



# Agents Celebrate Achievements, Enjoy Camaraderie at Annual Convention in Houma

by Sgt. Remy Broussard, LWAA Secretary

Once again, Region 9 hosted a most enjoyable 2004 convention. Our thanks go to members of the board and Region 9, especially LWAA representative Richard Purvis, who assumed the role of onsite coordinator. Those members who host each year's gathering have a thankless job, so for all of their hard work and

dedication, we say, thank you!

A few "hard-core" participants arrived on Thursday so as to be fresh for the morning events on Friday. The extra time to socialize with colleagues was savored by those in attendance after a hectic week of preparation.

Both the golf match and the pistol match went off without a hitch. The only

thing close to a "hitch" was the extreme heat of a Gulf Coast July morning. Adding to the problem was the humidity, which was as thick as a cup of Houma coffee. Everyone made it through the day, though some were a little more coherent at sunset than others.

Friday night was the usual south Louisiana seafood night. From looking at the empty platters lining the tables, it appeared as though everyone got a belly-full. One thing for sure: if people went away hungry, it was their own fault. We are still trying to decide where the shrimp came from, and Purvis isn't talking!

After dinner, LWAA President Lt. Darryl Moore handed out awards from the pistol and the golf matches (*see p. 13 for list of winners*). Placements were announced, and the various plaques were presented poolside.

The night wouldn't have been complete if the inevitable hadn't happened. With all of the commotion so near a pool full of water it simply *had* to happen. We



**LEFT:** Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Dwight Landreneau speaking to Mrs. Nancy Broussard (left) and Mrs. Mo Moore (right) at the LWAA Banquet. **BELOW LEFT:** Agents and guests enjoy a seafood feast at the Friday night cookout. **BELOW RIGHT:** Agents compete in the shooting match.



won't mention names, but the Region 6 board representative needs to work on his backstroke. Whoever pushed him still hasn't picked up his check, so it will go back into the account for another day.

Saturday morning's business meeting was both informative and rewarding. One of the highlights of the morning session was an impromptu program on homeland security by Lt. Col. Charlie Clark, who also provided insights into the direction our Enforcement Division is headed. (Lt. Moore is still looking for the invited speaker. It's possible that he can't swim and we scared him off on Friday night!)

Board elections also were held during the business session. Following a motion that was seconded on the floor—and before the Executive Board could think about it—we were all elected for another term. As the old saying goes: “be careful what ya ask for.”

It was decided by vote that next year's statewide rendezvous will be in Bossier City. We're looking forward to heading north and seeing what that area has to offer.

The afternoon session allowed LWAA headquarters staff the opportunity to disseminate a wealth of information verbally that would have taken a ton of paper to send in the form of memos. The recurring themes of the day were prosperity and a feeling of professionalism that makes us proud to wear the “green and gray.”

When it came time to sit down to dinner on Saturday evening, there wasn't an empty seat in the house, literally.

After the blessing offered

by host region representative Purvis, LWAA President Moore kept things moving throughout the evening. The raffles and door prizes kept the participants on their toes and attentive.

We were treated to a few words from our new Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary, Dwight Landreneau. He expressed appreciation for our agents' professionalism, and encouraged us to keep doing what we have been doing.

The biggest surprise of the evening—at least to me—came when yours truly was honored with the “President's Award” presented by Lt. Moore. I only hope that I can continue to help in any way possible as our board has a monumental task each and every time we meet.

Capt. Joe Matassa, who recently retired, received the John Garlington Award for Lifetime Service. The award is especially fitting because “Big John” spent a great deal of time in Region 9 working under Capt. Matassa, who has been a strong LWAA supporter throughout his long career. Good luck in your retirement, Joe.

Col. Winton Vidrine then took the podium and presented several awards. Joe Dewil (R3) received the award for the most littering cases for the year, while Dane Thomas (R7) was recognized for issuing the most DWI citations. Great work!

Scott Watson (R4) was honored with the Life Saving Award for his rescue of several boat accident victims. Watson's quick action doubtless saved at least one life, and possibly more. Congratulations!

The Chief's Award, presented by Col. Vidrine, was

## LWAA COMBAT PISTOL MATCH WINNERS

### LADIES MATCH

**First:** Nancy Burnett

**Second:** Joy Reger

**Third:** Nancy Broussard

### MASTER CLASS

**First:** Ronald Morris

**Second:** Mitch Darby

### TWO-MAN TEAM

**First:** Region 2

Alan Bankston

Jamey Hagan

### MARKSMAN CLASS

**First:** Bob Daigle

**Second:** Remy Broussard

**Third:** Bobby Buatt

### FOUR-MAN TEAM

**First:** Region 6

Donald Salpietra

Ronald Hebert

Mitch Darby

Jordan Bayham

### SHARPSHOOTER CLASS

**First:** Brad Guidroz

**Second:** Frank Reger

### EXPERT CLASS

**First:** Donald Salpietra

**Second:** Ronald Hebert

### DEAD LAST

Joey James

## GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS

### FIRST

Patrick Staggs

Chuck Dison

Chad Menzina

Ryan Brasher

### CLOSEST

#### TO THE HOLE

Chad Menzina

#### LONGEST DRIVE

Lane Kincaid

### SECOND

Jay Diez

Billy Gomillion

Billy Moulriere

Wayne Brescher

Grady Brecheen

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The highlight of the evening, as always, came with the announcement of the Agent of the Year from each region, as well as the selection of the Statewide Agent of the Year. The evening then proceeded on to war stories and dancing as everyone relaxed with their peers. Some were still relaxing the next morning, but, by and large, the room was full for Sunday brunch.

awarded to LWAA Board President Moore. As head of our association and as an agent in the field, Moore has put forth an effort above and beyond the call of duty. We all can be proud to have him as our association president.

LWAA's outgoing representatives were given plaques for their service to the association. The even-numbered region representatives are up for election. Those recognized for completing their two-year terms are Lane Kincaid (R2), Scott Watson (R4), Brian Theriot (R6), Eddie Skena (R8) and Ray Champagne (R10).

The Ken Aycock Memorial Award, which recognizes exemplary service to the LWAA and to the wildlife enforcement agent profession, was awarded to Maj. Jeff Mayne.

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the Agent of the Year from each region, as well as the selection of the Statewide Agent of the Year:

- **REGION 1:** Sgt. Patrick Staggs
- **REGION 2:** Sgt. Jamey Hagan
- **REGION 3:** Senior Agent Travis Burnett
- **REGION 4:** Senior Agent Charles Ward
- **REGION 5:** Sgt. David Liles
- **REGION 6:** Senior Agent Cliff Ortis
- **REGION 7:** Senior Agent Toby Miller
- **REGION 8:** Sgt. Todd Laviolette (Statewide Agent of the Year)
- **REGION 9:** Sgt. Max Dupre
- **REGION 10:** Senior Agent David Nunez
- **REGION 11:** Sgt. Bryan Marie

Lt. Moore again recognized two retiring agents whose careers have spanned some interesting times. Capt. Matassa and Capt. Larry Matherne will both be missed, and we wish them the best in their retirement.

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Those in attendance for brunch were rewarded with another chance at a long list of door prizes. I heard someone say laughingly that next year we would have to restrict the Crops to the number of door prizes available. (I may just sit next to them for good luck, or just let 'em rub my head a time or two.)

When the convention moves to Bossier City next year, we hope to rub elbows with those agents from north Louisiana who were unable to attend the 2004 event. We're looking forward to it. 🐾



**LWAA AGENTS OF THE YEAR.** Front row: OSF Sgt. Bryan Marie (R10), SWEP Senior Agent David Nunez (R10), Sgt. Todd Laviolette (R8), Senior Agent Toby Miller (R7) and Sgt. Max Dupre (R9). Back row: Sgt. Patrick Staggs (R1), Sgt. Jamey Hagan (R2), Senior Agent Travis Burnett (R3), Senior Agent Charles Ward (R4), accepted by Capt. Johnny Ferrington, Sgt. David Liles (R5) and Senior Agent Joe Cliff Ortis (R6).