair and has a column in The Cayce West Columbia News.

Sheriff Lewis wrote, "Truly, I believe Jay's strongest quality as Sheriff is his focus on his community, both on a macro and micro level. By way of illustration, Jay has strengthened the relationship between Lexington County School Districts and LCSO through quick response times, inter-agency training, and an increased number of dedicated school resource officers. I also know that Jay was a very early proponent of the community policing style and implements the same in his agency today. On a micro level, Jay has been a coach to many a baseball player and leader to many a scout."

Sheriff Koon's relatable and approachable style is much appreciated by his peers. Sheriff Lewis' nomination letter draws to a close on a personal level. "I can personally attest that Jay makes himself available to listen to other law enforcement officers during delicate law enforcement dilemmas; Jay is someone I can count on to offer solid, nuanced advice."

It is our privilege to recognize Sheriff Jay Koon as SCSA's 2023 Sheriff of the Year for the State of South Carolina. Congratulations and thank you, Sheriff Koon. Your efforts are reflecting positively on the entire South Carolina law enforcement community.



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A Leader by Example in Attitude and Actions

SCSA's 2023 Detention Officer of the Year, Officer Sheron Adams of Lancaster County

Your SCSA 2023 Detention Officer of the Year is Sheron Adams. Officer Adams started her career at the Department of Corrections in 1997. Through hard work and devotion, she rose to the rank of Lieutenant there before coming to the Lancaster County Detention Center in 2019.

Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile writes, "Officer Adams was an outstanding addition to our facility. She was immediately recognized for her calm demeanor and valuable experience. She's a quiet leader on her shift, even though she holds no official title. She leads by example with her attitude and actions. Officer Adams excels in her interaction with inmates, always maintaining a calm and professional approach."

Officer Adams' peers recognize her as a capable multi-tasker, able to take on and complete several tasks on time. She's also demonstrated her value as a training officer. As Sheriff Faile writes, "She is a blessing to new hires and can always be relied upon to take time

showing young officers how to do the job of corrections the right way, and how to thrive in the correctional environment."

Repeatedly recognized by her coworkers and supervisors

for her work, Officer Adams is a true example of a team player, often found lending a helping hand and encouragement to other officers. The SCSA agrees with Sheriff Faile summed up his nomination letter saying, "Officer Adams is an outstanding employee and asset to our agency."

Congratulations and thank you, Officer Adams!



Officer Sheron Adams, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, with Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County and SC Governor Henry McMaster

Carrying On the Family Tradition

SCSA's 2023 Deputy of the Year, Chief Deputy Kenneth Kinsey of Orangeburg County



Chief Deputy Kenneth Kinsey, Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and SC Governor Henry McMaster

"If I'd chosen a career in anything other than law enforcement, I would've had to change my last name," Kinsey teases. "My dad was a full-time public safety officer; he retired. My mother was a police officer; she retired. It just runs in our family, so I really didn't have any choice."

This year's Deputy of the Year recipient, Chief Deputy Kenneth Kinsey, has been second in command of the OCSO for the past ten years. Chief Kinsey manages many of the duties of command himself, taking on the roles of mentor, counselor, friend, and law enforcement officer.

An accomplished law enforcement professional of 30 years' experience with 22 years in violent crime scene investigation, Kinsey most recently served as an expert witness in a trial that drew international attention, the murder trial of former S.C. attorney Alex Murdaugh.

Chief Kinsey was able to piece together the evidence to describe the gruesome sequence of events on the night of the murders, offering expert opinions on the shots fired. Jurors and trial observers concluded Kinsey's testimony brought clarity to the smoke screens proffered by Murdaugh's defense team, leading to his conviction. In an unusual turn of events, the jury asked to speak with Chief Kinsey before sentencing. Murdaugh was sentenced to two life sentences to be served consecutively.

Chief Kinsey earned his bachelor's degree from Clemson University, his Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University, and his PhD from Walden University. In addition to his career with the OCSO, he serves as an adjunct professor at Claflin University, teaching crime scene investigations and other criminal justice-related classes since 2012.

We are proud to recognize Chief Deputy Kenneth Kinsey as SCSA's 2023 Deputy of the Year, grateful for his service within the OCSO, in helping to prepare the next generation of law enforcement professionals and to the people of the State of South Carolina. Congratulations and thank you, Chief Kinsey.

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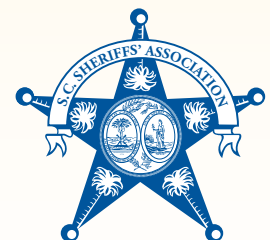
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