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## **Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers October 2024**

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First and foremost, I want to say, I hope everyone is having a great school year. I never know where to start on these writings! I think I'll start with the summer conference. I thought it was one of the biggest and best conferences we have ever had. I just want to thank all the people who helped make it a tremendous success. We sure could not have done it without Jon Akers, Lee Ann Morrison and the KCSS workers and our wonderful hard working KYASRO board. WE are nothing without our hard-working and dedicated board members. Great Crossings High School was a wonderful host, we must thank them. Their staff was so nice and accommodating for all our needs. I would also like to thank the wonderful SRO's and administrators who showed up for our conference. Finally, thanks to all our presenters.

Now to shift gears, it's been one of the craziest school years to start. I never thought I'd say that again after covid, but our job is changing all the time. Whoever thought we would deal with a hurricane in Kentucky? Between the hurricane and the viral school threats, our jobs just keep changing. I sure hope you all share information on these types of threats through a local network. We set up a task force for our area including Ashland KY, West Virginia, and Ohio. It has been extremely helpful with the threats. It didn't take long to see these threats expand from our local area to all over the state, then all over the US. Teamwork makes the dream work!! Enough of the negative stuff!

I hope everyone has wonderful holidays coming up! Enjoy them with your family! I look forward to Christmas Shop with a Cop almost as much as Thanksgiving Dinner!!! This event makes those kids day or even year. Always remember to stay safe my brothers and sisters.  
Sincerely,

William J Rudie JR (President)

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**SBLEA REP- AUSTIN GULL**



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## **KYASRO NEWS**

### **October 2024**

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#### **Chaplain News**

**From the Chaplain's desk:**

#### **Be a goldfish**

"Be a goldfish." The famous quote from the character Ted Lasso is an encouragement to have a short memory. As School Resource Officers our days are filled with opportunities to make a difference in the lives of the students, families, and staff we encounter every day. Sometimes we may find ourselves frustrated with the responses we receive. We may wonder why this parent or student cannot follow the traffic procedures. We may find ourselves frustrated with a staff member who doesn't follow the radio or door procedures. We may think little Johnny purposefully spills his chocolate milk at least once a week just to try our patience. In those moments let us remember to "Be a goldfish". Let it go and focus on the positive relationships you are trying to build with student, family, and staff. Don't take it personal. Take it as an opportunity to strengthen your relationships by showing them grace. How you respond to their choices will go a long way in deciding how they will respond to you.

**Ofc Joel Shepherd  
Erlanger Police Department  
School Resource Officer  
KYASRO Chaplain  
STAND Instructor**



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## KYASRO NEWS

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### McCracken County utilizes new position to combat truancy, provide support to Campus Police Officers

When McCracken County Campus Police Officer Wes Orazine first inquired about a part-time School Resource Officer (SRO) position in the fall of 2021, he had no intention of being involved with student attendance. In fact, the very notion of that type of work made his head spin.

“Dealing with truancy was something I definitely didn’t want to do,” Orazine admitted. “I knew there would be a lot of headaches involved, and it was something I didn’t feel was right for me.” However, when Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP), Brian Bowland learned about Orazine’s job application, he had big ideas in mind. Orazine’s long and successful law enforcement career in Paducah and McCracken County would provide the perfect level of experience needed to combat chronic student absenteeism. Mr. Bowland called Orazine to discuss a new approach to truancy which would utilize a sworn officer to investigate and file charges on cases within the district. Hoping to circumvent the red tape which civilian attendance employees often faced at the courthouse, this position was the brainchild of DPP Bowland, district Attendance Specialist David Kell, and SRO Supervisor Bruce Watson. Understanding the potential impact of this new role and deciding to accept the challenge, Wes Orazine was hired in January 2022.

When McCracken County Public Schools created its own school-based law enforcement agency in August 2022, Orazine was among the ranks of Campus Police Officers being sworn-in. Since that moment, he has hit the ground running. In the 2022/2023 school year, Orazine filed more truancy related charges with the McCracken County Attorney than the district had submitted in the previous five years combined. He immediately found himself in the homes of repeat offenders, looking for root causes of student attendance problems and providing levels of accountability never before reached. As a result of his investment with these families, the districtwide attendance rate increased between the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 school years. It did not take him long to realize that, despite the difficulty he anticipated in the beginning, his job is meaningful. “I think my work has made a significant impact within the district,” he reflected. “To be a Police Officer with the ability to go a little bit further makes a big difference in how we operate.” On top of his direct involvement with district students and families, Orazine regularly collaborates with other agencies and plays a valuable part in local groups which provide support to McCracken County students. He often provides information to local Homeless Student Liaisons and meets monthly with the Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (F.A.I.R.) Team. The F.A.I.R. Team consists of representatives from the Department of Juvenile Justice, Child Protective Services, County Attorney’s Office, and Four Rivers Behavioral Health, just to name a few. Their goal is to proactively offer services to students in need and help families create positive changes in their lives. The F.A.I.R. Team’s unified focus is keeping students out of the criminal court system.

In addition to the many roles he plays with truancy and juvenile court, Orazine routinely provides support to McCracken Campus Police SROs. He has backed up other SROs on welfare checks, suspicious persons, service of warrants, large event coverage, and various other emergencies which have occurred. He keeps an office at the Board of Education, often being the first responder for any type of security issue in and around that building. Orazine has also completed all three levels of state-mandated SRO training, and he recently designed the new paint and graphics scheme for McCracken County Campus Police cruisers. "I can depend on Officer Orazine to help out in any situation that arises during the school day," explained Austin Guill, McCracken County Chief of Campus Police. "He is always developing ideas and strategies to advance our department and our district as a whole. Our students are undoubtedly safer and more successful because of him." Orazine hopes that the success of McCracken County's hybrid Truancy Officer/SRO position sparks interest from other districts across the Commonwealth of Kentucky as they look for ways to address attendance issues and provide an enhanced layer of security for their campuses. His dedication to the role has laid a solid foundation for McCracken County to build upon for many years to come as safety and student welfare remain a top priority.

*Officer Wes Orazine poses in front of a McCracken County Campus Police cruiser at the Central Office.*







## KYASRO NEWS

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KYASRO again awarded scholarships to graduating seniors who had exemplified an interest in school safety. The nominees had to be submitted by their SRO.



Scholarship Winner Avery Leach with SRO Brittany Whitcomb



Scholarship Winner Blake Ellis with SRO Chris Driscol



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## KYASRO NEWS

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**At the Summer Conference KYASRO Awarded several persons with a variety of awards. Congratulations to all!!**

### 2024 KYASRO Awards Winners

Kentucky SRO of the Year – Larry Priddy, Bullitt County

Regional SRO Awards:

- Philip Kearns, Greenup County, East Region
- Timothy Gividen, Carroll County, North Region
- Jackie Grider, Russell County, South Region
- Katie Hunter, Daviess County, West Region

SRO Administrator of the Year – Diana Cline, Bath County

Rookie of the Year – David Slone, Ashland Ind.

KYASRO Award of Merit – Harley Catron, Rowan County

KYASRO Award of Merit – Patrick Morris, Murray Ind.

KYASRO President's Award – Tracy Day, Fayette County Schools

## UPCOMING “FREE” TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### Tall Cop - High in Plain Sight – Current Drug Trends

When: Nov 12, 2024, from 9:00 – 11:00 EST

Training provided by Tall Cop, Jermaine Galloway, and hosted by the Kentucky Center for School Safety

Register **FREE OF CHARGE**

at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6882657358238728795>

*ELLA credit is available for educators.*

This webinar is for educators, prevention providers, coalition members, law enforcement, probation officers, school administration, treatment providers, and counselors. The Tall Cop has been back on the road (for over a year!), and this UPDATED presentation will cover the most up-to-date alcohol and drug clothing, alcohol and drug concealment methods and containers, drug paraphernalia, logos, new technology, youth party tendencies, synthetic drugs, OTC drugs, marijuana concentrates, and vapes. This session also covers common stash compartments that can be used to hide items inside everyday items.

*Tall Cop Says Stop™ was created by Officer Jermaine Galloway, an Idaho law enforcement officer since 1997. Regarded as one of America's top experts in various drug and alcohol trends, he has specialized in underage drinking and drug enforcement for more than 15 years. Since 2009, Officer Galloway has won four national and international awards for his work. In addition to his numerous talks at conferences and other events, he has personally trained more than 105,000 people nationwide.*

## **SRO Panel Discussion**

When: November 19, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:30 EST

Repeat session from October

Register at: <https://forms.gle/kk5mYCehdzyigGg56>

**Are you a new school-based law enforcement officer transitioning into the role of SRO?** Join us on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 EST via Zoom for an open discussion with experienced SROs. Panelists will discuss best practices, legal issues, roles and responsibilities, and school safety. This two-hour panel discussion is intended for newly assigned SROs who still need the required SRO training or seasoned SROs looking for ways to support and enhance their programs. This session will also allow SROs to interact with the panelists, all veteran School Resource Officers, and other participants.



**The summer conference will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Georgetown, KY. Registration will open in March. It will once again be **FREE OF CHARGE**.**





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## KYASRO NEWS

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### TAYLOR COUNTY – A PROMISING PROGRAM!!





# KYASRO NEWS

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### SRO'S AT WORK – AND PLAY – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

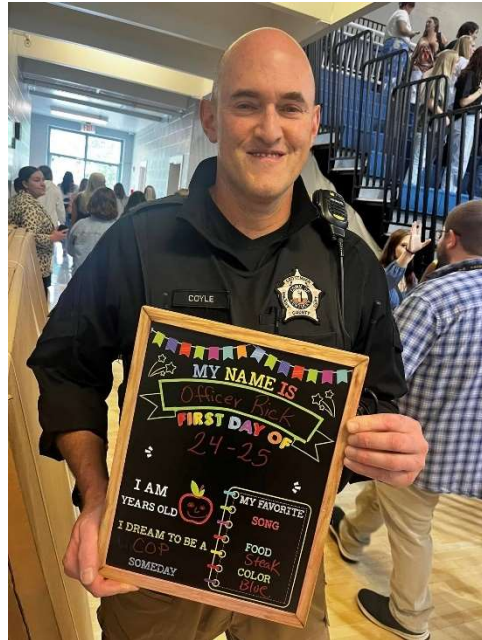






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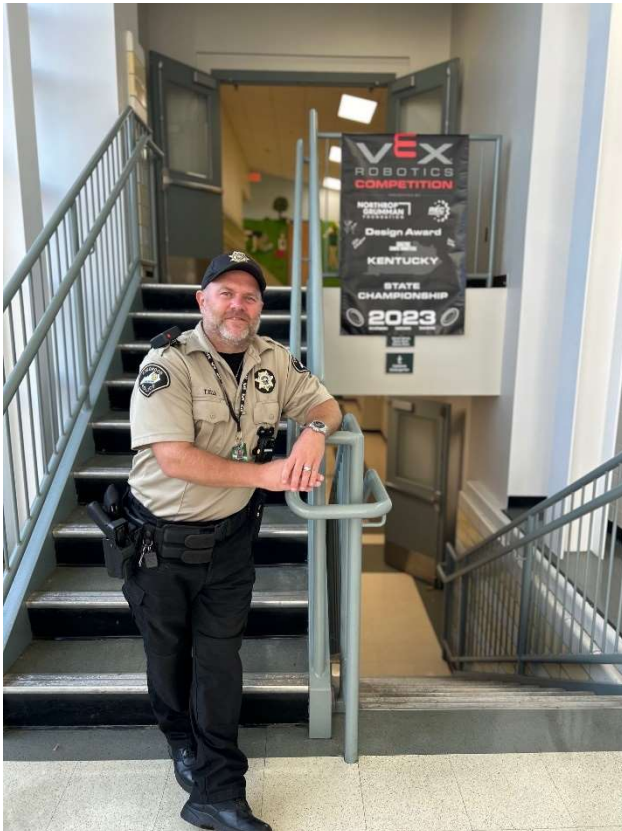
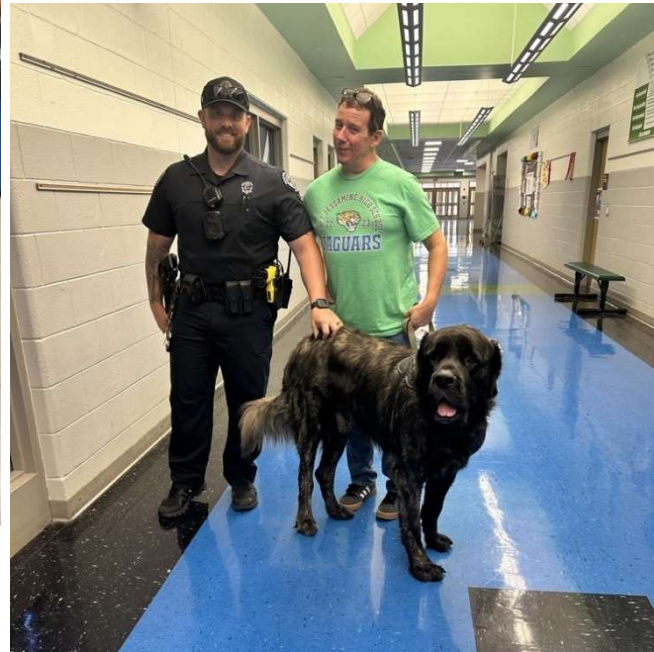






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# school re·source of·fi·cer

/skool/ /'rē,sōrs,rə'sōrs/ /'ōfəsər/

## noun

kind and caring, selfless  
rockstar who lives to guide others,  
loves to encourage and makes  
the world a happier place

## synonyms

superstar, problem solver,  
happiness-maker

### Want to join KYASRO?

Apply here: <https://www.kyasro.com/copy-of-contact>