

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As I write this, our world is reeling from COVID-19. Our lives have been turned upside down and are filled with uncertainty. This pandemic is unprecedented in its impact on all of us, personally and professionally. I hope and pray that you and your loved

ones have been able to stay safe and healthy.

We at the NTOA have found ourselves having to adjust in so many ways. It's amazing how many things we take for granted. We don't realize it until they are taken away. We were forced to cancel/reschedule many classes slated for March and April. This was certainly disappointing to us but obviously necessary to protect everyone's health and safety.

The staff is working hard to ensure that we are prepared to hit the ground running when the pandemic restrictions are lifted. We appreciate that training is critical to your success and we will be ready to meet those needs once this crisis has passed. At this time, we are planning on having both our Law Enforcement Operations Conference and Crisis Negotiations Conference as scheduled in September and November, respectively. We will continue to monitor the crisis and guidelines, as they change frequently. If our plans change due to the pandemic, we will post a notice on our website and inform students. We are hopeful that none of this will be necessary and are truly looking forward to seeing you there!

As you all know, the NTOA was created to provide exceptional training to enhance the profession and save lives. We are as committed to that goal today as we have ever been, maybe even more so in these trying times. As the pandemic has already demonstrated, access to training will be impeded. The full impact is yet to be known as financial concerns will play out over the remainder of the year and beyond.

Training budgets will likely be affected and it's incumbent on all of you to do your best to protect your funds and access to critical training. Please stay engaged and advocate for yourselves and your fellow officers.

The federal FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program is a possible resource for your agencies. The program will provide funding to assist eligible states, local units of government and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local and tribal prisons, jails and detention centers.

The pandemic will affect our communities in a variety of ways, and the demands on law enforcement will be many. We will need to be prepared, now more than ever, and training will continue to play a major role in determining our success.

NTOA staff and instructors are here to help you all in any way we can during this uncertain time. Please reach out and let us know how we may be of assistance to you and how we can meet your training needs. Also, watch our website for COVID-19 updates and guidance. In the interim, please take care of yourselves and others.

We are looking forward to brighter days and wish you all God speed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thor Eells'.

Thor Eells
Executive Director