

Austin Police Retired Officers Association
143 Morris Lane
Cedar Creek, Texas 78612
www.aproa.org

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Past President	Robert Wisian
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Board 4	Jimmy Brown

Update – July 30, 2017

September 13, 2017 Meeting

Make your plans today to attend the September 13, meeting. We will meet at 12:30 PM, at the APA Building, 5817 Wilcab Rd.

APROA Election Year

We are just weeks away from our nomination for officers and this is your opportunity to get involved in the APROA. All positions for the APROA Board are up for elections this year. Nominations for all positions will be made at the September 13, 2017 meeting.

Nominees who cannot be present at the September meeting to accept the nomination must, prior to the September meeting, submit a letter stating their desire to accept the nomination to the Secretary/Treasurer (Randy Malone).

If you are thinking about running for a position and would like to know more about the duties of a position, contact Randy Malone (Randy@randymalone.com / 512-658-0692) for more information.

CopLine
(Wayne Vincent)

I retired from APD in 2014 after 30 years of service. Just like most of you, I cannot imagine what it is like facing another 10 to 20 years as a Law Enforcement Officer in today's environment. We had our share of stress and sacrifice in our time, but there has never been a national assault on the image of a police officer as there is today. I thought I could turn my back on my past life and enjoy the golden years, but a friend of mine from New Jersey got me involved in a volunteer program in which I could share my experience and counsel with today's active cop who is in crisis.

My friend Stephanie Samuels developed a National Law Enforcement hot line for cops. The idea is that a cop or the spouse of a cop who has nowhere to turn can call a number and talk to someone who has lived the life, who is non-judgmental, and more importantly, is totally anonymous. I was skeptical about this program, but it did sound interesting. I went to San Diego on my own dime and went through a 40 hour intensive training to become a call taker. I have been a call taker on the National Hot Line (called CopLine) for several months now, and

this is the real deal for me as far as living my life stress free, but still being able to step back and help some active cop from Chicago, San Francisco, or Deadbolt Tennessee.

CopLine only uses honorably retired Law Enforcement Officers as call takers. This makes perfect sense. Retired Officers can relate, have some of the same experiences as the caller, and have no departmental requirements to report an “inappropriate” conversation with another officer.

After my months of experience, I am sold on this program. I am asking that if any of our retirees may be interested in joining this hot line as a call taker to contact me. If I get enough response, I will work on getting the necessary training here locally, so no travel will be involved. Once training is concluded, call takers are only asked to commit four hours a week to being on call.

This is the only national hot line for cops/spouses in existence. It is relatively new, and I am going to do what I can to make it a success. It is also a way in which all of the years and experience we all have under our belt can make a difference in the new generation of officers who came after us.

If interested or have further questions, please reach out to me:

Wayne Vincent

512 589 7162

apdretired@outlook.com

Dignity Memorial – Organizational Agreement

At the July meeting members voted to sign an agreement with Dignity Memorial, which is the only nationwide funeral home service. Over the past year we have had a number of deaths which we sent information out on and a large percentage used a Dignity Memorial Funeral Home. By entering into an agreement with Dignity we will obtain the services listed below for our members and their family members.

While we did obtain these services and discounts for members if you choose to use a Dignity Memorial Funeral home or any other funeral home, be sure to get the services you are paying for in writing. This could prevent issues when the bill comes in.

And it you can pre-plan so your family members do not end up having to make major decisions at a time they should not be make any financial decision. Get your affairs in order!

The Dignity Memorial Family Benefit features:

- 10% savings on all funeral or cremation products and services through a Dignity Memorial provider.
Savings apply to prearranged services or services at the time of need.
- 10% savings on cemetery interment rights, products and services through Dignity Memorial affiliated cemeteries.
- National Transferability on prearranged services at no additional charge at any Dignity Memorial provider nationwide.
- One year unlimited access to the Compassion Helpline®, a telephone grief support program staffed with trained counselors.
- Access to the Dignity Memorial Bereavement Travel Program. Our travel experts will assist family and friends with their travel needs when attending a service at any Dignity Memorial provider throughout North America.

Hearing Aid Information – Costco (by Roy Rector)

(* For those who have a hearing test and are told probably job related, you have 30 days from that date to file a Work Comp claim)**

My hearing loss is from heavy machinery in a life before APD (farming). In fact, I failed the hearing test when I applied at APD in 89, but was accepted anyway (back in the days when academy applications were under 300 and APD was running high vacancies – lucky me). So insurance or worker comp assistance is not possible. This email is information for any of my retired LE brothers and sisters who may be in the same situation I was – not considering hearing aids because they are so dang expensive.

A few weeks ago I apprehensively scheduled an appointment with Costco's hearing center. At the appointment they conducted a hearing test and asked what I was looking for. I told I wanted aids I have complete control over, something I can adjust as needed, when needed. I chose their top of the line -- Resound Cala 8 -- \$1,299 each.

So far I am quite impressed with Costco and the Resound aids. Costco recommends that customers see an ENT doctor before buying hearing aids, which I have. I know my hearing loss is not a medical condition. Their hearing aids come with a 100% money back guarantee for 6 months. Yep, if anytime within 6 months you decide you don't want them you get all you money back, they only ask that you follow their directions and make a reasonable effort to adapt to wearing them.

A week after I purchased the aids, the order came in and I went back to have them fitted. I was expecting Costco to just hand them to me and say thanks. They did not. The visit lasted over an hour. They configured, tweaked, tested and explained the aids. They taught me how to put them on, change settings, control them with the APP and external buttons and how to clean and take care of them.

With the Resound Cala 8, I have complete control of aids with an iPhone app. I can adjust them on the fly, save setting as "favorites" for places that I frequent, talk through them for "hands free" phone calls, stream music from my phone and more. From the first day I have worn them comfortably (it has been three weeks now) and I can finally hear my wife talk in the truck after 40 years!

I have a follow up visit schedule for Aug 1, where I will have them tweak the base-line settings a little, now that I have made adjustments to know where the base-line default levels should be (AKA, where I want them to be). BTW, follow up visits are free.

I bought the recommended \$40 dryer to put them in every night, and Resound was offering a free accessories when I purchased them, so I chose the mic that streams to the aids. In all, tax title and license I paid just under \$2,700 for top of the line, high tech hearing aids that I can control – the same technology one gets from a hearing and balance store for \$8,000!

The Costco people bent over backwards to accommodate my needs. The only negative I see about Costco is getting appointments. They are so busy that appointments are a month out. But if you buy aids you control with your phone, you will most likely never need "walk in" assistance. Also I don't get lifetime free batteries, but considering I saved \$6,000 I can afford to buy batteries for a few years – a 48 pack at Costco is 8 bucks.

I don't mean to sound like a promo for Costco or Resound, but I found that quality digital hearing aids can be reasonable affordable for people like me – people who need them but can't qualify for health insurance assistant or Work Comp

PREPLAN!

With over 700 retirees, we are having to help a number of families who were not prepared for the death of a family member. While you may not be ready to actually make your final plans, write it down and discuss it with your family members. Get a Will, this alone would take many of the legal issues off of the family. We have Simple Will formats on our web site, for FREE!

Or, check out the Cleat Retiree Association! To many the Cleat Legal Coverage is the biggest benefit but the Free Cleat Will and Free Will Probate could save a your family well over \$2,000.00. If you have a spouse they too get the Free Will and Free Will Probate which again could save the family well over \$2,000.00.

These benefits are only offered to Retirees who live in Texas, due to the fact that all of the Cleat attorneys are in Texas.

CLEAT Legal for Retirees – plus much more!
(\$14.50 a month or save \$24.00 and pay by the year \$150.00)

Cleat Legal Coverage for those who legally carry – In Texas Only

\$1,000.00 death benefit

Free preparation, execution and probate of wills for member and spouse
If you have already joined the CRA, be sure to get your Free Cleat Will!

Legislative representation protecting your pension and retirement benefits

To join or to get more information go to: <https://www.cleat.org/retiree-association/>

If you carry, check the expiration date on your right to carry card!

Make sure you have legal coverage to help protect the retirement you have earned!

Member or Not, We Need Your E-mail Address!

Most of the notices we send out are time sensitive so those who have an e-mail on file get far more notices than others. Currently we have just under 100 retirees listed who do not have an e-mail address listed with us and we are trying to cut that number down. If you are getting this update by way of US Mail and you have an e-mail address or one that you can use to get the messages please send your e-mail address into us today!

Send your e-mail address to: randy@randymalone.com.