

**POST COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008, 3:00 PM  
WLEA DOUGLAS, WY**

A P.O.S.T. Commission meeting was held in Douglas, WY on Thursday, April 10, 2008, Burce Salzburg, Attorney General, called the meeting to order.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Burce Salzburg, Attorney General  
Mike Dayton, At large member  
John Love, Chief, Green River  
Police Dept.  
Lori Emmert, Chief, Douglas  
Police Dept.  
Jerry Colson, Carbon County  
Sheriff  
Cary Berry-Smith, At large  
member  
Sam Powell, Colonel, Wyoming  
Highway Patrol

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Betty Haukap, P.O.S.T. Director  
Trish Newberry, P.O.S.T.  
Executive Assistant

Ken Nelson, Attorney, Attorney General's Office

**GUESTS**

Pete Norris, WY DOC  
Brian Brooks, WLEA  
Rich Haskell, Sheriff, Sweetwater County  
Mike Thompson, Casper Public Safety  
Tom Pagel, Chief, Casper Police Dept  
Jeff Hosking, Central Wyoming College  
Larry Curtis, EWC  
Bob Lambert, WY DOC  
Byron Oedekoven, WASC  
Mark Stone, Riverton Police Dept.  
Bill Westerfield, WY State Parks  
Paul Smith, WLEA  
Chuck Bayne, WLEA  
Wayne Mower, WLEA  
Dave Harris, Director, WLEA  
Lou Napoli, Uinta County Sheriff

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Attorney General Bruce Salzburg asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Dayton made a motion to approve the September 6, 2007, October 1, 2007, and December 17, 2007, P.O.S.T. Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Emmert seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**First ladies initiative on underage drinking**

Because Mr. Rookstool was not present, this item was not discussed.

**P.O.S.T. Rules and Regulations**

Director Haukap mentioned that the new P.O.S.T. rule changes went into effect on January 17, 2008, and include hiring standards for dispatchers and a decertification process for dispatchers. All dispatchers hired after January 17, 2008, must meet those hiring standards. Decertification questions must be answered for all dispatchers

leaving employment after Jan 17, 2008. The rule changes also include a process for certifying correctional officers as detention officers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Settlement agreements #07-002 and 07-013 were moved to the last item on the agenda.

### **WLEA DOB & POB mini-basic curriculums**

Brian Brooks presented recommended changes to 2008 and 2009 POB and DOB mini basics to follow along with the approved changes to the full PO and DO basic curriculums. He explained that the PO mini-basic course would be 146 hours and the DO mini-basic would remain at 79 hours. Commissioner Berry-Smith made a motion to approve the changes to the POB and DOB mini basics, Commissioner Dayton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **DOC Correctional Officer Basic Curriculums**

Pete Norris presented recommended changes to the DOC basic academy curriculum. He asked the POST Commission to approve increasing the DOC basic course curriculum from 280 hours to 360 hour which would begin with their July, 2008 basic academy and continue through 2009. This proposal would take the current program from 7 weeks to 9 weeks of training. He also asked the Commission to approve the DOC mini-basic academy for 102 hours. The proposed changes to the mini basic would add 3 days to the Mini basic academy.

Commissioner Dayton made a motion to approve the proposed 360 hour DOC basic course curriculum as presented. Commissioner Colson seconded the motion. All were in favor. After some discussion, Commissioner Dayton amended his motion to include the approval of the 102 hour DOC mini basic curriculum as presented. Commissioner Colson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Sweetwater County Detention Officer Basic**

Sheriff Rich Haskell asked the Commission to approve a detention basic course curriculum that would be conducted by the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office (SWCSO). They would like to begin this academy in June, 2008 and have it run consecutive weeks due to availability of dorms at the college to house the students. The proposal is for a 370.5 hour curriculum which was based on the most recent DOB curriculum that is posted on the Natrona County Sheriff's Office website. He addressed the need for 15 to 18 additional officers at Sweetwater County SO and other agencies in the southwest corner of Wyoming. The course would be opened up to other agencies and all instructors would be WLEA trained and P.O.S.T. certified. Sheriff Haskell stated that his agency would be picking up the costs of the training and that the other agencies that send officers through this academy would be picking up the cost of the housing.

Director Betty Haukap noted that P.O.S.T. does not recognize half hour increments and that the finalized proposal of the DOB academy would have to be either 370 hours or 371 hours.

Commissioner Dayton moved to approve the SWCSO detention officer basic academy curriculum as presented with the exception of the half hour correction. Commissioner Love seconded the motion. Chairman Salzburg emphasized the importance of statutory timelines that must be complied with for

certification, that the commission does everything possible to allow agencies to comply with the statutes, and that the alternative is not acceptable. Mr. Harris stated that in the past three years WLEA has had one alternate applicant. Dave Harris also mentioned that if DOB alternates are turned away from a current DOB, that they are placed first in line for the next basic. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioner Berry-Smith who voted, no. The motion was approved and carried.

Chairman Salzburg asked Mr. Oedekoven to research the concerns that were addressed during this discussion.

#### Casper Public Safety Dispatcher Basic

Mike Thompson of Casper Police Department asked the Commission to approve the curriculum for a 2009 dispatcher basic training academy that would be conducted by the Casper Public Safety Department. The curriculum would imitate the WLEA communications basic course and require additional training hours for a total of 280.5. Chief Pagel stated that he is willing to have POST administer any student exams that may be required.

Commissioner Emmert made a motion to table the Casper Public Safety Department's request to certify a dispatcher basic course until September, 2008. Commissioner Berry-Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### Casper Police Department POB

Chief Pagel asked the Commission to approve a peace officer basic training academy to be conducted by the Casper Police Department with an anticipated starting date of August 4, 2008. Mike Thompson, a 28 year veteran and graduate of the FBI National Academy has been put in charge of the project. The academy will imitate the 520 hour curriculum that is currently in place at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and additional hours will be incorporated. All the instructors will be POST certified and Casper PD will be working very close with the WLEA and the Cheyenne Police Department to ensure consistency.

Commissioner Emmert made a motion to approve the Casper Police Department's peace officer basic academy curriculum as presented. Commissioner Dayton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### Central Wyoming College pre-service POST Academy

Jeff Hosking asked the Commission to consider certifying a peace officer basic training course that would be conducted by the Central Wyoming Community College, using POST certified instructors, and would include a 2 year degree program and a summer skills program. The skills program may be able to work in partnership with the WLEA or the Riverton Police Department to provide the training. The financial responsibility would be placed on the student and the student would have scholarship opportunities.

Mr. Harris stated that there is an articulation committee that has been formed. The committee is made up of representatives from the criminal justice departments of the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming community colleges, Director Haukap, and himself. It is a way to get the instructors together to discuss law enforcement training issues related to their programs, students, the classes, tuition, and continuity issues.

Chairman Salzburg suggested using the articulation group as a way of getting everybody together with one concept before bringing anything to the POST Commission.

#### Criminal Justice Training & Education Programs

Mr. Curtis was included in the discussion during Central Wyoming Community College's presentation.

#### Physical Fitness Standards required by WLEA

This item has been removed from the agenda as requested.

#### Decertifications #07-002 and 07-013

Commissioner Love made a motion to accept the ratification and confirm the notice of decertification of Wyoming Peace Officers certification of Todd Hoover, docket #07-002 and to accept the settlement agreement from Kelly D. Cooper, docket #07-013, who voluntarily surrendered her Wyoming POST certification. Commissioner Dayton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### Director's Report

Director Haukap reported that POST currently certifies 1,853 peace officers, 823 detention officers, 422 dispatchers, 381 correctional officers, and 127 coroners and deputy coroners. Of those 419 are dual certified and 137 are with more than one agency. Since January, 2008, 55 have taken challenge exams, 29 peace officers, 5 detention officers, 4 dispatchers and 17 correctional officers. All passed with the exception of 1 who failed the exam twice and is scheduled to attend the next peace officer basic course.

In 2007, 46 promotional exams were administered. The demand for that service has dropped dramatically and there have been no requests for the promotional exam to date in 2008. In 2007, 399 entry level exams were administered (285 passed and 114 failed; a 71.43% passage rate). So far in 2008 there have been 93 entry level exams administered (66 passed and 27 failed; a 70.97% passage rate).

A total of 309,622 hours of training were added to the training files in 2007. So far in 2008, 70,758 hours of training have been added.

POST received 12 applications for retired peace officer identification cards in 2007 and 2 in 2008.

In 2007, 13 decertification cases were opened, 3 were decertified, 6 closed with no further action, 1 has been suspended and stayed until May 29, 2009, and 3 cases are still pending. So far in 2008, 6 cases have been opened and awaiting action. This Commission will hear 4 cases during the decertification hearings that are scheduled on May 22, 2008, at 2515 Warren Ave, Ste 300, in Cheyenne.

Director Haukap reported accepting an invitation from Bill Westerfield to meet at his office to inspect park service peace officer files. He assured her that no employee would be hired to work as

a peace officer until a temporary peace officer certification has been issued by POST and received by his office.

Other Business

Chairman Salzburg stated that in order to address the issue of approving basics, that the commission should create a policy rather than a rule. He stated he felt the Commission's task is to make sure all peace officers are properly trained and qualified.

Commissioner Dayton made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Emmert seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Trish Newberry  
Executive Assistant  
POST