



OBA PRESIDENT HONORED BY PBUS

OBA President Dudley Goolsby was inducted into the Professional Bail Agents of the United States Hall of Fame on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, during the PBUS annual meeting in Las Vegas.

To be eligible for the Hall of Fame nominees must have 30+ years of exemplary service in the bail bond profession and the purpose is to honor those individuals who through their deeds and actions exemplify the true meaning of the title "Professional Bail Agent".

In introducing President Goolsby, Randy Parton with the Lexington National Insurance Corporation said, "The PBUS Hall of Fame was created in 1982. Hall of Fame members represent the very best of the very best in our business. Each year, PBUS strives to recognize outstanding bail bond agents with at least thirty years of experience whose accomplishments and dedication to our profession set them apart from all others. Each year, we ask our members to identify and nominate worthy individuals. Those nominees are then carefully screened by an anonymous panel who work in secret to avoid any pressure or impropriety. Those fortunate few who survive this rigorous process are then inducted into our Hall of Fame.

"Our first inductee for 2011 has served on the PBUS Board, chaired numerous committees, and led this association as our president. He has volunteered and volunteered and volunteered whenever a need arose, and in many cases, before a need was even recognized by others. He is a constant and respected

contributor to our Council of Presidents, and is a force for the positive growth and development of our profession.

"A giant in his home state, where he has also served (and currently serves) as their president, he has demonstrated a commitment to introducing and giving his all to pass favorable legislation, while working equally hard to defeat legislation that would do us harm. Known for fostering goodwill with regulators, legislators, law enforcement, and the judiciary, he is a role model for all who engage in the business and service of bail.

"Madame President, officer and directors, honored guests, and fellow bail agents, it is my great pleasure and distinct honor to welcome this most deserving and

worthy individual into the PBUS Hall of Fame, Oklahoma's own, Mr. Dudley Goolsby."

The nomination and recognition came as a complete surprise to the OBA President.



OBA President Dudley Goolsby receives his Professional Bail Agents of the United States award from Linda Braswell, PBUS President, on February 22nd in Las Vegas.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The OBA Board of Directors approved a set of proposed changes to the Association's Constitution to be voted on by the membership during the annual membership meeting Monday, June 6, at the OBA headquarters building in Oklahoma City.

Primary changes include changing the length of association offices from one to two years and staggering terms with the President and Secretary being elected in odd numbered years and the Vice President and Treasurer elected in even numbered years. Also, the elections will be moved from the annual membership meeting to the two educational programs offered each year by the OBA. Ballots cast during the Oklahoma City program will be kept in the ballot box until the voting is completed during the Tulsa program. This will give every OBA member a chance to participate in the election process. To accommodate this voting procedure, it is necessary to change the nomination process in the Constitution. If adopted, the changes in the Constitution will be implemented in 2012. All of the changes proposed and to be voted on at the June 6th meeting are as follows:

If approved, the following sections would REPLACE the present sections:

ARTICLE IV—Meetings

1. An annual meeting shall be held during the month of June each year, at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors, for the transaction of such business as may properly come before such meeting.
2. Special meetings of the regular membership may be called by the President, or the Board of Directors, or by no fewer than fifty-one per cent (51%) of the membership, to deal with problems of sufficient urgency that they should not put off until the next annual meeting. Special meetings shall be arranged by the Board at an appropriate place, date and time.
3. Notice of special meetings, stating the place, date and time, shall be delivered either personally or by regular mail to each regular member not less than thirty (30) days before the date of such special meeting; except that a meeting may be called on forty-eight (48) hours notice by the Board of Directors to deal with a situation certified as an emergency by the Board. Notice of such certified emergency may be circulated by telephone, fax or other electronic means available. Written notice of any business meeting other than the Annual Meeting shall set forth the purpose(s) of such meeting.
4. A quorum shall be those regular members present at any annual or properly called special membership meeting, and a simple majority of those present may take action on any matter properly before the meeting.
5. Voting shall be in person by each individual regular member in good standing at the time of the election. Proxy voting or absentee voting shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE V—Officers

Officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected every other year as follows: the offices of President and Secretary shall be elected

for a term of two (2) years, with the elections to be held in odd-numbered years; the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, with the elections to be conducted in even-numbered years.

Only members in good standing may be permitted to hold a position as an officer, which means that such member must: 1) be current on his or her Association dues; and 2) have been in good standing with the Oklahoma Insurance Department for a period of at least twelve (12) months, unless he or she is a new member.

ARTICLE VII—Elections

Elections for all Officers and Directors shall be conducted during the annual education classes. Voting shall be in person only; there shall be no proxy or absentee voting.

Incumbents in the positions of Officers and Directors shall be deemed to be candidates for their respective positions unless they expressly request not to be retained. All other candidates for these positions shall be nominated on forms to be provided by the Association and distributed upon request to the members. Any nominations not on the correct form will not qualify for election. There shall be no nominations from the floor, nor any "write-in" candidates. All new nominations must be endorsed by at least three (3) members of the Association who are in good standing. The nominations must be provided to the Association no later than March 1 of the year in which that person is standing for election. The Association shall publish a list of candidates for any given year in the April issue of the Association newsletter. There are no term limits for the positions of Officers or Directors.

Only members in good standing will be allowed to vote for the election of Officers and Directors.

Elections shall be by secret ballot, and ballots will be placed in one ballot box at the locations of the annual education classes. The ballot box shall not be opened until the closing of the election at the location of the second annual education class. Members who are eligible to vote may cast only one vote per office for the Officers and one vote for the Director for their respective districts.

The ballot box shall be opened and the votes tallied in seclusion by the Executive Director of the Association and/or the Association's General Counsel at the close of the voting. The candidate receiving the most votes cast for each position shall be declared the winner, even if the number of votes for that candidate is less than fifty percent (50%) of the votes for that position. If two (2) or more candidates receive an equal number of votes, a runoff vote for that position will be held immediately at the close of the second annual education class. Such runoff vote will be held and conducted as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

The results of the voting shall be announced at the conclusion of the second session of the annual education class. Those persons elected shall assume their respective positions at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

The procedures for the location of the ballot box, the times at which voting will be allowed, and any other measures deemed necessary for the conduct of the election shall be implemented by the Board of Directors through the Association's by-laws.

ANNUAL OBA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMING IN JUNE



The OBA's two annual continuing education programs have been set for June 7 and 28 in Oklahoma City and Tulsa (Catoosa). Attendance at one of the sessions is required for most bondsmen for license renewal. The two programs are identical and both the topics and speakers must be approved by the Oklahoma Department of Insurance if the attendance is to meet the re-licensure requirement.

Both sessions will open for registration at 7:30 am and the program will start promptly at 8:00 am with the National Anthem. The tentative program for both sessions is reprinted below. The speakers will be named and confirmed as soon as possible.

The June 7, Oklahoma City, program will be held in the Clarion Meridian Hotel & Conference Center, at 737 S. Meridian Ave. Reservations for rooms can be made by calling AC 405 942-8511.

Tulsa's program will be held in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa, Oklahoma, at 777 W. Cherokee. Reservations for rooms can be made by calling AC 800 760-6700.

Coffee breaks and lunch will be served at both sessions.

The following is the proposed program for both sessions. The topics listed are subject to change. The complete programs will be mailed to all OBA members and posted on the OBA website as soon as they are completed and the speakers confirmed.

NEW BONDSMAN LICENSES

Michael Allbritton.....	McClain County
Cody Barnes.....	Oklahoma County
Jessica Biggers.....	Muskogee County
Ronnie Boswell.....	Muskogee County
James Branham.....	Sequoyah County
Penelope Cowles.....	Muskogee County
Kevin Hunter.....	Creek County
John Kerr II.....	Rogers County
Lyn Long.....	Tulsa County
Christy Mounger.....	Muskogee County
Alicia Parker.....	Tulsa County
Michael Ryals.....	Cherokee County
Terry Sartin.....	Rogers County
Alecia Thomas.....	Oklahoma County
Vanessa Wilson.....	Tulsa County
Whitney Wooten.....	Tulsa County

OKLAHOMA BONDSMAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS Oklahoma City - Tuesday, June 7 & Tulsa - Tuesday, June 28

AGENDA

7:30-8:00 am	Registration & Sign-in	
8:00-8:10 am	Posting the Colors or National Anthem	
8:10-8:30 am	President's Welcome & Comments	Dudley Goolsby
8:30-9:00 am	Remarks from the New Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak (Invited)	
9:00-10:00 am	Department of Insurance New Records and Electronic Reporting Requirements (DOI Speaker)	
10:00-10:15 am	Break	
10:15-12:00 Noon	Records and Electronic Reporting (continued)	(DOI Speaker)
Noon-1:00 pm	LUNCH w/ announcements and drawing (no speaker)	
1:00-2:00 pm	Recent Changes in Oklahoma Bail Law	(DOI Speaker)
2:00-3:15 pm	Fugitive Recovery	(To Be Announced)
3:15-3:30 pm	Break	
3:30-4:30 pm	To Carry (a weapon) or Not to Carry: Legal Liability and Responsibility When Carrying	(TBA)
4:30 pm	Attendance Paper Work and Sign-out	

NOTE: All topics and speakers subject to change. The final program will be posted on the OBA website at www.okbondsmen.com.

LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS TWO BILLS THAT WILL AFFECT BONDSMEN

Two bills that will make extensive changes in the licensure of bondsmen if either is passed into law are currently being considered by the Oklahoma legislature. Senate Bill 964 by Brown and Mulready has passed the Senate and is now in the House of Representatives for consideration. House Bill 1243 by McDaniel passed out of the House and is now in the Senate. The two bills are very similar and either could become law, or a joint House and Senate Conference Committee might combine the two into a single bill for final vote by both chambers.

Briefly, the bills change bondsman license to two years, renewal during bondsman's birth month, electronic testing, changes annual education from 8 clock hours to 16 clock every two years, requires monthly filing of reports electronically, and authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to implement the new law through administrative rules.

At the time of this writing, either bill could become law after approval by both houses and signature by the Governor. As soon as they become known, final details on the new law will be posted on the OBA website at www.okbondsmen.com.

A third bill dealing with criminalizing acts of persons not licensed as bondsmen, but attempting to carry out the functions of a bondsman, was supported by OBA but failed to get out of the Senate before the deadline. SB 476 by Crain was hung up in a Senate committee and is now dormant. It could be considered next year. However, it is possible that the bill's provisions might be added by amendment to another bill that is still alive and given further consideration this year.

OID PREPARES TO SWITCH TO NEW LICENSING SYSTEM

Prepared by the Oklahoma Insurance Department

The Oklahoma Insurance Department is preparing to make the lives of bail bondsmen and other entities it regulates easier with the introduction of the State Based Systems (SBS) regulatory system.

SBS is a software system designed with state regulation in mind. The product suite offers services for producer licensing, company licensing, consumer services, enforcement, fraud and revenue management.

The system simplifies and streamlines the communication of business-critical information to the state and reduces the licensee's time spent on licensing-related issues, increasing the time available for conducting business. SBS gives users control over numerous aspects of their licensing records, reducing data entry errors, incomplete applications, and processing delays, which, in turn, optimizes efficiency.

The system will work hand-in-hand with the National Insurance Producer Registry (NIPR). The combined services provide the ability to apply for an original license or to renew an existing license online.

The system also integrates the state's pre-licensing testing and continuing education processes, uploads attachments directly

to applications and makes address changes with renewal submittals.

The SBS Online Licensee Services (OLS) enables licensees and license administrators to manage one or many licenses and to produce reports on all licensees, either singly or in groups.

Other services include:

- License printing;
- Making address changes;
- License renewal;
- Viewing continuing education transcripts or license detail;
- Signing up for automatic email notifications.

SBS' Licensee Lookup is a free service that provides consumers with 24-hour access to pertinent information about licensees from the Oklahoma Insurance Department. SBS Licensee Lookup allows consumers verify that a licensee is legitimately licensed to do business in the state and that the license is in good standing.

The new system will be operational in June. Continuing education credit will be offered during the Oklahoma Bondsman Association's continuing education days in the summer. Between now and then, the Oklahoma Insurance Department will be providing licensees with periodic updates about the switch to the new system.

To stay update, watch the Oklahoma Insurance Department website ---www.oid.ok.gov – for additional updates.

SAFETY FIRST

"August 11, 2009 by Collateral Staff Posted in: Bail Life"

Safety first is the most important rule of thumb in the bail industry. Yet despite the best-laid plans, those in the bail industry may find themselves in situations where their safety could be jeopardized. For bail agents and fugitive recovery agents, safety can take the form of reasoning, martial arts or use of weapons. Many of the defense mechanisms bail agents or fugitive recovery agents choose to use are largely based on personality, experience and intuition.

When individuals were polled in the AboutBail.com Yahoo! Group regarding the preferred form of self-defense, 40% chose the power of persuasion, 40% chose to carry a weapon and 20% said they rely on street smarts. Still, even the most sensible agent or best negotiator can run into a road block or two. When necessary, agents within the bail industry have been known to apply everything from reasoning to martial arts training to a provoked use of weaponry to keep themselves safe.

The importance of writing quality bonds with strong collateral may help to reduce the likelihood of a skip and also the dangers that are associated with recovering a skip. Although bounty hunters may face threatening situations more often than bail agents, Justin Fine of A Bad Day Bail Bonds in Denver, Colorado commented on the level of safety while writing bonds saying, "We have been uncomfortable and have turned away from writing the bond or then requiring full collateral. It's pretty much a gut thing."

The dependency on industry knowledge and good intuition are contributing factors geared towards a safe and successfully completed recovery. "Talking to people is always better than violence," said Fine. Good communication with clients and especially co-signers allows bail agents to maintain a constant connection. The proof is in the pudding for A Bad Day Bail Bonds as Fine expressed his company has had yet to forfeit an entire bond amount since they have been in business. That is not to say that have not had to go in search of a skip, as Fine also admitted to picking up a client at least once a week.

When writing bonds, Fine attests that it is important to have all sides covered. Maintaining a team with a strong background in different specialties from marketing to court reporting to sales to collections has provided A Bad Day Bail Bonds with a high success rate.

Bail agents and recovery agents develop their ability to reason and rationalize situations for their clients through experience and confidence gained over the years. Often times, however, a skip is unavoidable. A keen eye trained to analyze each situation and exercising precaution will help keep a recovery agent and their team safe. Charles Robinson of Fugitive Enforcement Agency based in California is a 15-year veteran of fugitive recovery. Robinson notes when dealing with a skip, "Confidence comes with years of experience. Kind of like any trade, the feeling of uncertainty becomes less and less with training and experience."

No matter the level of experience an agent possesses, there are the occasional instances when even the most seasoned of veterans feels a little uncomfortable. While feelings of uncertainty vary case by case, it is crucial to always take precautions. For recovery agents, compiling information from credible sources and creating a broad and ever expanding network of individuals within the industry is a crucial step in the recovery process. As well, completing research and surveillance on the skip and their location may help to eliminate hidden dangers when retrieving clients.

By double and triple checking all matters and establishing the safety procedures for recovering skips, Fugitive Recovery Agency maintains an 80% recovery rate, with the remaining 20% due to withheld bond cases. Establishing early diplomacy, acting thoroughly and sustaining a cautious mentality when apprehending individuals helps to ensure safety for the agent while on a job.

Although communication and reasoning are the most desired courses of action for bail and recovery agents, they are unfortunately not always the most applicable. Having a background in martial arts can be beneficial while on the job. While agents would prefer to not use their martial arts training, it is a way to increase safety and confidence in stressful and dangerous situations. Having martial arts training provides the ability to defend oneself

from an aggressive skip who may try to fight the recovery agent. Regardless of training, martial arts and self defense tactics should only be used in circumstances that are reasonable and lawful in each state.

Despite the use of diplomacy and martial arts in fugitive apprehension, weapons are also prevalent in the bail industry. When the AboutBail.com Yahoo! Group members were polled on the necessity to carry a weapon, 75% said they feel the need to carry one, while 25% said they do not. Both bail and recovery agents are known to carry weapons ranging from handcuffs to tasers to hand guns. "I do draw my weapon on a regular basis, but never had to fire. Not to say I never will, so that is why we always continue our training," said Robinson. While bearing arms may be a standard precaution for agents, fire arms safety is just as important.

Although fire arms safety courses are not required by law, many agents still find it valuable to regularly participate in fire arm training at a local sheriff's department. Not all weapons that agents carry are as lethal as a gun. Many of the defense devices that are on hand or used by agents are the same as law enforcement agents and may include tasers, batons, pepper spray, pepper ball guns or bean bag guns. In any situation, a common code used among agents is to only use lethal force after a threat is made from an individual that is to be apprehended. "If fired on we would have to fire back, but there has to be a lethal engagement first, there are rules," said Robinson. Whether a lethal or non-lethal weapon is necessary as a final resort, it is crucial for agents to maintain control and make safety a priority at all times.

At any time a bail or recovery agent must be prepared to use their experience to reason through situations, their defensive tactics to prevent potentially harmful situations or their skills with various weapons to protect themselves during threatening situations. Years of experience and industry knowledge and know-how are sustainable factors for agents within the industry. To expect the unexpected is an understatement as far as agents are concerned. At any one moment an agent must be prepared to think rationally, reason through the situation at hand and provide enforcement while sustaining a safe environment for all parties involved. Preparation, determination and maintaining a level head are crucial to a successful day in the field. As it goes to show, when an agent is well versed in the many facets of defense tactics, safety is no longer a question but a discipline.

PROFESSIONAL FUGITIVE RECOVERY

Submitted by Bill Betts, Betts & Associates, Norman, OK

This is an old story remembered from a time before Dog started committing felonies. I was going to a small town in southwest Oklahoma to pick up a bond skip for a bonding company out of Hutchinson, Kansas.

It was getting close to lunch time so I stopped by the local police department and asked the chief if he had time to eat lunch with me. The Chief thought that was a good idea and we stopped at the local diner where I explained to him why I was in his quiet little town.

We ate lunch and told war stories. He decided I was not a half bad sort and allowed he knew where my fugitive was staying and I should follow him to the local extended stay motel. The Chief knocked on the door and the skip opened the door and the chief handcuffed him.

I followed the Chief to his office. I figured the bondsman would need to extradite the skip and I would go home empty handed. The Chief looked at me and asked if I had a pair of handcuffs, replied in the affirmative and was told to handcuff the prisoner and get his sorry carcass out of the Chief's town.

This story illustrates why it is always good to contact the local law enforcement in the jurisdiction where you plan on arresting your skip. Remember the local law enforcement people do not know who you are and might arrest or shoot you if they mistake you for a bad guy.

Rule 1: Always check in with the appropriate legal authorities before you enter their jurisdiction and attempt an arrest or do surveillance. Be safe and conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times.

If you have a story about the bond business and would like to see it in print, please send it to the OBA headquarters by fax at (405) 601-6484 or email to ekelsay@cox.net.



PRESORT
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit 216

The Bondsman
222 Northeast 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

OBA CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars NOW for the following upcoming events:

Thursday	April 21	10:00 a.m. OBA Monthly Board Meeting at OBA
Tuesday	April 28	11:00 a.m. ABAT Meeting in Tulsa
Tuesday	May 24	11:00 a.m. ABAT Meeting in Tulsa
Thursday & Friday	June 2 & 3	PLE#2 at OBA
Monday	June 6	1:00 p.m. OBA monthly Board Meeting at OBA
Monday	June 6	3:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting & Elections at OBA
Tuesday	June 7	CE#1 – Clarion Meridian Convention Center 737 South Meridian OKC, OK 405/942-8511 OBA Room Rate \$67.00 + tax Room Rate Cut-Off Date 05/06/11
Tuesday	June 28	CE#2 – Hard Rock Hotel & Casino I-44E & Exit 240-A Catoosa, OK 1-800-760-6700 OBA Room Rate \$99.00 + tax Room Rate Cut-Off Date 05/27/11

Watch OBA website www.okbondsman.com for updates to be announced!

In Memoriam

Maxine Chenhall
(01/2011)

OBA DUES ARE DUE!!

Dues not paid by March 31st shall result in suspension from membership and have no accidental death & dismemberment insurance coverage and no voting rights until dues are paid in full!! Pay your \$550 dues TODAY to reinstate your membership!

Note: If dues are not paid, members will not be allowed to participate in the prize drawings during the June CE programs.

ABAT OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

Elections were held during the March ABAT meeting.
Congratulations to the following
ABAT officers for 2011-2012:

President – Rusty Roberts | Vice President – Salomon Dionicio
Secretary – Karen Ringgold | Treasurer – Dennis Wharton