

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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This year's conference is behind us and we are rapidly moving toward the new year. The 2018 Law Enforcement Operations Conference was a tremendous success. We are grateful to all who attended and to those who made it happen. I'd especially like to thank the entire NTOA staff for their hard work and the long hours they put in each day to accomplish such a feat.

As with previous conferences, none of this would have been possible without the tremendous support from the local agencies. The folks in Milwaukee were incredible. Wisconsin has a well-earned reputation for having some of the nicest and most helpful people anywhere in the country. I'm sure we would all agree that our local hosts lived up to their reputation, and in most cases exceeded it. Thank you all for your dedication and professionalism.

With more than 1,100 attendees, this was our largest conference to date. Training is at the core of what we do and this year we are proud that so many law enforcement officers benefitted from the courses, seminars and incident debriefs we offered. Our students deserve recognition for having made it a priority to expand their knowledge and professionalism by attending this premier training event. Please take the time to read our conference highlights article beginning on page 16 of this issue.

As I am writing this message, the NTOA staff is preparing for our annual Crisis Negotiations confer-

ence in Phoenix, Arizona. We are anticipating another record-setting attendance, and I am confident that this conference, too, will be a tremendous success. Once again, I am grateful to the entire NTOA staff as well as our hosts for making this conference possible. If you were unable to attend either of these events this year, please make an effort to attend our 2019 Law Enforcement Operations Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida, or our Crisis Negotiations Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Remember to bring lots of sunscreen!

As we move toward the new year, please know that the NTOA is looking to ensure that our training remains contemporary and cost-effective. We are acutely aware that these are challenging times within our profession and are aggressively seeking out existing gaps in law enforcement training and finding ways to fill them. Our goal is to offer new and cutting edge training opportunities to our membership in the coming months. Please let us know if you have any ideas on how we may better serve you.

We are certain that 2019 is going to be an exciting year for the NTOA. I hope that all of you continue to take advantage of the opportunities the NTOA provides, and that the new year is both safe and successful. I thank you all for your service.

Take care and be safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thor Eells".

Thor Eells  
Executive Director