



BADGE & GUN

Texas' Largest Police Union

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This Christmas season Central Supply's Kid's Motorcycle Raffle will benefit Blue Santa for the first time. Officer David Mireles, Blue Santa himself, was recently approached by Central Supply, 1410 Washington Ave., and asked if donating this year's raffle proceeds to HPD's special program would be a good idea. With a big smile, Mireles said, "It's an OUTSTANDING IDEA! They brought it to my attention and I let them run with it. That's what they want to do from here on." Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and available at Central. The drawing for the battery-operated motorcycle will take place on Dec. 22. You do not have to be present to win. Blue Santa (Mireles) will be present for pictures if officers want to bring the kids.

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The President's Message



Ray Hunt

Read These Words: HPOU Does Not Negotiate Pension Benefits

An anonymous website recently sent me questions to answer regarding a number of issues including DROP for younger officers. The website listed half truths and some outright lies.

We have been advised that the website was started and is being funded by two former members of the HPOU. I have not and will not respond directly to the site's questions.

I will, however, respond to any member's questions or concerns. I remain available by phone, email or in person at the HPOU building on State Street. We also have our general membership meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. and always open the floor up for any questions.

We have argued for years that IAD should not be accepting complaints from anonymous sources. The same persons involved in this site probably despise the anonymous complaints as well, but choose to remain anonymous for their "cause".

The primary complaint on this site concerns DROP. One of the questions sent to me directly addressed DROP, the specific question being, "Will HPOU negotiate on behalf of officers to regain DROP?"

This is the same question we are asked each time we address cadets at the academy. While it's completely reasonable for a cadet to ask this question, it still shocks me that some officers think the HPOU had anything to do with losing DROP.

I know of no HPOU board member who thinks officers hired after Oct. 9, 2004 should not have DROP. Our 2nd vice president and other board members were hired after that date. The HPOU, however, is prohibited from negotiating pension issues. Pension issues are negotiated solely by the Houston Police Officers' Pension System (HPOPS) trustees and City of Houston under a separate Meet and Confer contract.

Continues on Page 5A

Andrea Schmauss, one great volunteer for Houston police officers, has taken leads to build morale and support needed programs in a MADD way with her graduation from four citizens' police academies

By TOM KENNEDY

It could be a safe bet that if HPD officers had a fan club, Andrea Schmauss would be the president.

Let's see her ID.

Schmauss, a Buffalo, New York native, came to Houston in 1975 and has worked as an administrator at the Nations Law Firm for 24 years. The firm's founder, Howard L. Nations made a connection that positively affected Andrea's life.

Fantastic Volunteer

A prominent supporter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Nations introduced Andrea to Linda Kitazaki, long-time executive director of MADD in Houston. The introduction resulted in Andrea's tireless work as a volunteer since 2006.

She has won recognition for volunteerism from Mayor Annise Parker, the Houston Young Lawyers Association, Crime Stoppers and as the "volunteer with unwavering support to the mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving."



Andrea Schmauss is pictured with the following, left to right: Officer Treva Mott, Officer Stephanie Watson-Owens, Officer Debra Allee, Andrea Schmauss, Officer James Byrd and Officer Otis Latin. GARY HICKS PHOTO.

In addition, this worthy volunteer holds the distinction of being an alumna of four law enforcement citizens' academy alumni associations — including the one sponsored by the Houston Police Department.

The bulk of Andrea's volunteer work has been — and continues to be — in support of Houston area law enforcement, especially the officers in the Houston Police Department.

"Andrea is a person with a heart of gold who has a true passion for what a law enforcement officer does," HPOU 1st Vice President Doug Griffith said. "She works tirelessly with MADD and the Citizens

Police Academy to make sure officers stay safe and work toward the mission of law enforcement.

"Every time there's a No-Refusal weekend she's there, meeting with officers and doing everything she can to help them do their jobs. She's a great volunteer for HPD and each of its officers. We love her."



Two other great MADD volunteers devoted to HPD are pictured here with Andrea. They are Mike and Jeanette Einkauf. This picture was taken at the Nov. 20 appreciation dinner for the Houston Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Mike and Jeanette also are the MADD — Take the Wheel, Shift Briefing Chairs

Kitazaki recruited Andrea to do volunteer work with MADD in 2006. Andrea said another major turning point in her volunteer career was the day she met HPD's Paul Lassalle, who administered the department's DWI Task Force, at a MADD-sponsored seminar in Dallas.

Andrea was a member of MADD's Law Enforcement Committee in Houston and was asking the obvious question: "What can the committee do to help you?"

Andrea increased her committee's activism, a task that initially proved to be difficult. "I partnered with Paul," she explained and quickly added he became like an American Express Card: "I don't leave home without him."

She described the HPD in 2006 as "one of the hardest clubs to get you rfoot in the door to. They (officers) were very guarded, very suspicious. They don't let you in the family."

Andrea soon figured the best entry might be through fellowship (bringing food) to a shift briefing. Four months went by without an appearance by the determined volunteer, who figured, "I don't think this is working. Nobody will let me come in. They're asking, 'Who's this Andrea? What's her agenda? Why does she want to bring us lunch?'"

Continues on Page 9B

Continues from Page 8B

She found a heartfelt opportunity after the tragic Sept. 21, 2006 murder of Officer Rodney Johnson. Right before Christmas, Andrea committed to provide “lunch and a hug” for Johnson’s fellow dayshift officers at Southeast. “I wanted them to know that people really do care about law enforcement officers; they respect the badge.”



HPOU 1st Vice President Doug Griffith is pictured with Andrea the night she and other alumni of the Houston Citizens Police Academy were honored for their volunteer work on Nov. 20. GARY HICKS PHOTO

She sought — and still seeks — to turn around the negative attitudes some communities have about Houston’s police officers.

“I’ve heard so much negative. I get asked, ‘Why volunteer for officers?’ I’ve found the opposite: officers are hard-working, they want to help the community. They are fathers, Little League coaches... they needed someone to let the world know their good side”.

A Hug and Lunch

“I felt bad for the officers at Southeast. They were the first officers I paid attention to. It was the very first experience with law enforcement for me.”

She then asked herself: “If I could go anywhere and do something, where would it be?”

The answer proved to be a hug and lunch for Rodney Johnson’s colleagues at Southeast. That experience, combined with her deep devotion to the MADD ongoing crusade, has led to an endless volunteer effort that has seen Andrea take the lead in serving an estimated 400 meals at shift briefings, mostly in HPD but also including other law enforcement entities from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office and smaller policing agencies surrounding Houston.

“After Southeast,” she told the Badge & Gun, “I started doing shift briefings on all three shifts. I would get the food donated or make sandwiches.”

She has the full support of Nations, a devoted financial supporter of MADD’s, who allows

her to arrange a work schedule around her volunteer hours, even if it means working late and long “flex” hours. Andrea administers the law firm’s institutional technology from cell phones to servers.

Eventually Andrea got to know officers in Traffic Enforcement at Central Patrol and — with her MADD roots evident — was an active volunteer with the DWI Task Force, “letting them know that MADD’s there and we care and if we can help, we will.”

She soon became acquainted with Doug Griffith as well as Lt. Randy Upton and others at Central, Westside, HCSO and officers at Galena Park and Hedwig Village, to name a few. Roll calls and shift briefings were her speciality.

In 2009 or 2010, she did 80 roll calls, and brought food to each one – sandwiches or even hot meals, but NEVER DONUTS!

Of course, she put her heart in the MADD crusade against drunk drivers. In 2007 Harris County and HPD established a new program, called “no-refusal weekends,” to ensure a breath or blood sample from every suspect pulled over for suspected DWI. The program also enabled the full prosecution of these offenders and — most importantly — helped to decrease the numbers of fatalities over holidays in the Houston area and Texas, long-known as the state leading the nation in DWI deaths.



Andrea is probably the only individual supporter of HPD who designed and hands out her own challenge coin.

The resulting Intox facility, located behind 61 Riesner and actually run by the county, serves as in-take on no-refusal nights where any law enforcement officer in Harris County may bring in DWI suspects for the blood-drawing process done in accordance with state law.

Initially, MADD paid the nurses who drew the blood, while the county people volunteered their time. “Now there’s a grant that pays for the assistant district attorneys and the nurse,” Andrea explained. “You can refuse to blow (the breath test). You can’t refuse to have your blood drawn if we have a warrant (from the DA signed by a judge).”

This great volunteer has been a regular at most, if not all, no-refusal weekends.

Continues on Page 13B

Drunk Driver Affected Andrea’s Life in Volunteerism

The story of how Andrea Schmauss was a natural to become involved as an exceptional volunteer in Mothers Against Drunk Driving actually began in 1971 when she was a graduating high school senior in love with a member of the 82nd Airborne.

His name was David Burdick, who, in February 1972, had just turned 19 and was on his way home to Buffalo, New York, to ask Andrea to marry him. In fact, she already considered herself his fiancée.

While en route to Buffalo, Burdick was crossing a street in Fairfax County, West Virginia and was struck by a car driven by one of the area’s prominent citizens, known to be “a well known drinker.”



Andrea Schmauss taken at her 1971 high school graduation with her fiancé David Burdick, whose death by a drunk driver serves as a primary inspiration point for Andrea’s volunteer service to MADD and HPD.

Andrea mourned her fiancé’s death, not realizing that he was killed by a drunk driver.

Twenty-five years later, Andrea, divorced from her husband, tracked down Burdick’s family through a private investigator. She learned the details of the death when

Continues on Page 16B

Stepped-up Activism

As you might expect, Andrea knows the program backwards and forwards and feels like she's been part of the program's support group from the get go. She credits former Harris County prosecutor Warren Diepraam as the "father of no-refusal weekends." Diepraam speaks on the subject all over the nation. He now works in Waller County, she said.

Since 2006 Andrea has served as chair of the Regional Advisory Council MADD Southeast Texas. She works with all sorts of other committee chairs and the volunteers who serve food and provide help wherever they are needed. She is quick to recognize other MADD activists who help coordinate volunteers in this and other efforts, naming Phil Niewall as the chairman of Take the Wheel No Refusal Committee and Mike and Jeanette Einkauf, a husband-and-wife team known as chairs of MADD's Take the Wheel, Shift Briefings effort.

These volunteer leaders and their brood care for officers by providing them "a hot meal and any assistance they need. They basically continue what I started. They are there to say 'thank you' and ask the question 'How can we help?'"

In her earlier volunteer days, Andrea averaged 150 volunteer hours every month, most of them for HPD activities. Now Jeanette Einkauf ranks as MADD's leading volunteer with more than 100 volunteer hours per month. She and husband Mike visit more than 100 shift briefings each year.

"We're not able to take food to shift briefings any more," Andrea explained. "We just got so involved (in so many) that we couldn't do it. In the beginning, we did."

In case you've lost track of Andrea's volunteer efforts at this point, get ready because there's more.

She serves on the Independent Police Oversight Board (IPOB), the old Citizens Review Committee — four panels of six or seven appointed citizens apiece who review HPD's disciplinary process as it affects officers.

"I definitely enjoy being on that committee," Andrea said. "I was very honored that the mayor asked me to be on the IPOB. It's a very important job. I feel the Police Department does an excellent job of policing itself with over 5,000 police officers.

"The complaints against officers involve only three percent of them and of that three percent, 70 percent of those are generated internally.

"Most people have to learn to become more in tune with the police position to be on this committee. You look at the facts, not the person, the personality. That has made it a lot easier to do my job."

The 'Poker Chip'

Inspired by the thought behind police challenge coins, Andrea created a coin of her own that she passes out "to police officers at random."

She said, "It's a poker chip that was cheaper than a metal coin. I designed it. One time I walked up to an officer in a patrol car doing paperwork. I knocked on the window and said, 'Thank you for what you do,' and gave him a coin that says "THIS CITIZEN SUPPORTS LAW ENFORCEMENT. BE SAFE."

Andrea's activism in Citizens' Police Academies has had a domino effect. When she first discovered these police training sessions

for civilians that usually lead to police support activities for what is known as a citizens' police academy alumni association, she immediately set aside the time necessary to do the volunteer job right.

She learned of the existence of "CPAs" simultaneously from representatives of both HPD and the Harris County Sheriff's Office. "I said I would take them both," Andrea remembered, "and asked which one was first? The next morning the Harris County Sheriff's Office called and told me theirs started in two days. I drove from where I live in Katy to Kingwood and Highway 59 (to take the classes)."

Three months later she went through HPD's CPA, took a break, and then graduated from the one sponsored by the Texas Department of Public Safety. And this November she completed the FBI's version, saying with a laugh, "I just graduated from the FBI. Please don't ask me to join any more right now."

Her MADD colleagues Phil Niewall and Mike Einkauf are alumni of seven and five different CPAs, respectively.

Through efforts Andrea led the Houston Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association — as you might expect — continues to come out in full support of No-Refusals. Andrea has served as first vice president of this group since 2011. She also began serving on the board of the DPS alumni group last year.

MADD and the CPAs form great natural partnerships. "MADD starting volunteering with No-Refusals and all these CPAs have joined us," Andrea pointed out.

Another thing you might expect — Andrea stays very informed and opinionated. She's always ready to make candid suggestions she thinks might help keep drunk drivers off the road by more stringent enforcement of laws.

A few years ago, MADD asked her to speak to a meeting of Houston area police chiefs. "There were about 50 members from the command staff level," she recounted. "I didn't understand the politics. I don't want to know the politics."

She wondered aloud why the various policing agencies didn't work together more often in joint venture efforts to curb the number of drunk drivers on the roadways. She told the group, "We have a drunk driver problem and it affects all of us. Can we play in the same sandbox together?"

Upon immediate reflection after the meeting, Andrea thought, "I blew it!" She felt she had put this set of brass on the spot, angered them and thought they would never want to have anything to do with her.

Then a multi-agency task force involving HPD, the sheriff, DPS, the Precinct 4 constable and the Tomball police formed and worked together in one area with a high rate of DWIs.

Andrea conversed with a sergeant who attended the original meeting and told him she figured "you all will never ask me to another meeting again."

The sergeant set her straight, saying, "What you perceived as anger was embarrassment. We want you here (at meetings) because you stood up and said that."

Saying THANKS!

Continues from Page 13B

Now almost every time any area DWI task force meets you will find Andrea there leading a group of volunteers from MADD, the CPAs or both to help support the effort in any appropriate way possible.

Time about is fair all around. On Thursday evening, Nov. 20, the HPOU hosted an appreciation dinner for Andrea and the entire Houston

Continues from Page 9B

Burdick's sister paid her a visit in Houston. The fact that Burdick was killed as the result of a drunk driver was apparently covered up due to the driver's status in the community and its effects on his family and his former fiancée.

"I sort of felt like he died all over again when I heard the news," Andrea explained. "I had spent 25 years feeling sorry for the woman who hit him. She was a prominent member of the community was what I was told. I don't know her name. I was unable to get copies of the police report."

After learning these details, Andrea stepped up her personal crusade against drunk drivers, meeting MADD executive director Linda Kitazaki through her boss, Houston attorney Howard L. Nations.

Kitazaki asked Andrea to give a speech detailing her experience at a MADD fundraising event. Andrea has never forgotten David Burdick and how a drunk driver affected her life. Kitazaki took MADD through many years of productive leadership before her unexpected death from heart complications in December 2007.

Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, which volunteers to help the Department and the Union in any way possible just about any time they are asked or feel they can help.

It was a great THANK YOU not only to Andrea but what you might say is "a growing number of good people."

In 2008, Andrea won the MADD Southeast Texas — Linda Kitazaki Award, named for Kitazaki and "awarded to a volunteer for unwavering support to the mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving."

It is but one of four major awards that now list Andrea Schmauss as a winner. The others are:

Mayor's Volunteer Houston Award in May 2012 "For outstanding accomplishments of local volunteers who have committed significant hands-on volunteer time and talent in support of the Houston community."

Houston Young Lawyers Association — Liberty Bell Award in April 2011. The purpose of the award is to recognize one outstanding non-lawyer in Texas who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law.

The Crime Stoppers of Houston (May 2010) – The Leiv Platou Award that is awarded to a citizen "who has made a significant contribution to public safety through volunteerism in the community."

The advertisement features three models wearing t-shirts with the text "LOVE HPD". The "LOVE" is in large pink letters, and "HPD" is in a blue shield logo. The first model is a woman with dark curly hair wearing a navy blue long-sleeved shirt, priced at \$17.00. The second model is a woman with blonde hair wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, also priced at \$17.00. The third model is a young girl with blonde hair wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, priced at \$14.00. A red cursive slogan reads "Just in time for the Holidays!".

**The latest products now available
in the HPOU store**