



STRENGTH Through UNITY

TEXAS LOCKSMITH ADVISOR

Serving Texas Professional Locksmiths Since 1964

APRIL 2008

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E-Mail Address Update

Please **E-Mail** your **NAME**, **FIRM** name and **TLA NO.** to:
editor@texaslocksmiths.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The **TLA** Advisor is exclusively published for **PAID MEMBERS**.
Please be advised that **THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST COPY**.
We sincerely appeal to everyone who have not paid, to re-affiliate with **TLA**.
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President's Message

APRIL, 2008

It's time for a new newsletter already. Time has been flying since the convention. I have so much on my plate. Life is good!

We will have a board meeting in Dallas on Saturday, April 26th. If you want to attend, the meeting is at the Southfork Hotel, 1600 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074, 972-578-8555, or call me at 1-877-TLA-INFO, e-mail to president@texaslocksmiths.org.

The 2009 convention is set. March 18th through the 22nd, 2009 and will be at the Hilton San Antonio Airport. We are having classes on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, so a lot of our members can do a weekend package and not have to miss a day of work. This will be Spring Break, so bring the family. We will have some family oriented activities and the 1st Annual TLA Golf Tournament. Be there!

We are planning road shows in East Texas (Shreveport) in May or July, The Valley. on August 16th, Beaumont in May, El Paso at NMLA on September 19th through the 21st, and Lubbock in November. Let us know what you want.

We are planning to give out some scholarships to the convention next year to some needy locksmiths. Information to follow.

ALOA is coming to Dallas June 15th to the 22nd, less than 3 months away. Plan to be there, even if you are not a member. This is an opportunity to learn about new products and meet locksmiths from all over the world. It seems I find something at every convention that makes me money.

We had a meeting with Jim Warren, who has been our lobbyist the last 10 years or so. We need to continue our relationship with him. We need representation at the State level. Unfortunately there are other trades that want to see us out of business and this won't change. There are those out there who are not trained, proficient, and dishonest. They want your business also. Ultimately we must protect our profession and the public. If we don't continue our efforts, the big loser will end up being the public who are ripped off and left unprotected.

Be prepared to see a dues increase next year. I am proud of how much TLA does with so little, but we have to have enough money coming in from actual members so we do not become a association of special interests.

See you shortly at the ALOA Convention!

John Arnold, President

Education



TLA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BEAUMONT, TX - June 7, 2008

Wesley United Methodist Church
3810 N Major Dr
Beaumont, TX 77713

ELECTRONIC SAFE LOCK SERVICING

C.D. Lipscomb, Instructor

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPONDERS

Jim Hetchler, Instructor

ETHICS CLASS (following classes)

C.D. Lipscomb, Instructor

SPONSORED BY: TLA and IDN-ACME
(IDN-ACME will have a exhibit for attendee's)

After the ethics class everyone will meet at a restaurant (to be announced) for a banquet where a presentation will be provided by IDN-Acme.

PENDING ROAD CLASSES / SHOWS

(watch for announcements)

WEST TEXAS: NMLA Convention, El Paso, TX. Sept. 19, 20 & 21. Rick Milliorn, TLA's 2nd Vice President will be assisting in the Educational Program.

LUBBOCK: Tentatively planned for November, 2008.

EAST TEXAS: Tentatively planned (Shreveport) for late summer, 2008.

THE VALLEY: Tentatively planned for late fall, 2008



ALOA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Closed Circuit TV Design & Installation Course
Instructor: Adam Black, CRL

This class covers a range of CCTV equipment and installation techniques including types of cameras, types of lenses, calculating light requirements, uses for each, mounts and housings, wire and cable, connectors, monitors, Digital

Education

Video Recorders(DVR) and system design.

The second day of the class includes a hands-on installation of a multi-camera and monitoring CCTV system including DVR, remote monitoring and integrating into a networked access control system.

Upon completion of the class students will have a basic understanding of how a CCTV system functions, what products to select, how to strip wires, attach connectors, install cameras on mounts, hook cameras to a monitor and a DVR Course Dates

April 25 & 26, 2008

(Class Hours are 8am - 5pm each day)

Class Location:

ALOA Training Center

3500 Easy Street

Dallas, TX 75247

P-800-532-2562 x104 F-214-819-9429

Email-education@aloea.org - www.aloea.org.



TLA's Exhibit

At The ALOA Show

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO HELP OUT!

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET LOCKSMITHS WORLDWIDE

Please Contact Any Board Member

to offer an hour or two.

See Page 2 For Names

STATE OF TEXAS



Texas
Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media
Public Information Office
(512) 424-2080

**Here is the link to the most recent 1702
license law**

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb/docs/OccChpt1702.pdf>

Specifically search for section 1702.1056 which defines Locksmith

DPS LEGAL

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

Michael Kelley, Legislative Liaison

PRIVATE SECURITY BUREAU - INVESTIGATIVE OFFICES

For Criminal History and Licensing inquiries, please contact:
Private Security Bureau Headquarters
(512) 424-7710

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb/docs/psb_fld_invest_ofcs.pdf

Sunset Commission Meeting Dates for DPS

FYI regarding the dates for which the Sunset Advisory Commission has set to hear issues about the Department of Public Safety (24-25 June) and then to make its recommendations on potential changes to the agency's statutes (23-24 September). These recommendations will then be presented to the 81st Texas Legislature when it meets in regular session beginning in January 2009.

Legislative Changes to Protect the Locksmith Industry

The following was submitted to Judy Clifford, Lake Jackson, TX., by Mr. T.F. Stern, T.F. Stern & Co., Locksmiths. Mr. Stern has an appointment with Representative Debbie Riddle regarding locksmith legislation which affects every Locksmith. It is interesting enough to be published in our TLA Advisor.

Having been burdened by the State of Texas with mandatory licensing of the locksmith industry, something which was inevitable due to the climate of our times, I am suggesting safeguards be put in place by the legislature to limit the damaging effects which have grown in proportion with rules and regulations enacted by the Department of Public Safety's Private Security Bureau (DPS/PSB). The DPS/PSB has taken it upon itself to encumber licensed locksmiths with needless and expensive rules and regulations which serve only to remind us that

Legal - License - Law

at one time we lived in a free country; but now we are servants to a master, the DPS/PSB.

There needs to be a piece of legislation put in place which stipulates and limits the DPS/PSB's power to interfere with already licensed locksmiths. This legislation should be worded in such a way as to make locksmith licenses permanent from the day of issue with a nominal yearly renewal fee and with only limited revocation or suspension powers given to the DPS/PSB; criminal use of locksmith skills being about the only item which comes to mind, and then only upon conviction in a criminal court of law. This would satisfy an American philosophy which stipulates the presumption of innocence until proven guilty; something which may have been misplaced somewhere.

Making locksmith licenses permanent would simplify the workings of the DPS/PSB, who are severely limited in their ability to keep up with paperwork as I have previously documented. Instead of having to waste precious time on paperwork associated with locksmiths who have already proven to meet the original requirements and who have already obtained a locksmith license, the DPS/PSB would be given the opportunity to search out and investigate complaints regarding the "real bad guys", those who are scamming the public under the guise and title of locksmith.

The State of Texas should not be permitted to tax locksmiths, or any other business enterprise, on the basis of presumed ability to create wealth due to specialized knowledge or skills. Locksmiths are required to obtain a license which involves an expense of approximately \$500 which includes background checks, finger printing files and other office related expenses. I am not challenging the original charge, at least not at this time. I am; however, challenging the routine yearly renewal expense to keep that original locksmith license active. There is nothing which can justify stealing that same \$500 from the operating expense budget of any locksmith business, it therefore is confiscatory in nature and likely unconstitutional in nature. The DPS/PSB has imposed mandatory continuing education upon the locksmith industry and while it may sound as if the State of Texas is doing everything which is reasonable to protect the public, the facts are quite to the contrary. Locksmiths are having to spend time and money on redundant courses of study, often times these courses have little if anything to do with improving the locksmith industry in order to make it safer for an unsuspecting public. The DPS/PSB has forgotten the original purpose for which locksmith licensing was established, to protect the public from unscrupulous characters who claim to be locksmiths. Once the original purpose was achieved; however, the DPS/PSB let their newly found power corrupt their objective into jerking the strings of puppets under their jurisdiction, licensed locksmiths.

Given the fact that locksmiths will remain licensed and the State of Texas will never give up a source of revenue, regardless of the fact that such confiscatory measures are nothing but governmentally authorized robbery; there is no ex-

Legal – License – Law

cuse to provide the DPS/PSB with authority to interfere with an already licensed locksmith by mandating any kind of continuing education.

Reduce the yearly renewal fee for a locksmith license to a figure which would more accurately reflect the office expense required to keep such files active. I submit that such an arbitrary amount would be \$25. This will be a starting point so that in future legislative sessions the new batch of duly elected thieves can have something to build on.

Remove any and all intrusive rules and regulations which grant the DPS/PSB powers to revoke or suspend a locksmith license short of criminal conviction, and then only for criminal activity which would naturally be associated with misuse of locksmith skills and or knowledge. Remove the requirement of liability insurance as part of the locksmith license. This should be looked upon as a responsibility desired by individuals involved in commerce, no different than keeping a service vehicle maintained in safe working condition; however the State should avoid interfering with the free market system. Most of the businesses which I conduct business require my being insured; this I can accept, the State has no vested interest in my being able to cover my liabilities and should not hinge my ability to obtain or retain a locksmith license.

This represents a starting point to correct some of the misguided approaches which the DPS/PSB has inflicted upon the locksmith industry. I look forward to removing their fangs and restoring the locksmith industry to the free market system which at one time operated in Texas.



ALOA – NEW & PENDING LEGAL NEWS

MORE GOOD NEWS HR 3179

Local Preparedness Acquisition Act

ALOA was successful last Thursday in getting the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee to postpone the markup of HR 3179. A tentative date has been rescheduled for April 9th. This will allow the Senate committee time to weigh the merits of our concerns.

HR 3179, the Local Preparedness Acquisition Act, would permit state and local governments, including cities, towns, schools, counties and other municipalities to purchase a wide variety of security, access control, door locking devices, intrusion detection and video surveillance equipment along with a host of other products and services directly from the Federal GSA at pre-ne

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214-819-9733 x203
tim@aloa.org

gotiated prices. HR 3179 would permit municipalities to "go direct" to the manufacturers for favorable pricing on equipment at pre-negotiated prices. HR 3179 would permit municipalities to "go direct" to the manufacturers for favorable pricing on equipment at the expense of distributors. The bill openly advocates that the bill "...will allow state and local governments to purchase homeland security and public safety goods and services, under streamlined acquisition procedures using pre-negotiated, favorable pricing."

Phony Locksmiths

If you or your customers encounter a phony locksmith, please file a complaint through your state's Attorney General office. The AG's are aware of this problem, but require consumer complaints in order to pursue the matter.

ALOA has set up a webpage to file those complaints at: <http://www.aloa.org/AGMap/AG.htm>.

ALOA has been working with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to alert consumers about "phony locksmiths" plaguing the nation. A new FTC alert entitled "The Keys to Hiring a Reputable Locksmith" has been posted to the following pages on the FTC website:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/shop/rights.shtm> and <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/autos/maintain.shtm> (you will have to scroll down the page to see the link).

Please note that because this is coming from the FTC, they are not allowed to promote any organization other than their own (which is why ALOA is not mentioned).

We will be meeting with the FTC at the end of April to see if we can find a Federal solution to this problem. We will also make a presentation in Washington DC to the National Association of Attorneys General Consumer Protection Division which represents all states' law-enforcement arm against consumer fraud.

Please pass this along to your local news agencies. Should they have further questions, please refer them to the ALOA website on phony locksmiths at <http://www.aloa.org/pressroom.html>

Thank you for all you do for the industry!

KEEPING UP TO DATE

**This Is The 21st CENTURY - It is a must
FOR TEXAS LOCKSMITHS
to AFFILIATE THEMSELVES with both
ALOA - & - LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**New Applications For
Membership**

The following persons have applied for membership in the Texas Locksmiths Association. Applicants will be listed in the Advisor for a period of 30 days to allow members the opportunity to identify any applicant that may be deemed "not suitable" for membership and allow proper notification of the Membership Chairman David Candelaria, 1-469-569-5625 or email membership@texaslocksmiths.org of such applicant.

Due to the recent bylaw change requiring posing for 30 days, all previous applicants have been published and were approved by the Board.

Harold Douget	Jodella L. Gallagher	Ellen McEwen
Larry E. Sherbourne	Brandon E. Stone	Christina C. Whitney
Noel B. Norwood	Joan L. Bosart	Robert Stafford
Anthony D. Large	Justin W. Snider	Cliff Wilkins
David W. Nolen	Brian K. Ivy	Mark O. Rushing
Michael A. Zapata	Donald M. Rhodes	William M. Rushing
Aaron S. Cooper	Kenneth L. Jennings	Ricky L. Smith
Joyce G. Jean	Zachariah Earle	Paul T. Ludwig
Jim M. Holzberlein	Jonathan T. Fuller	Douglas K. Janke
Greta C. Holzberlein	Joseph C. Fuller	

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE FUND

The Texas Locksmiths Association monitors legislation, licensing, and regulation to look after the interests of locksmiths in Texas. A portion of the membership dues helps maintain this program, but additional contributions are needed. Those wishing to support this effort with a donation or donate items for auction, please contact a member of the board or call 1-877-TLA-INFO.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Don't forget that you are required to have a total of eight hours of continuing education credits for your renewal of license. One hour must be an approved ethics class. Several organizations are offering classes. Check with You' local associations, TLA, and national associations for class information.

TEXAS LICENSE VERIFICATION

If you are curious as to whether an individual or Company is licensed through the Department of Public Safety, it is simple to research on the DPS Web site. To do so, just follow these steps:

1. Go to the Texas DPS Private Security Board Web Page at <http://www.tcps.state.tx.us>
2. On the Bottom Left, Select Search Individual or Search Company.
3. Enter Known Information
4. Press Enter, or Select Search

**Texas Legislative Fund
Continuing Education
Texas License Verification**

RECESSION ?????

Many of our members know me or of me and some personally. True, I have been around the industry for many many years, and some say,

SINCE THE EARTH COOLED

Sorry to disappoint those who think that way, I can't possibly be that old!!! But I can relate a little history to our members to settle their fears about this possible recession.

I can remember back to 1947 when strikes loomed, uncertainty was all around us, and Locksmiths grew.

I also remember the 1953/54 recession and all those that followed it. The 1958 was the only one that our family business didn't grow. And that one wasn't our fault for a competitor paid off a Red Book salesperson to ensure that our ad would not be prevalent in the Yellow Pages. (we sued and won) I remember vividly that during the "Great Depression," my father told me that was their best years, that the business skyrocketed, and employment in the family firm quadrupled if not more.

(For those who have not read the story, go to my Web Site, www.simon-says.net and see it all.) **

Why - just sit back and think about it. Just to name a few reasons, people could not afford to buy new, it had to be repaired. People were frightened of their possessions and added more physical security all around them.

Locksmiths should not sit around mope and worry. Be prepared to help your fellow man/woman, and if you have to bend a little on your price because of their circumstances, do it. Good people will remember that when times get better.

Laurence (Laurie) Simon, RL
TLA Editor

** Membership to my Web Site is specially priced at \$ 15.00 for **PAID MEMBERS of TLA**. As an additional incentive for **TLA MEMBERS**, any member who brings in a **NEW** member, the Web Site will be **FREE** for both the Member and the **NEW** member for a full year. There is and will be over 120 years of Locks, Keys and Hardware information available to **PAID MEMBERS**.

www.simon-says.net

**Associate Member
of the Month**



Security General International (SGI) is a regional distribution company specializing in security and life safety product. As a part of our core business, we carry several lines that may assist you in your business - IEI, Securitron, Rutherford Controls, Rofu and HES Innovations – just to name a few.

We began as Texas Systems Supply (TSS) in January 1984 in San Antonio, Texas. Although our longtime business partners still know us as TSS, our growth prompted a name change to Security General Int'l, Ltd (SGI). We excitedly report that due to our experienced team and loyal customers, we continue to grow today and now have 13 branches covering Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

Whether you are looking for a new supplier or interested in expanding the scope of your business to include electronic security, we at SGI are here to assist you.

Please call us at 1-800-292-5390 for more information. Kristen Houseton
kristen.houseton@securitygeneral.com

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WANT ADS

TLA Paid Members may advertise merchandise, tools and equipment FOR SALE. Sorry, NO "HELP WANTED" ads accepted. Please contact the editor before the end of each month.
editor@texaslocksmiths.org

MISSING PERSONS

If any members knows the whereabouts of Bill Winfrey, please e-mail valleau@suddenlink.net

E-Mail Updates Needed

Please E-Mail your **NAME, FIRM NAME** and **TLA NO.** to:
editor@texaslocksmiths.org

To Receive Important and Newsworthy Information Immediately!

Associations

GOOD WILL & WELFARE

Each month we would like to share both good and sad information with our membership. They included Birthdays, Anniversary's, Birth Marriage Announcements, Illness and Passings etc.

Please send this information to editor@texaslocksmiths.org before the end of each month.

SW AREA ASSOCIATIONS



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LOCKSMITHS
OF AMERICA**

www.aloa.org



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**SOUTHWEST INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
EXPO**

April 23 - 26, 2009

San Antonio, TX

WATCH FOR EXCITING DETAILS