

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! It has been a long time since I have found so much relief in that greeting. Like many of you, I am so relieved to have 2020 behind us. For me it felt as if the past year lasted a decade. It certainly was full of enough challenges and uncertainty to last that long! But now it is time to look ahead.

While I recognize that COVID is still among us, as are many of its ancillary effects, I truly believe that we are now closer to the end than the beginning. I am sure there still will be some difficulties but I am confident we are better prepared to manage them due to our recent experiences. For us here at the NTOA, 2020 was a year of internal reflection and learning.

As we move forward into 2021, one of our many goals this year is to increase access to NTOA training. Our staff has been working tirelessly to review existing course curriculum and make the necessary adaptations to make it presentable in a virtual learning format. Additionally, while conducting the review, we are identifying topics that currently lack structure and developing new classes. Throughout this process, the NTOA remains dedicated to ensuring the quality of the training sets the bar for our profession.

Our intent is to create training opportunities for you regardless of the tumultuous climate that we live and work in. We believe that by providing a choice of e-learning and in-person classes, we can meet your training objectives and increase our outreach to the law enforcement profession.

As we get set to face impending criminal justice reforms, our ability to adapt our training will be critical to our future success. Please know that the NTOA will remain active in trying to anticipate training gaps and needs, and make the necessary adjustments to help all of you remain safe and successful. As always, please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we can do better.

Again, I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May it be one filled with great memories, health and achievements.

Stay safe and God Speed,

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

Thor Eells  
Executive Director