

Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers

August 2025

Dear KYASRO Members,

As the new school year begins, we want to take a moment to thank you for the important role you play in keeping our schools safe, building trust with students and staff, and fostering a positive learning environment. Your presence in our schools is more than just a uniform and a badge—you are mentors, protectors, and partners in education.

Each new year brings new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of the young people you serve. Whether it's a friendly greeting in the hallway, a safety presentation in the classroom, or a calm, steady response in a moment of crisis, your work matters. Students notice. Staff notice. Communities notice.

As members of KYASRO, you are part of a strong network of professionals dedicated to excellence in school safety. This year, we encourage you to stay connected—share ideas, ask questions, and support one another. Together, we can continue to grow, learn, and ensure Kentucky's schools remain safe places to learn and thrive.

Thank you for your commitment, your professionalism, and your heart for service. We wish you a safe, successful, and rewarding school year ahead!

Stay safe and take care,

Sincerely,

William J Rudie JR (President)

BOARD MEMBERS

BILL RUDIE- PRESIDENT

TIM GIVIDEN- VP

CHRIS BARRIER- PAST PRES.

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JON AKERS – SCHOOL SAFETY

ADVISOR

JOHN LONAKER-SGT.AT ARMS

REGIONAL REPS:

1 TYRONE GREGORY

2. LARRY PRIDDY

3. KIM TRAN

4. JAMES POYNTER

5. DAKOTA GILKERSON

6. TODD JOHNSON

SBLEA REP- AUSTIN GUILL



KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

Chaplin News

From the Chaplain's Desk:

Called to be a Blessing

As we return to school, I encourage you to stop and consider every person you will encounter through the school year. Each person is an opportunity. An opportunity to share gentleness, to share a smile, to make a day joyful, fun, and memorable. An opportunity to lift up and encourage, to build up, and to challenge them to be a better version of themselves. Every day you can give the gift of hope, the gift of happiness, and of kindness. Remember that you are there to help them and to serve them. You are a resource to be used as needed to make their day a better day. Every parent and child and educator and staff member feel safer because you are there. That is a heavy responsibility to bear, but it is also a blessing. So, bear it well and be the blessing that you are called to be. The lens you see the world through will determine how the world looks to you.

With admiration,

SRO Chaplain Joel Shepherd
Erlanger Police
joel.shepherd@erlangerpd.com
FB: Joel Gideon

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



KYASRO NEWS

August 2025



Congratulations!!

The Johnson County Board of Education has named Mark Cantrell as the first Police Chief of the newly established Johnson County Schools Police Force, marking a major step forward in its commitment to student and staff safety. Chief Cantrell brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience, including:

- ◆ 8.5 years with Paintsville City Police
- ◆ 21 years with the Federal Bureau of Prisons
- ◆ 18 years specializing in complex investigations with the Special Investigative System

Having trained at both the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Chief Cantrell recently retired from USP Big Sandy in March 2024.

📢 His vision for the role is clear and powerful:

“Safety and security don’t just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children—the most vulnerable citizens in our society—a life free of violence and fear.” – Nelson Mandela

Superintendent Thom Cochran praised the appointment, saying Cantrell’s dedication and relationship-building make him “the perfect leader” for this role. Congratulations to Chief Cantrell and Johnson County Schools on this important milestone in school safety.



KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

BACK TO SCHOOL!!!





KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

Scholarship Winner Anna Miller with Officer Kenny Brockman



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

2025 KYASRO AWARDS

Kentucky SRO of the Year: Larry Robinson – Hardin Co

Rookie of the Year: Elliott Gollihue – Greenup Co

Administrator of the Year: Reena Connelly – Erlanger-Elsmere

Scholarships: Tanner Reihs – Fairview and Anna Miller – Robertson

SRO KCSS SRO Promising Program: Cumberland County

KYASRO SRO Regional Award: Region 1 Brent Farmer – Mayfield Ind.

Region 2 Timmy Walker – Hardin County

Region 3 Derek Hall – Scott County

Region 4 Amber Conrad – Campbell County

Region 5 Kevin Shepherd – Floyd County

Region 6 Josh Sargent - Harlan County

KYASRO School Safety Award of Merit: Caroline Morales, Fayette County

KYASRO President's Award – Mo Canady, NASRO



KYASRO NEWS

August 2025





KYASRO NEWS

August 2025





KYASRO NEWS

August 2025





KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

SAVE THE DATE – TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

2026 NASRO NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE

RENO TAHOE

JUNE 28 - JULY 3, 2026

NASRO
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

REGISTER AT WWW.NASRO.ORG



KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

CUMBERLAND COUNTY – A PROMISING PROGRAM!!

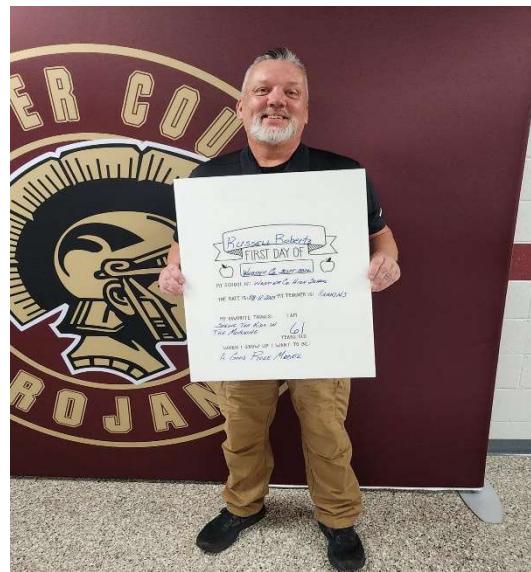
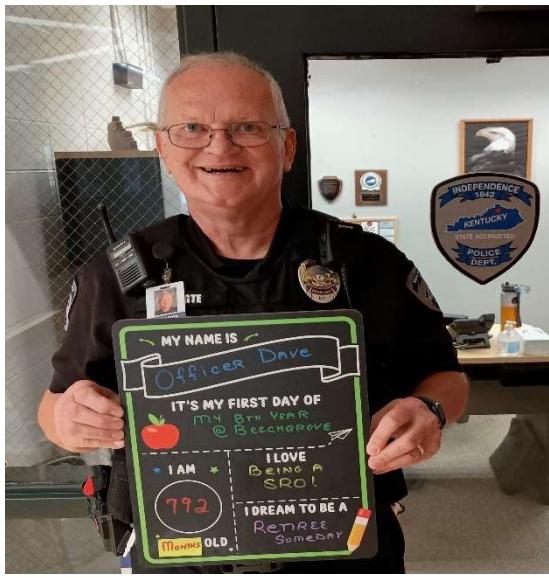




KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

More Back To School



Officer Steve Benner

- **School:**
White's Tower Elementary School
- **Years in law enforcement:**
30
- **Retired from:**
Kenton County Police Department





KYASRO NEWS

August 2025

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

Visit the KYASRO website at www.kyasro.com



2026 Safe Schools and Communities Conference

June 9 – 10, 2026

Location and Agenda – To be announced