

THE BRIEFING



February 2024

Upcoming dates to remember

- **February 22, 2024 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
Kelly Otis, Lead Investigator, District Attorney's Office
- **March 7, 2024 - Annual Awards Dinner**
Mark Arts
- **March 28, 2024 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
WPD Chief Joe Sullivan
- **April 25, 2024 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
Kate Brubacher, U.S. Attorney, District of KS
- **May 23, 2024 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
Mayor of Wichita, Lily Wu
- **June 9, 2024 - Support Law Enforcement "It's A Big Dill"**
Chicken N Pickle

Membership Milestones

Crime Stoppers Chairperson Scott Norlin - 5 years

Welcome Crime Commission's Newest Members

Jill Hattan - Don Hattan Dealerships

Howard Hutchison - Veterans Provider Coalition of Sedgwick County

**WICHITA METRO CRIME COMMISSION, INC
MONTHLY INSIDER BRIEFING
THURSDAY, February 22, 2024
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**



**Kelly Otis, Chief Investigator
Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office**

Our February meeting brings back one of our favorite speakers – Kelly Otis from the DA's Office. Kelly began his career in law enforcement in February 1985 when he was 21. After graduating he was assigned to third watch in north Wichita. Kelly spent 10 years in patrol and was promoted to the rank of Detective assigned to Undercover Narcotics. In 1997 Kelly was transferred to the Homicide Unit. During his tenure in Homicide Kelly was involved in hundreds of violent crime investigations-including the Carr Brothers case, BTK cold case, and Officer Involved Shooting cases.

In 2007 Kelly retired from WPD and moved across the street to the District Attorney's Office. Nola Foulston began hiring law enforcement officers to work on cases from the DA's office. Kelly was the only certified LEO in the office at that time. Now, the office has 8 certified LEO's and 3 civilian investigators working under DA Marc Bennett.

Please contact the office with your confirmation or regrets at 316-267-1235 or email Julie@wichitacrimecommission.org by Tuesday, February 20, 2024, so we can make the necessary luncheon arrangements with the Scotch.

Meal Options

Chicken Medallions in a white wine lemon cream sauce with roasted potatoes and chefs' vegetable.

or

**Salad with a protein
(Scotch & Sirloin chooses the protein)
Please let me know if you would like a salad.**

70TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Thursday, March 7

5:30 P.M.

If you have not already made your reservations for our 70th Annual Awards Dinner, do so by February 22. As always, we have a stellar group of law enforcement professionals and citizens we are honoring for their service to our community.

Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Officer of the Year

Wichita Police Department Officer Jerod Metcalf

William Garvey Citizen Activist of the Year

Dr. William Polite, Jr.

Wichita Public Schools Executive Director of Equity and Accountability

Hero Award

Sponsored by Operation 2 Save Lives (O2SL)

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy Clinton Harris

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy Nathan Kingery

Humanitarian Award

Sponsored in Honor of Thornton E. Anderson

Wichita Police Department Community Service Officer Nicholas P. Bushell

Excellence in Community Engagement Award

Sponsored by VitalCore

Wichita Police Department Officer Chad Ditch

Wichita Police Department Officer Jorge Avendano

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Sponsored by Bob & Donna Aldrich, Jenco, LLC

Detective Adam Van Der Molen – Wichita Police Department

Criminal Justice Professional of the Year Award

Sponsored by Gary Decker, Wealth Alliance Advisory Group, LLC

Chief Attorney Robert R. Short, Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office

12 Apostles of Justice Award

??? – IT'S A SURPRISE. COME AND FIND OUT WHO WE ARE HONORING THIS YEAR

The evening begins with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner and the Awards Ceremony. At the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony we will host our honorees at an Honors Reception so be sure to plan to stay to congratulate this outstanding group of professionals.

Many thanks to our presenting sponsor, Mel Hambelton Ford and all the award sponsors for supporting our Annual Awards Dinner.



HELP! We need wine for the wine pull and items for our "Stock the Bar" auction items. Please bring your donation to the Insider Briefing, to our new office (Suite 415) - we will give you a tour(!), or call Julie or Sharon to pick up. (FYI— wine needs to be valued at \$25 or more for the wine pull.)

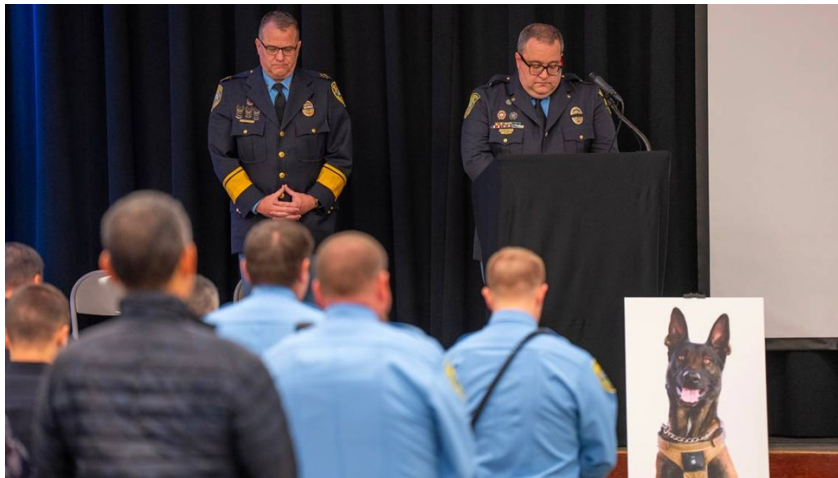
PLACE YOUR BID TODAY!

Want to enjoy a fantastic week in Costa Rica in a 3-bedroom home with your own pool? How about a week at a 5-Star Resort in Mexico? Need a side of beef to feed the family for the year? Would you like to have a private dinner with KBI Director Tony Mattive or Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett?

You'll find all this and more at the WMCC On Line Auction for our Annual Awards Dinner! Go to [onlinefundraiser.events/wmcconlineauction](https://www.wmcc.org/events/wmcconlineauction)

The bidding will also be open the night of the Annual Awards so bring your credit cards and get ready for a good time! Remember, all the net proceeds go to support Crime Commission programs, so it is a great way to have a good time, support law enforcement and help kids all with one winning bid!

HONORING SHERIFF K9 OFFICER BANE



As you will remember, Sedgwick County Sheriff K9 Bane was killed in the line of duty last November when he was sent into a drainage pipe to help apprehend a suspect. The WMCC created a fund in Bane's memory to assist the Sheriff's Office in replacing Bane and support ongoing expenses of the K-9 Unit. At this month's Insider Briefing Sheriff Jeff Easter will accept a check for \$17,000 – all dollars generated by our members and the community at large.

As a result of Bane's death, the Kansas House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Bane's Law: The Police Dog Protection Act.

Under current Kansas law, anyone convicted of harming or killing a police dog faces 30 days to a year in prison plus no more than a \$5,000 fine. The Police Dog Protection Act would triple the minimum amount of time served by setting a 90-day minimum penalty while also enacting a minimum fine of \$10,000 with an option to include restitution parameters.

Additionally, Bane's Law raises the penalty to a Level 3 or 4 nonperson felony. A Level 3 non-person felony charge will occur if the death or disabling happens while the individual is eluding police.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
LISA HAMBELTON, MEL HAMBELTON FORD



Anyone who knows Lisa Hambelton knows that this lady may be small in size but she is HUGE in heart and support for her community.

Starting in the automotive industry from the age of 14 at her father's Volkswagen dealership, Lisa Hambelton has worked with hundreds of people and worn many hats over the years. Throughout her career, she has learned the importance of trusting the people with whom she surrounds herself. Now the owner and dealer principal of Mel Hambelton Ford, Lisa credits much of the store's success to her trusted staff — a team of professionals she truly cares about and stands up for.

"We built the store on the old golden rule of treating people the way you want to be treated. Our slogan is very simple: 'Experience the Difference' and there *is* a difference; we hear that from vendors and from customers when they walk into the store. There is a different vibe that comes from all of us working together."

She's heavily involved in our community as well. Advocating for Harbor House and supporting other women's causes, Lisa also sits on beautification and botanical leadership boards, and champions local schools and children's charities. "As responsible business owners, I feel like we have a duty to give back to our surrounding area."

One of Lisa's passions is supporting Law Enforcement. In addition to being a WMCC Corporate Sponsor, Lisa and her team are again this year the presenting sponsor for the Crime Commission's Annual Awards Dinner. Whether it's providing gifts for golfers, buying raffle tickets, supporting the Fentanyl Awareness program or just quietly helping as needed, Lisa is there!

Thank you Lisa and the Mel Hambelton Ford team for your amazing support and dedication to the Wichita Metro Crime Commission, kids and law enforcement!

Message from the President

Wow! This year has started out in high gear. The WMCC is doing great things due to the generosity of you, the Members, with your time and financial help. We started out with our Law Enforcement Appreciation Day with 42 cakes being delivered. That was a high note! Then the theft of the Jackie Robinson statue at League 42 happened on January 25 and it was all hands on deck!

We have one of the best memberships and board I have ever been associated with. Thank you for this opportunity.

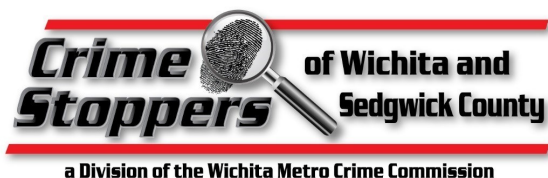
Steve Cohlma

President, Wichita Metro Crime Commission Board of Directors



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC SAFETY

On January 30 over 200 high school students from Wichita Public Schools and surrounding Sedgwick County school districts spent a day learning about careers and opportunities in the public service sector. Done in partnership with USD 259 and Wichita State University, this is the 2nd year for this conference. This conference is an outgrowth of the "Youth Court" conference of the past. Under the guidance of Terri Moses and her amazing staff, this day for students has become an eye-opening experience in not only learning about the large array of jobs in the public sector, but also identifying the career path to these professions.



The Wichita / Sedgwick County Crime Stoppers Committee approved thirteen reward payouts for the month of January totaling \$4,050.

Most notable tip received in January:

The Wichita Police Department Burglary Unit needed assistance with identifying a burglar. The story was run on KAKE Crime Stoppers Crime of the Week. Tipster had very detailed information regarding this suspect including a photo. Information was given to the detectives who were able to connect him to 3 different burglary charges. He was arrested and booked for multiple burglary charges. Detective stated that "This tip lead investigators straight to the suspect. Every detail of the suspect was accurate." Crime Stoppers approved a \$1,000 reward for this tip.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH A COP

One of the activities we've heard members talk about missing is the law enforcement breakfasts that the Crime Commission used to host. So we are putting a new spin on an old idea: Cop Talk.

Thank you to Sheriff Easter and his command staff for kicking off this new opportunity to meet with law enforcement. And many thanks to Jack Davidson and Jimmie's Diner for providing a private room. Whether you want the full "Jimmie's Special" or just coffee and one of their famous cinnamon rolls, here's an opportunity for one-on-one conversation with the SCSO leadership. RSVP soon – space is limited.



COP TALK

Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter & Command Staff
7:00-8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Jimmie's Diner 3111 N. Rock Road

Join Sheriff Easter and his Command Staff for "Coffee and Conversation with a Cop". Here's your opportunity to talk one-on-one with Sedgwick County law enforcement leadership about their challenges and ask how the Wichita Metro Crime Commission can help. Breakfast will be "dutch".

RSVP to sharon@wichitacrimemission.org / 316-207-5732. Seating limited.