

# TAKING THE CHALLENGE: HOSTING AN NTOA CONFERENCE



For more than 30 years, the NTOA has brought together police officers from the U.S., Canada and around the world to attend a conference that sets the standard in law enforcement training. Each September, the NTOA's Annual Tactical Conference and Trade Show unfolds somewhere in the U.S., and sometimes Canada, with the support of a police agency and its tactical team. The goal is to provide training and information exchange to enhance the professionalism of this noble calling, and one can't deny the true essence of training, *to save lives*.

This year, the Mobile, Ala., Police Department team, led by Major Kara Rose, has been an outstanding partner in the planning and coordination of our Gulf Coast conference coming up in September. From securing training sites to arranging venues for entertainment, the cooperation and commitment from the folks in Mobile has been exceptional.

I speak from experience here: In 2008, I informed my team that we would be hosting the NTOA's 2009 conference in Tulsa, Okla. Although this was an enormous responsibility, I still consider this privilege to have been the opportunity of a lifetime in my professional career. The entire undertaking couldn't have been possible without the dedication and commitment to excellence that the NTOA staff and the members of my agency and tactical team shared. The experiences, training and friendships formed and refreshed at this annual conference spurn excitement and energy that is vital to the continuation of training, day-to-day activities and operations that teams experience throughout the country. Year in, year out, this event is hosted with pride and the same commitment to excellence that we experienced in 2009. Their successes have become synonymous with what most of us familiar with the NTOA conference have grown to expect — good times, great training.

My challenge to the NTOA membership now: How do we perpetuate this great tradition?

Members are often surprised to hear that our conferences depend upon the assistance and dedication of tactical teams, their agencies and their local partners. I hope this message

will provide you with the basics to help determine if your situation is appropriate to committing to co-hosting.

There are many advantages, and admittedly a few challenges, to hosting a conference of this size. Let's start with the benefits:

- Your city, agency and tactical team will be showcased, as the event draws attendees from all over the U.S. and internationally.
- The advertising campaign related to the training and trade show will provide national exposure for your city, agency and tactical team. This enhanced visibility improves your reputation and credibility.
- As a prelude to the training aspects of the conference, the trade show will attract companies, both local and national, giving you the unique opportunity to evaluate products and services with immediate input from your agency's purchasing decision makers.
- Your city will benefit from an influx of retail, restaurant and entertainment revenue.
- Your law enforcement staff will receive valuable, hands-on leadership training as they coordinate training courses with the NTOA and its internationally known instructors in planning, scheduling and ultimately presenting the conference.

Of course, pulling off an event of this magnitude requires a significant commitment from the hosting agency. The planning and coordination involve a sizeable amount of man hours and dedication from your team. Even as far as 18 months out, your team will be the point of contact to handle logistics and other ancillary issues that can arise. In the past, some agencies have chosen to share the responsibilities of co-hosting by enlisting partnerships with other agencies or state associations.

Here are a few components required to host a conference in your city:

- A convention or conference center big enough to house more than 130 vendors and 600 attendees.
- A transportation system to move students to and from their training tracks.

- An agency with a good working relationship with the host city, specifically relating to the lodging, restaurants and other event-driven aspects of the weeklong conference.
- A hotel that can accommodate up to 500 guests and several meeting/classroom-type areas.

Although the task of hosting an NTOA conference may seem daunting, agencies that have evaluated their capabilities have discovered it to be an obtainable goal. The opportunity to be an integral part of both preparing for and presenting training is a rewarding experience for you, your agency and your city.

If your agency is interested in taking on this opportunity, contact our Conference Coordinator, Laura Gerhart, at 800-279-9127, ext. 128. She will gladly provide you with more information and help you determine if co-hosting a conference is an option your agency and team might be interested in. //

Luke Sherman  
Central Region Director

— Election Notice —

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**TERM: JAN. 2015 TO DEC. 2017**

In August 2014, NTOA will accept nominations for directors in all three regions (Eastern, Central and Western) for a 3-year term.

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### IMPORTANT DATES

**Aug. 1 – Sept. 1, 2014**  
Nominations accepted

**Oct. 1 – Nov. 1, 2014**  
Online voting at [www.ntoa.org](http://www.ntoa.org)

**Nominations must be in writing and include a resume.**

Mail to: NTOA  
PO Box 797  
Doylestown, PA 18901

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Complete election and voting information, including director qualifications and duties, is available at [www.ntoa.org](http://www.ntoa.org).

## NEGOTIATIONS AWARD

NTOA introduces the Negotiations Award to our roster of prestigious honors. This award will be presented to the person or team that significantly contributes to the crisis negotiations field. Criteria for this award are listed on page 104 of this issue. (This award will be presented at our CNT conference in November 2014.)

## GRANTS

We are pleased to offer new grants to team members of NTOA. This program provides lifesaving equipment to teams in need.

Let us know why your team should be chosen. Visit [ntoa.org](http://ntoa.org) for 2014 grants!

## TEAM VOTE

We are excited to announce that due to a recent change in NTOA bylaws, "team memberships" will now be allowed to cast one vote for a director in their region.

NTOA has notified current teams of the voting procedure via email. If your email has changed, please update on our website or call 800-279-9127, ext. 110 to make sure you receive notification to vote in our 2014 election this October.