

SOAR Seeking Innovators, Organizations to Showcase at Annual Summit

PIKEVILLE, Ky. – Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR) is seeking to showcase innovative work at the 2018 Summit scheduled for August 30-31 at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

This year's showcase will focus heavily on audience interactivity, prioritizing applications that are creative, fun, and engaging. With the extra focus on activity, the summit will expand time for attendees to visit showcase areas, including a special networking session on the afternoon of Thursday, August 30. Additionally, this year's event will have less than 100 spaces available all on the arena floor, making the application process highly competitive.

"The innovation and collaboration happening across Appalachia Kentucky is incredible, and we feel that a highlight of our annual summit is the ability for attendees to see first-hand a glimpse of the incredible work taking place across the region," said Jared Arnett, executive director of SOAR. "We wanted to provide additional time for our attendees to network and spend time learning more about the people, organizations, and ideas showcased at the summit."

Those wishing to showcase must go through an application process at www.thereisafuture.org. SOAR will evaluate applications on criteria such as its alignment to the organization's Regional Blueprint for a 21st Century Appalachia.

"We also want those showcasing to provide an interactive experience for those visiting their area," added Arnett. "Our goal is to demonstrate the people and organizations who are building the 21st Century Appalachia we envision."

Early applications will be given priority consideration and if spaces are still available, the deadline for showcase applications is August 1st. For more information, visit www.thereisafuture.org/summit18 or contact Kevin Loux, Director of Strategic Partnerships at kevin@soar-ky.org.

Speaker Pro Tempore David Osborne Files Tax Exemption Bill on Admission Ticket Purchases

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 16, 2018) – On Friday, Speaker Pro Tempore David Osborne, R-Prospect, prefiled a bill that would maintain a tax exemption on the purchase of admission tickets sponsored by any non-profit, charitable or religious organization.

The bill seeks to address a section of the landmark tax reform legislation that passed during the 2018 Regular Session. The tax reform package, also known as HB 366, moved Kentucky from 33rd to 18th place on the Tax Foundation's State Business Tax Climate Index, placed Kentucky as 10th lowest in the nation in personal income tax rates and also reduced the income tax burden for most Kentuckians, allowing them to keep more money in their pockets to spend however they wish.

"There was clearly never any intent for a tax on these types of purchases, but unfortunately the Department of Revenue has interpreted HB 366 differently," Osborne said. "What this bill does is clarify a portion of the law so that admission to events sponsored by these organizations are not taxed in the future. We will continue to evaluate other concerns and misinterpretations and make sure the bill is being interpreted as the legislature intended."

The tax exemption would also be extended to property taxes on properties owned by public charities. Rep. Jim DeCesare, R-Bowling Green, filed a similar measure during the 2018 legislative session. In March, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled that the charitable exemption from taxes found in the Kentucky Constitution applied only to property taxes.

"Charities, which have a clear mission to help and improve communities, should not be taxed," Rep. DeCesare said. "The way the courts and revenue department have interpreted the current language in the past have said elderly and disabled people living in non-profit living communities, such as assisted living facilities, retirement communities, church homes, places like Home of the Innocence, Cedar Lake Lodge, Wendell Foster and others are not subject to property tax. Without this clarifying language, the residents of the facilities will be hit with property tax bills they have not planned for or can afford. This would be devastating to these groups of individuals who are either living on a fixed income or have minimal or no income."

Depot Welcomes New Commander with Symbolic Traditional Army Ceremony

RICHMOND, Ky. – Blue Grass Army Depot today welcomed new Commander, Colonel Joseph R. Kurz, in a time-honored military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding officer to another, ensuring the unit is never without official leadership.

Leading the symbolic "Passing of the Colors" ceremony was Colonel Michelle M.T. Letcher, Commander of the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command (JM&L LCMC) colocated at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, and Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. She also serves as the Commander of the Joint Munitions Command (JMC) also located at Rock Island Arsenal. JMC is the Depot's immediate higher headquarters.

During the ceremony, the unit's "Colors" (flag) are passed from the outgoing Commander to the Commander of the organization's higher headquarters, who then passes the colors to the incoming Commander. At this symbolic moment, the new Commander accepts responsibility for the mission accomplishment and welfare of the personnel assigned to the organization.

"It is a tremendous opportunity and honor to serve as the Blue Grass Army Depot Commander," says Kurz. "There is no other place I would rather serve than here at the Depot and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with the citizens and community leaders of Madison County and Richmond."

Kurz, a native of Florida, served in the middle east during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition to B.A. and M.S. degrees in Public Administration and Logistics Management, respectively, he holds a Master of Military Art and Science (M.M.A.S) degree in Advanced Military Studies from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, plus a second M.S. degree in National Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School for National Security.

Kentucky State Police Honors Troopers and Officers At Awards Ceremony In Lexington

KSP announces top Trooper, Detective, CVE Officer and other awards



Kentucky State Police Award winners included (left to right) CVE Officer Erik Stallworth (Jason Cammack Officer of the Year), Det. Elisha Morris (Detective of the Year), Jeffery Steward (Arson Investigator of the Year), Trooper First Class Scottie Pennington (Trooper of the Year), Officer Trenton Miller (Facilities Security Officer of the Year) and Master Trooper Corey King (Public Affairs Officer of the Year).

LEXINGTON, Ky. (July 16, 2018) – Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton joined Justice Secretary John Tilley and Kentucky State Police Commissioner Richard Sanders in recognizing 66 KSP troopers, eight Commercial Vehicle Enforcement officers and 14 civilians for acts of bravery, life-saving, professionalism and dedication to duty at a ceremony held in Lexington on July 13.

"You are the embodiment of what law enforcement does," Hampton told those being recognized. "You stand between us and chaos. You protect those you don't even know and you do it without asking. God bless you and your families and I pray that your end of watch comes on a day and time of your choosing."

"Kentucky is blessed to have so many selfless, courageous professionals among the ranks of KSP," said Secretary Tilley. "These award recipients have shown incredible strength and commitment to the safety of others – often at great personal risk – and we are honored to have them serve our commonwealth."

KSP Commissioner Rick Sanders echoed the praise and said he is never surprised by the way the agency "answers the call."

"The bell never rings without our men and women rising to the occasion," he said. "I thank every member of the Kentucky State Police for their service and I thank their family members for allowing them to keep our commonwealth safe."

Trooper First Class Scottie Pennington, a Berea, Ky. resident, was named 2017 Trooper of the Year. A 15-and-a-half-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police, he is assigned to KSP Post 11 in London. He is the son of Linda Murphy of Berea and Jerry Pennington of McKee.

Detective Elisha Morris, a Georgetown, Ky. resident, was named 2017 Detective of the Year. A 14-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police, he is assigned to the agency's Drug Enforcement & Special Investigations Branch.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer Erik K. Stallworth, a Mt. Vernon, Ky. resident, was named the 2017 Jason Cammack Officer of the Year for the KSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Troop. A six-year CVE veteran, Stallworth is assigned to CVE Region 5 based in Morehead, Ky. He is the son of Frank and Marlene Stallworth of Mt. Vernon.

Master Trooper Corey King, a Utica, Ky. resident, was named 2017 Public Affairs Officer of the Year. An 18-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police, he is assigned to KSP Post 16 in Henderson. He is the son of Gary and Marilyn King of Fancy Farm.

Jeffery Scott Steward, an Owensboro, Ky. resident, was named 2017 Arson Investigator of the Year. A four-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police, he is assigned to KSP Post 2 in Madisonville. He is the son of the late Gary Steward of Morganfield and Phyllis Warren of Bowling Green.

Officer Trenton Miller, a resident of Lawrenceburg, Ky., was named 2017 Facilities Security Officer of the Year. A seven-year veteran of the agency, he is the son of Allen and Shauna Miller of Elizabethtown.

Ten troopers were awarded the KSP Citation for Bravery, an honor bestowed on officers of the agency who perform acts of bravery, without regard for personal risk despite clear and obvious peril, and clearly above and beyond the call or risk of ordinary duty.

Twelve troopers received the Lifesaving Medal, awarded to officers who perform life-saving acts under extraordinary circumstances.

Two troopers were awarded the Citation for Meritorious Service with "V" Device for Valor, bestowed on officers of the agency who distinguish themselves by an act of courage performed under more than ordinary circumstances.

Two troopers received the Guthrie Crowe Award, which is named for the first commissioner of the Kentucky State Police and bestowed upon officers of the agency who sustain a severe wound or injury while in the performance of duty.

Twenty troopers were named Detective of the Year at the post, branch or division level.

Eighteen troopers were named Trooper of the Year at the post, branch or division level.

Six Commercial Vehicle Enforcement officers were named Officer of the Year at the regional level.

One trooper received a Commissioner's Commendation, which is bestowed upon agency officers for an act of gallantry, meritorious achievement or exemplary service of such distinction as to have brought great credit upon the officer and the agency.

Fourteen individuals received the KSP Citation for Meritorious Achievement, the agency's highest civilian award bestowed upon those who performed an extraordinary act of service or heroism in direct support of an officer of the agency engaged in the official performance of duty.