

A Summary of the American Polygraph Association's 57th Annual Seminar

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The American Polygraph Association (APA) held their 57th Annual Seminar on August 27, through September 1, 2023, at the J.W. Marriot Resort and Spa in Las Vegas. The estimated number of attendees was over 850, representing over 30 nations from around the world.

Instructional classes started at 12:00pm on Sunday and concluded at 3:00pm on Friday. The instructors came from various backgrounds adding diverse learning opportunities for examiners in attendance. There were presentations from people who specialize in community safety polygraphs, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Justice, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations, therapists, researchers, and legal counsel. The schedule was thoughtfully laid out to ensure attendees could attend multiple topics of interest throughout the day so they could advance their professional practices in new, meaningful ways. There were even a few case studies that offered insights for examiners who may find themselves in similar situations moving forward.

The Sunday prior to the official start of the seminar there were pre-seminar workshops for those who had checked in early, and a welcome reception that evening. The reception was an opportunity for members to say hello, meet some of the presenters, and network. It was also a fun time! The reception included entertainment from an Elvis Presley impersonator and there was a contest for those who participated

in wearing their best flamingo attire. Attendees did not disappoint with their flamingo representation!

Monday morning started with the Opening Ceremony. The seminar was called to order, and local police departments presented their colors and their pipe and drum corps. The United States was also honored with the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, an Invocation is delivered and members who have passed are recognized. Outgoing President Donald Krapohl, then addressed those in attendance. Lastly, this year's recipients of APA awards were announced. Awards were formally presented during the Thursday night Banquet and Dinner.

The Awards Banquet on Thursday evening holds significant importance to the membership. Not only do the award recipients receive their plaques, but it also is the swearing-in ceremony for the next year's Board of Directors and the transition from one presidency to another. During this transition the incoming President, Donnie Duton, addressed the membership and delivered his platform as well as the goals and expectations he set for the Board of Directors.

At the Banquet award recipients were presented with their plaques and formally recognized for their significant contributions to the Association. Some award categories recognize a member who has gone above and beyond in support of the polygraph profession or the APA. In addition, there is the President's Award to recognize an exception member for achievements on the APA's behalf, and the Cornerstone Award, the APA's highest honor for lifelong work advancing the polygraph profession. Each recipient came to the stage and had their picture taken with the President of the APA with their award.

Overall, member feedback about the 2023 seminar has been nothing but positive. Those in attendance have come to appreciate the choices the APA makes for seminar sites, the diverse training opportunities, and the efforts to give members options beyond the classroom lectures. The 57th annual seminar was an excellent learning, networking and socializing event, and the APA looks forward to repeating that success next August in New Orleans.