

## **History of TAASRO**

The Alabama Association of School Resource Officers (TAASRO) was formed on December 3, 1999. The organization's first meeting was held at the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department in Anniston, Alabama. Twenty school resource officers attended this first meeting which was put together by Deputy Tracy Heard of Calhoun County. Tracy Heard had attended a NASRO conference and wanted to see Alabama have it's own state association. Deputy Heard organized the first meeting by phone calls, emails, and teletypes.

### **First Meeting and Election**

This first meeting started TAASRO on the mission of educating law enforcement officers and educators throughout the state about the role of school resource officers. The first Board of Directors was elected at this meeting. Tracy Heard was elected to serve as President. Scott Dorroh of the Florence Police Department was elected to serve as Vice President. Dave Thompson of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department was elected to serve as Secretary, and Jeff Bridges of Trussville PD was elected to serve as Treasurer. The original members of TAASRO felt very strongly that each area of the state should be represented so area representatives were elected to serve as full members of the board. These original representatives included Scott Hamilton of the Muscle Shoals Police Department (NW), Shed Long of the Anniston Police Department (NE), Mac Hardy of the Hoover Police Department (Central), Don Strickland of the Millbrook Police Department (SE), and Doyle Lee of the Atmore Police Department (SW). Later additions to the Board of Directors included the positions of Education Coordinator which was appointed to Phil Bailey of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and Logistics Officer which was appointed to Nathan Beard of the Florence Police Department.

### **Bylaws, Logo, and Conference**

The original TAASRO Board drafted bylaws, adopted a TAASRO logo, and implemented the annual summer TAASRO Conference. The original bylaws were adopted on January 27, 2000. The bylaws have been updated and amended several times since this date. The board of directors have voted to "lock" the bylaws on June 9, 2003 so that they may not be amended unless a bylaw is approved by the board and ratified by the membership at the next summer conference.

The TAASRO logo was adopted on March 28, 2000. The logo was picked by the Board of Directors from artwork submitted by Alabama high school students. Two pieces of art were selected by the Board and were blended together to make the TAASRO logo. The TAASRO logo consists of the state of Alabama, a police shield, a sheriff's star and an apple. The logo signifies the partnership between police departments, sheriff's departments, and schools in educating students and keeping them safe.

The original TAASRO Board also added a stipulation into the bylaws that there would be an annual summer conference on the white sands of the Alabama gulf coast. The first

conference was held in 2000 and 42 SRO's attended this conference. The number of conference attendees had risen to 165 at the 2006 Summer Conference.

### **Other Board Members**

Through the history of TAASRO several original Board members have resigned there positions for various personal reasons. TAASRO members have stepped forward to fill these positions and they have been vital to the growth that TAASRO has experienced. These people and their positions are listed below:

Danny Holmes, Pell City Police Department, Northeast Representative

Rob Arnett, Covington County Sheriff's Department, Interim President and Southwest Representative

Mo Canady, Hoover Police Department, President

Jonathon Richey, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department, Northwest Representative

Duff Manners, Jacksonville Police Department, Northeast Representative

Tim Dail, Etowah County Sheriff's Department, Vice President

Ed Billings, Luverne Police Department, Logistics Officer