



The Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Approved and adopted
3rd day of March A.D., 1955

Amended and adopted
10th day of June A.D., 1959

Amended and adopted
14th day of October A.D., 1971

Amended and adopted
19th day of January A.D., 1989

The Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association

ORGANIZATIONAL OFFICERS

Bobby Kinser, Texas Highway Patrol San Marcos, Texas
L. D. Buchanan, Chief of Police Gonzales, Texas
T. E. Hollamon, Game and Fish Warden Seguin, Texas
Clyde Mattfeld, Deputy Sheriff Guadalupe County, Texas
J. P. Lynch, Texas Highway Patrol San Marcos, Texas
Edgar Breecher, Deputy Sheriff Comal County, Texas
Blackie Bowers, Game Warden San Marcos, Texas
Walter Fellers, Sheriff Comal County, Texas
Walter F. Lampmann, Patrolman Seguin, Texas
Arnold Thormeyer, Constable Guadalupe County, Texas
Eugene McCord, Deputy Sheriff Guadalupe County, Texas
Leroy Schneider, Patrolman Seguin, Texas
L. A. Petry, Deputy Sheriff Guadalupe County, Texas
Charles Ehrhardt, Sgt. Of Police Seguin, Texas
W. C. Hoffman, Chief of Police Seguin, Texas
H. B. Guilford, Sgt. Of Police San Marcos, Texas
W. C. Albright, Chief of Police San Marcos, Texas
Jack Gary, Sheriff Hays County, Texas
Albert Jandt, Attorney Seguin, Texas
Charles Grimm, Constable Guadalupe County, Texas

CODE OF ETHICS

(Adopted Sept. 9, 1959)

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to server mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

CONSTITUTION
of
The Guadalupe Valley
Peace Officers

ARTICLE 1

The name of the Association shall be styled The Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association.

ARTICLE 2

The Association shall be comprised of duly elected, qualified and acting peace officers of Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Caldwell and Gonzales Counties. Any elected police official, such as Sheriff, Marshall, Constable, and any members of their staffs. Any appointed Chief of Police of any incorporated city and any member of his department; any Judge of Justice, such as District Judges, County Court Judges, County Judge, Justices of the Peace and any Judge of any Municipality. Any elected Mayor and members of his council and any Commissioner of any political subdivision of local government. Any law enforcement officer holding a certificate from the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement Standards and Education.

ARTICLE 3

Any duly accredited person, firm or corporation may become an associate member of the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association with the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4

Any person, firm or corporation who shall become a member or associate member of this Association shall be subject to this constitution, the by-laws, rules and regulations of the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association.

ARTICLE 5

The total number of Associate members will be not more than fifteen percent (15%) of the total paid membership of the Association.

ARTICLE 6

Any duly qualified associate member will have the privilege to a vote, to hold office and serve on a committee.

ARTICLE 7

The officers of the Association shall be President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, and shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership present at the first meeting of the year.

ARTICLE 8

The appointive offices of the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association shall be one (1) director from each of the member counties, a chaplain, sergeant-at-arms, a general attorney and such other assistants as shall be appointed for any purpose, whatsoever, by the President and shall hold such appointing offices subject to the will of the President.

ARTICLE 9

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers listed in Article 7 and Directors as outlined in Article 8, and they shall transact all business of the Association that may come before them in accord with the Constitution, By-Laws and regulations of this Association. The Board of Directors shall meet semi-annually and on as many other occasions as the President of the Association may deem necessary.

ARTICLE 10

Quarterly meetings of this Association shall be held each year at a time and place as determined by the President.

ARTICLE 11

The purpose and objects of the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association are as follows:

- a. To enforce the penal laws of the State and Federal Government intelligently and expediently.
- b. To collaborate with all organizations and individuals who are sponsoring any law enforcement program.
- c. To familiarize its membership with the best and most modern methods of apprehending and bringing to trial offenders against all penal laws.
- d. To mutually aid and assist each other in all problems common to the peace officers association.
- e. To sponsor, aid and extensively support all State and National legislation designed for the protection of the lives and property of the people of the State and Nation.

ARTICLE 12

Any member in good standing, even though he be transferred to another territory, shall be eligible for benefits, and retain his membership so long as he pays his dues.

BY-LAWS

GUADALUPE VALLEY PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1. The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all meetings of the membership. In his absence, the Vice-Presidents shall preside in the order of their rank.

SECTION 2. The President shall cast a vote only in the event of a tie, upon an issue before the Board of Directors or the membership.

SECTION 3. The President is authorized to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors upon a petition of ten (10) members made to him in writing, or upon his own

motion, by giving notice of such meetings to the members of the Board, designating the time and place of such meeting.

SECTION 4. The President shall have the authority and it shall be his duty to appoint all committees of whatsoever kind and character as he may deem necessary for the performance of the functions of this Association.

SECTION 5. The Vice Presidents of this Association shall have all the power and authority granted the President, in the absence of the President, or his failure or refusal to act, from any purpose whatsoever, and shall carry out and perform all such duties as are herein made incumbent upon the President.

SECTION 6. The Board of Directors shall meet semi-annually upon such date and such place as may be designated by the President, and upon such special occasions as they may be called by the President for any Association and it is made incumbent and is the duty of each Director to faithfully attend each and all of such meetings.

SECTION 7. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Association shall do and perform the following duties:

a. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a neat and legible written report of the order of business conducted at each meeting of the membership and Board of Directors. The written report shall be presented to the membership at the next regular meeting for approval.

b. The Secretary-Treasurer upon order of the President or presiding officer of the Association in conjunction with the Host of the next called meeting will prepare the proper notice of the meeting, date and location.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall do and perform all other duties and functions as may be from time to time prescribed by the Board of Directors.

d. Keep in a separate account in some bank or banks approved by the Board of Directors all dues and monies belonging to the Association and shall further keep a correct and accurate membership roster.

e. The Secretary-Treasurer will, upon the order of the Board of Directors, be required to make bond in such penal sum as shall be deemed necessary for the protection of the funds and properties of the Association. The amount of bond will not exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), and the same amount will never exceed the amount of money held in the checking account.

f. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of all properties of whatsoever kind and nature belonging to the Association, and shall, upon request of the Board of Directors or the President thereof, turn such properties and monies over to his successor in office.

g. The Secretary-Treasurer will be paid \$50.00 per quarterly meeting, not to exceed \$200.00 per year /4 meetings.

SECTION 8. The Chaplain of the Association shall be an ordained minister or a member of reputable standing of the Association and shall perform the duties as chaplain at all meetings of the Association and at other times as may be deemed necessary by the President.

SECTION 9. The General Attorney of the Association shall perform the functions of his profession in relation to the business of the Association of whatsoever kind when requested to do so by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 10. It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-At-Arms to maintain order at all meetings of the Association, having the privilege to appoint assistants as necessary.

SECTION 11. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting all business coming before said Board and actual attendance in the meeting place of 20% of the members of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting all business coming before it.

SECTION 12. The President of the Association is authorized to seek the advice and assistance of any member of the Association in good standing for any purpose whatsoever, and especially in matters relating to law enforcement, pending legislation and other business relating to the welfare of the Association.

SECTION 13. Election of officers shall be by written ballot or by oral vote of the members present at the first quarterly meeting of the year of said Association.

SECTION 14. The ballots cast for two or more candidates shall be received by a committee of three appointed by the President and shall be by said committee counted, and a written report of the result of such election be handed to the President, and the result thereafter placed in the minutes of such meeting. If by oral vote, the Secretary-Treasurer will so note and approval of the President or if contested by the committee of three appointed by the President.

SECTION 15. At the request of any member of the Association, written ballots shall be distributed and used for the purpose of adopting any resolution pending before the quarterly meeting and the ballots accounted for in the same manner as in the election of officers.

SECTION 16. Installation of all elected officers shall be at the next regular meeting of the Association after their election.

SECTION 17. The annual dues of each member of the Association shall be \$8.00, being due on or before the first meeting of each year and shall be considered delinquent if not paid by that time. A new member shall pay a \$2.00 initiation fee.

SECTION 18. All expensed, fees and other expenditures of the funds of the Association shall be authorized by the President, by and with the approval of the Board of Directors, and an itemized account thereof, shall be kept in a finance ledger by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, open to the inspection of any member at any regular meeting of the Association.

SECTION 19. The annual dues of each associate member shall be the same as that of

a member as outlined in Section 17 of these by-laws.

SECTION 20. Any person, firm or corporation who has been an associate member of the association, but who shall fail to pay his dues within 60 days after written notice of such delinquency is mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer shall be dropped from the rolls.

SECTION 21. Any member of the Association by a majority vote may be expelled from membership when the conduct of such member is regarded by a majority vote of the Board of Directors as detrimental to the purpose of the Association.

SECTION 22. The Constitution and By-Law of the Association will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors and any changes recommended, if necessary.

SECTION 23. The order of business at each convention shall be:

- a. Call to order by the presiding officer.
- b. Request for Invocation by the Chaplain or in his absence, any member in attendance may be asked to perform this task.
- c. Reading of the minutes of the previous meetings not yet approved by the Secretary-Treasurer.
- d. Reading of the financial report by the Secretary-Treasurer.
- e. Reading of all outstanding committee reports.
- f. Reading of any communications and memorials or any correspondence directed by the Association.
- g. Unfinished business.
- h. New business.
- i. Election of officers.
- j. Selection of next convention city.
- k. Benediction offered by the Chaplain or member of the Association delegated by the presiding officer.
- l. Adjournment.

SECTION 24. The President of the Association, by and with the consent of the Board of Directors, shall at all times during his tenure of office, be authorized to present in the name of the Association all petitions, memorials and resolutions to any department of the State or Federal Government, or any of the personnel thereof, or any authority whatsoever.

SECTION 25. Any article of the Constitution of the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association may be abrogated or amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority of a quorum of the members present at any of the meetings as set forth in Article 10, and the By-Laws may be repealed or amended by the majority vote of such members present.

SECTION 26. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws shall be in writing and filed with the Secretary-Treasurer of this Association at least ten (10) days before a meeting as set forth in Article 10 and shall be open to the inspection of any member thereof.

SECTION 27. The office of the Association shall be the city and county of duly elected Secretary-Treasurer.

SECTION 28. Any matter of business of whatsoever kind of nature, as may not be provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association, shall be attended to by any of the Board of Directors, as the demand arises.

SECTION 29. One specific appointment of the President or presiding officer shall be the appointment of a three (3) member committee to serve as an auditing committee, their duty to at least audit the books of the Association at least once each fiscal year.

SECTION 30. Oath of Office

I, _____(Name in Full) _____, elected by the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association as _____(Name of Office)_____ do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Texas. I do solemnly and faithfully promise to be loyal to the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association and to the best of my ability to uphold the Police Code of Ethics; to instill in the members the spirit of cooperation and of the high regard of our calling, and to asset a wholesome influence on the education of the citizens of our State, especially with the purpose of inculcating respect for law and order, all this I promise and call upon those assembled members to witness, so help me God.

Approved and adopted this 3rd day of March, A.D., 1955, at regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association.

W. C. Hoffman
Secretary-Treasurer

William Allbright
President

Amended and adopted 1959

W. J. Robitsch
President

Amended and adopted 1971

Calvin Turner
President

Amended and adopted 1989

Melvin Harborth
President

GVPOA STANDING RULES

1. Life Membership Dues approved at GVPOA Regular Meeting on October 30, 1997.
 - a. Under 40 of age, after 4 years as regular member \$150.00
 - b. 40 to 49 years of age, after 6 years as regular member \$100.00
 - c. 50 to 59 years of age, after 8 years as regular member \$ 50.00
 - d. 60 years of age & over, after 10 years as regular member \$ 25.00

2. Contribution to the Texas Peace Officer Memorial in memory of a deceased Peace Officer and/or GVPOA Member approved at GVPOA Regular Meeting on October 18, 2001.
 - a. \$100.00 for any on-duty related death of a Peace Officer in the GVPOA 6 County region.
 - b. \$ 50.00 for a GVPOA active member that is retired.
 - c. \$ 50.00 for a GVPOA active member in any non-police related death.
 - d. No contribution will be made for a GVPOA member whose membership has lapsed for one year or more.

3. Annual Membership Dues increase and elimination of initiation fee approved at GVPOA Board Meeting on March 10, 2004. The Annual Membership Dues increase was approved at GVPOA Regular Meeting on April 15, 2004.
 - a. Annual Membership Dues increased to \$ 15.00 per year
 - b. Annual Membership Dues for members 60 years of age and over increased to \$10.00 per year.

4. Life Membership Dues increase and elimination of a select number of years before being eligible of Life Membership approved at GVPOA Regular Meeting on April 15, 2004.
 - a. Under 40 years of age \$200.00
 - b. 40 to 49 years of age \$150.00
 - c. 50 to 59 years of age \$ 75.00
 - d. 60 years of age & over \$ 35.00

The Guadalupe Valley Peace Officers Association

The first election of officers was held March 3rd, 1954 in Seguin, Texas and the following officers elected:

William Allbright, President
Chief of Police, San Marcos, Texas

Walter Fellers, 1st Vice President
Sheriff, Comal County

L. O. McGinty, 2nd Vice President
Deputy Sheriff, Guadalupe County

W. C. Hoffman, Secretary-Treasurer
Chief of Police, Seguin, Texas

Monsignor Bruno Hubertus, Chaplain

Charles Grimm, Sergeant-At-Arms
Constable, Guadalupe County

PAST PRESIDENTS

William Allbright.....	1954-1955
Walter Fellers.....	1955-1956
L. O. McGinty.....	1956-1957
L. A. Petry.....	1957-1958
W. J. Robitsch.....	1959-1963
Frank Masur.....	1963-1964
Jack Gary.....	1964-1965
Percy L. Follies.....	1965-1966
Ted Lacey (ACT).....	1965-1966
Ted Lacey.....	1966-1967
Walter Lampmann.....	1967-1968
R. E. "Bob" Pryor.....	1968-1970
John Breslin.....	1970-1971
Calvin Turner.....	1971-1972
Rob Wimmer.....	1972-1973
Bill Jonas.....	1973-1974
Eugene Schoonover.....	1974-1975
James O'Connell.....	1975-1976
Leslie "Pete" Kallies.....	1976-1977
Harvey Himly.....	1977-1978

B. C. Boeck.....	1978-1979
Walter Bargfrede.....	1979-1980
Hugo Ackermann.....	1980-1981
Herbie D. Myers.....	1981-1982
Randy Nugent.....	1982-1983
Walter Fellers.....	1983-1984
Harold D. Burns, Jr.....	1984-1985
Reno W. Reiley.....	1985-1986
J. R. "Bob" Holder.....	1986-1987
Myron Galchutt.....	1987-1988
Melvin Harborth.....	1988-1989
Brian John.....	1989-1990
Cynthia Rangel.....	1990-1991
Ricky Saucedo.....	1991-1992
Ray Baker.....	1992-1993
Fritz Bohne.....	1993-1994
Jack Bremer.....	1994-1995
Bill Whitworth.....	1995-1995
Ian "Buddy" Lovestock.....	1995-1997
Kim Riffe.....	1997-1998
Harold Burns, Jr.....	1998-1999
Mike Gumpp.....	1999-2000
Robert Christy.....	2000-2001
Michael Gates.....	2001-2002
Ian "Buddy" Lovestock.....	2002-2003
Gregg Van De Loo.....	2003-2004
Debra Jordan.....	2004-2005
Kevin Jordan.....	2005-2006
Russell Johnson.....	2006-2007
Kelly Holder.....	2007-2008
Greg Martin.....	2008-2009
Tex Farnsworth.....	2009-2010
Hope Vasquez.....	2010-2011
Arnold Zwicke.....	2011-2012
John Bell.....	2012-2013
Max Wommack, Jr.....	2013-2014
Brent Paullus.....	2014-2015
Joe Hamilton.....	2015-2016
Jimmy Limmer.....	2016-2017
Ron Eberhardt.....	2017-2018