

THE CONCEALED HANDGUN

Official Bi-Monthly Publication of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association
P.O. Box 116 Ropesville, Texas 79358
www.txchia.org

May-June 2010

TCHA 2010 Conference Report

Suzanna's Story As Compelling As Ever

By Chris Bird

Although many of us have heard Suzanna Gratia Hupp's story of the 1991 Luby's Cafeteria shooting in which her parents were murdered, it is a compelling reminder of why we carry guns and take responsibility for our own safety.

Suzanna was the keynote speaker at the banquet at the 2010 TCHA annual conference in Kerrville.

It was a sunny fall day in 1991 when Suzanna, she was Gratia then, went to the Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen for lunch with her parents. They had finished eating and were chatting when a pickup crashed through a window about 15 feet from her.

Her first thought was: "Oh my God, what a terrible accident."

But the driver got out of the truck and began methodically shooting the customers. Could this be a robbery, was Suzanna's next thought but the man continued shooting people.

"He was simply walking from one person to the next," she said.

She and her father, Al Gratia, turned the table on its side and with her mother took cover behind it. She reached for her purse where she used to keep a small revolver.

"I remember thinking, I've got this guy."

But then she remembered that some weeks before, she had made "the stupidest decision of my life.

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Please
remember our
military men
and women
and their families.

THE CONCEALED HANDGUN

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Submit articles to George Pena 6873 TX. Hwy 55 Uvalde, TX 78801

The Texas Concealed Handgun Association is a membership organization. Its objectives and purposes are: to promote the continuation and improvement of the Texas Concealed Handgun (CHL) Law; represent the standards and concerns of members to the general public, news media, Department of Public Safety and legislators; to promote responsible firearms safety and ownership; to provide current information to members about the laws, lesson plans and topics related to the Concealed Handgun License program; to promote high standards of instruction and training; and to support the right of responsible, law abiding citizens to own, keep and lawfully carry firearms for personal protection.

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At that time there was no provision for Texans to carry handguns for self-defense – no concealed carry. Afraid she might be caught and lose her chiropractor's license, she had decided not to carry a gun in her purse but to leave it in her car.

Her father decided he had to do something before the gunman killed everyone. Despite Suzanna trying to hold him down he got up and charged the shooter. The man saw him coming and shot him in the chest.

"As dreadful as it sounds, I basically wrote him off at that point," she said.

She wondered what could be so wrong in this man's life that he would do this.

"Sometimes evil just exists in this world," Suzanna said.

She heard someone break a window, grabbed her mother and ran towards the escape route. When she got outside she turned to say something to her mother but her mother had not followed her. She learned afterwards from police that her mother was cradling her father's head in her lap when the shooter reached her. She looked up at him, then down at her dying husband. The man put a gun to her head and shot her.

She and her husband had just celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary and "Mom wasn't going anywhere." Suzanna said some police officers were having a meeting at a nearby hotel when the shooting started. The management of the hotel requested that the officers leave their guns in their cars in case other guests became uncomfortable in the presence of armed officers. This contributed to the delay in police reaching the scene.

The shooter killed 23 people before putting a gun to his head and killing himself.

"I wasn't mad at the guy who did it. You don't get mad at a rabid dog," ,Suzanna said. "But I was mad as hell at my legislators who legislated me out of the means of protecting my family."

Since the Luby's shooting, there have been many other mass shootings, including Virginia Tech, Suzanna said. But none of them have occurred where it is legal for ordinary citizens to carry guns.

By insisting that some areas be gun free, "we have created killing zones," she said.

After the shooting when she was being asked for interviews by the media, she took the advice of Neal Knox, strong Second Amendment advocate and former NRA official. He told her to grant radio and television interviews to everyone, even the sleaziest because they would give her a chance to reach people she could not reach in any other way.

She hoped that her new book *From Luby's to the Legislature: One Woman's Fight Against Gun Control*, would reach "the bonbon eating sofa sitters."

"I would like the book in some of those people's hands," she said.

After the banquet, Suzanna signed copies of her book and was awarded an honorary membership in TCHA. Afternoon Speaker

Erwin Ballarta was first to speak after lunch. He is a retired Texas DPS officer now with Capitol Strategic Operations. He spoke about the development and management of defensive tactics up close and personal.

He said the outcome of a fight is usually determined in the first 10 seconds. Fights usually start with a blow to the face followed by both combatants fighting it out on the ground. He illustrated his talk with stark video from the dash cameras of Highway Patrol cars. One showed a female trooper being knocked to the ground by a large motorist. The man then repeatedly smashed her in the face with his elbows.

Another clip showed a Trooper Storm being shot multiple times after stopping a vehicle. In an interview with Ballarta, Storm admitted that he beat himself up for about six months for allowing the attack to succeed. He received a lot of criticism both good and bad following the incident. Both clips showed how quickly an incident can turn violent.

"Tactics are great but violence rules," Ballarta said.

At the banquet he too was awarded an honorary TCHA membership.

Alan Korwin of Bloomfield Press and author of the *Texas Gun Owner's Guide* reported on the McDonald versus Chicago case. As author and publisher of gun law books he was able to get a seat in the Supreme Court when the case was argued March 2.

Following the Heller case in which the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right, the McDonald case will determine whether the Second Amendment applies to the states and thus the cities within them. Chicago has some of the worst restrictions on firearms, particularly handguns.

Cont. on page 4

The case for making the states subject to the Second Amendment was argued relying on two clauses in the 14th Amendment. Alan Gura, the lawyer representing McDonald and the Second Amendment Foundation, chose the Privileges and Immunities clause which the justices seemed to reject. He was continually interrupted by questions from the justices.

The NRA asked the court for some of Gura's time and was granted it. Its lawyer, Paul Clement, argued for the Due Process clause to apply and his argument was much better received, Korwin said.

"The NRA saved our butt," he said.

Korwin predicted a five/four win when the court rules in June.

As well as updating us on the Chicago case, Korwin received a standing ovation for an address he called The American Way.

He said: "The American Way is hard work. It is keeping the benefits of your hard work. It is ownership of private property, and the sanctity of a contract between people. It is the idea that you and you alone own the fruits of your labors. It is the idea of paramount importance of self ownership. You and you alone own and are responsible for you. It's a tautology. The king doesn't own you. The state doesn't own you. You own you."

Walt Cleveland, a criminal defense lawyer from Fort Worth and a former Dallas police officer, urged members to keep an eye on the election of judges and sheriffs. They are responsible for interpreting and enforcing the laws. He cited a case where the Supreme Court overturned a man's conviction after it became known that the judge and the prosecutor were having an affair.

If you use a gun in self-defense, you should expect to go to jail, require a bail bondsman and need a lawyer, Cleveland said.

"Cops will lie about what they have in evidence," he said.

He advised people who have just been involved in a shooting incident not to make a statement until they have consulted with a lawyer. He suggested they say something like: "I don't want to answer any of your questions without a lawyer present."

Alice Tripp, the Texas State Rifle Association lobbyist to the Legislature, said the state has seen a steady improvement in conditions for gun owners in general and concealed handgun license holders in particular.

However, TSRA is still pushing for a law to allow employees to lock their guns in their vehicles while parked in their employers' parking lots. The association is also pushing for college and university students with CHLs to be able to carry their handguns concealed on campuses.

She noted that the last legislative session took away the penalty for not proffering a CHL to a police officer when asked for identification. The requirement is still there but the penalty has been withdrawn.

Tripp also warned that instructors qualifying Texans for a Utah concealed carry license instead of getting the Texas CHL could cause problems for everyone.

During the banquet, Tripp was asked to come to the front where TCHA President Rick Mackey said a check for \$500 would be sent to TSRA for her use in her job as lobbyist.

Bill Davison, owner of Tac Pro Shooting Center and a generous supporter of TCHA, was stung when someone at the morning fun shoot called his 9 mm semi-auto a "poodle shooter." He took his opportunity in the afternoon to defend the 9 mm round.

Twice, he said, the Germans had ravaged Europe with 9 mms and there were no complaints about its effectiveness. He emphasized that bullet placement in the cardiovascular triangle trumps caliber. "If you can only shoot a twenty-two, carry a twenty-two," he said.

He said the first rule for a defensive handgun is that it should function every time. He said that if you carry a concealed handgun you should be able to draw from concealment, fire three shots in three seconds at 10 yards and hit the cardiovascular triangle with each shot.

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Texas Concealed Handgun Association Member

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There's a new program in effect that gives us a \$5.00 rebate when we sign up a new member. It goes like this. You can sign up anyone, send in the membership fee of \$20.00 and receive a \$5.00 rebate in the mail. Sign up as many as you like. Just put your name on bottom of their application to assure you get the credit.

Did You Know. . . .

-that the association has a toll-free phone number (1 866 516-5117) that can be used for merchandise orders? If you need fast service for the books, videos, lesson plans and other materials that the association keeps in stock, just call! We can usually ship items within a day or two.
-that you can use the toll-free phone number to renew and up-date your membership? You do not have to find a stamp and make time to get to the post office. You may call in your membership update and renewal, although instructor members will still need to fax or mail a copy of their instructor certificate for our files and for newsletter and website listings.
- ...that we are giving free shipping on a valuable and timely resource that every traveler who carries a firearm should also be carrying? The 2008 edition of "*Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States*" is available for immediate shipment this fall. The cost is \$10 per copy. It is a concise and accurate summary of each state's transport and carry laws.

Message from the *President*

As the economy took a strong hit, we also have seen a dip in membership and sales. Please realize that all officers of our association are volunteers. They pay their own way to board meetings, which last two days usually, all phone calls, internet services, anywhere we are represented is done for the belief in our cause. My hat is off to all of you as we are blessed to have such a wonderful team.

Article Submission by Members

Any member should feel free to submit an article of interest to the newsletter. Whether it be hard questions from students, pictures at the range, or just to keep us up on the new gun you just acquired.

I want to hear from you.

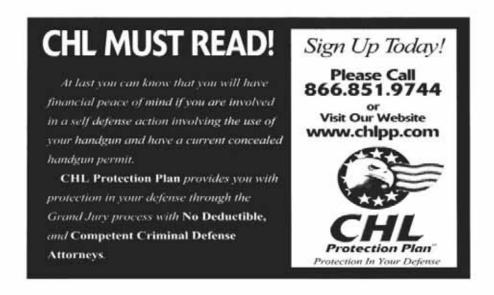
Send all articles to: bulldog @gpena.net

A Friendly Reminder to Instructors

Remember that starting in June, 2010 all recertification's don't need fingerprint cards or passport photo's in their packets.

Treasurer's Note

We are currently involved with the Handgun Instructor Classes in Austin and are pleased with the results of Ken Theaker and his associates. They are generating a significant number of new members for us and continuing good public relations with the DPS personnel and students. Sales of the Power Point software, lesson plans, shirts, caps, books, videos etc. are going well. Efforts are being made to ensure we have adequate inventories of all items. Our Certificate of Deposit and Savings Account are, as of June 15th. still in place. We have money in our checking account and all bills are current. Should you need additional info, let me know. Ron



DPS Instructor Classes

"Not only the heat in Austin was hot", but the Summer Texas Concealed Handgun Instructors classes were hot as well.

Due to the demand of new Texas Concealed Handgun instructors, Texas Department of Public Safety-firearms training division scheduled four classes to handle this demand. The classes were held in Austin at the Howard Johnson Hotel at Research & IH35 South. Here are the "fast facts" concerning one of the training class. Below are some comments to help our members see the trends in our industry.

June 1st – 4th, 2010 had 110 new instructors, a mix of all types of folks, rural areas & the big cities were represented as well. Ages were mixed as well, young, middle age and seniors. About ten percent were women. Additional classes were held on June 14-18th, 2010, July 5th-8th, 2010 & July 19-23rd, 2010. These classes will average 150 new instructors per class.

"What were the water cooler topics"?, Most discussed the current political environment most gun rights folks have been discussing since the election. The right to keep and bear arms and the right to attain a Texas Concealed Handgun License was discussed by more than a few who stopped by our table. Most new instructors were looking for teaching tools to help provide the best concealed handgun class for their students. The TCHA offerings were popular, Texas DPS Approved PPT's, lesson plans, books and videos & of course TCHA Instructor shirts with the TCHA logo and instructor on the front were a must have item. This group certainly paid attention to the Texas DPS presenters and now are ready to go out and teach Texas citizens on the concealed handgun course to attain their license. The rights of the legal Texas citizen are on the minds of most new instructors, and more than a few are hoping to take these new skills and turn them into a profitable business.

Ken Theaker

TCHA member & NRA & CHL Instructor



Texas Concealed Handgun Association

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AT THE STAGECOACH INN IN SALADO. TEXAS

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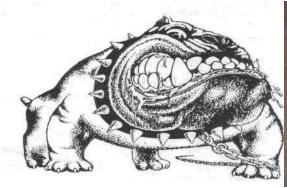
- I. HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR?
- 2. WHAT ARE THE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES?
- 3. WHAT KEY OBJECTIVES SHOULD WE ADOPT FOR THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS?

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Smaller may be better, easier George "Bulldog" Pena

As I think you all may know, I'm a firm believer in big guns. At different times, I've carried a Desert Eagle, .50 cal. Three .44 magnums, two six inch barrels and one eight. A variety of .357 magnums, countless .45 Autos and a Glock in .40 cal. My last carry gun was an H&K USP in.45 cal. I put a tactical threaded barrel on it, and it shoots flawlessly. I love it. After carrying big heavy guns for so long I was just used to it.

Last week I was visiting a gunsmith friend of mine and he pulled out a Springfield Armory XD .40 cal sub-compact and asked me what I thought of it. At first I chuckled. My hand was bigger than this gun. Then after handling it I saw it was just short, not small. I didn't waste too much time with it and we kept talking about different things. After I left, I found myself thinking about that little gun more and more. The next day I called him and told him I had to have it and would come by to pick it up. After haggling with this old guy and drinking half a bottle of my Jack, we agreed on a trade.

The next day I took "shorty", that's my guns name, out to my range to see what she could do. I sent 400 rounds out the barrel without a single malfunction. 200 rounds of 155 grain and 200 rounds of 180 grain bullets from different manufacturers.

At 25 feet the 155 grain bullets hit about an inch low. The 180 grain hit right on. This is good enough for me. Short, built, and can shoot. Aaaahhhhh!

I went inside and called the guy who makes my holsters and he's making one for shorty. In the mean time, I went through the closet I have that's full of old holsters and found one that will work till Shorty's new one comes in. Hey, if the wife can have a closet full of shoes, I can have one full of holsters. Now the real test comes.

Shorty is so light compared to the "butt sisters" of the past I kept checking to feel if she was still with me. she was with me. she's with me as I write this. The way I see it, it's the start of a long and beautiful friendship.

Moving & Shooting

By Chris Bird



Moving and shooting, shooting and moving, are an essential part of self-defense training.

Unfortunately many ranges, particularly indoor ranges, require you to stand behind a waist-high counter at the end of a shooting lane and remain still while shooting. Some even prevent you from firing at full speed as you would if someone were trying to take your life.

If you have your own range or access to a range where realistic training is permitted much of your practice should involve shooting on the move.

Three out of four police officers who are killed by firearms are shot at a range of 10 feet or less, according to FBI statistics. There are no comparable figures for civilians in gunfights but it is reasonable to assume that the 10-foot zone of maximum danger applies to us as well.

"At this distance, he doesn't have to be good, he's only got to be lucky," says Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch shooting school.

What can you do about it?

Maximize the distance to your attacker and minimize the target you present to him. You can do this by backing up or moving sideways, preferably to cover that will stop whatever the bad guy is shooting at you.

Backing up during an armed confrontation is not an indication of cowardice. It is common sense and good tactics for three reasons:

It makes you harder to hit. You are moving and with each backward step, making your-self a smaller target.

It gives your superior skill a better chance to triumph over his willingness to shoot. Luckily for the rest of us, most criminals are not good marksmen. There are exceptions. If you are a licensed gun carrier, your skill should exceed that of most would-be robbers, rapists and murderers.

Any witnesses to the confrontation will tell investigating police officers that you were retreating and trying to avoid a gunfight. This looks well to grand juries and prosecutors.

As with most shooting techniques, there is more than one way to move while shooting. The method I like was taught to me by Bill Davison at Tac Pro Shooting Center.

Start facing your target at about five feet with your gun in both hands in the ready position. Your legs should be bent to bring your body lower than usual. Bring the gun up until the sights are on the upper chest area of your target. Glide backwards on bent legs keeping your body from moving up and down as you back up. You should keep your sights nailed to the target. You should be shooting as fast as you can make reliable hits on the upper torso area. You may want to practice this a few times with an empty gun first.

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There may be occasions where tactically you may want to close the distance with your attacker. Practice this starting at 15 feet and walking fast towards the target. Later you can run.

Again, your legs should be bent as you glide forward without bobbing up and down like an empty beer bottle in the ocean.

I was taking a handgun course at Tac Pro a couple of years ago when we were required to run, gun in hand, from 25 yards to five yards then engage a figure target. The range is covered with gravel which can make running a challenge. As I was running I found my body was moving faster than my legs. As I reached the seven-yard line I lost my balance and nose dived into the gravel. I skinned my elbows but kept the gun out of the gravel and between me and the target. I wasted no time opening fire, shooting until the target was "dead."

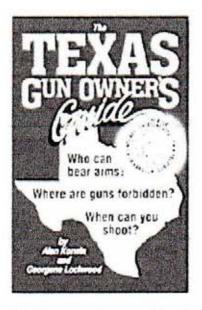
Although what I did was unintentional, it occurred to me afterwards that if no cover is available hugging the ground is not a bad option while returning fire. It certainly made me a much smaller target than I had been while running.

If you run at right angles to your attacker you will be even harder to hit. You maybe heading for cover to one side or other of your assailant or you may be just getting out of there ASAP. You can start by using the same gliding walk used to advance or retreat. During this technique, your body will be facing towards the cover and you will be watching your attacker over your left or right shoulder. If you are right-handed and your attacker is to your left you will be able to use both hands on your gun. If the threat is to your right, you will have to shoot one-handed.

Start by crossing in front of your attacker at a range of 10 feet. Later move back to 15 feet. Once you have mastered these exercises and can keep all your shots in a paper plate you have made a significant improvement in your self-defense skills.

But remember that in a real gunfight you may be moving but so may your assailant.

Chris Bird is a director of TCHA and author of **The Concealed Handgun Manual**.



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TEXAS GUN DIVERTED TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE	IF YOU OWN A GUN, YAND REGULATIONS A MAIL ORDERS TO: FIRST STREET ADDRESS CITY ()	T.C.H.A. MER P.O. Box 11 Ropesville, T	CHANDISE 6 TX 79358 LAST ZIP CODE	SUB-TOTAL SHIPPING TOTAL OF ORDER (SALES TAX IS SHIPPING COSTS (\$0.00 - 5 \$20.00 - 5 \$50.00 - 5 \$75.0	\$

The Concealed Handgun



TEXAS CONCEALED HANDGUN ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 116 Ropesville, TX 79358 www.txchia.org

CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECK NO New Member - \$20 Annual Membership - \$20 3-yr. Cond. Life Membership - \$400 (\$100 down / \$100 ea. qtr.) Life First Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle Middle	it Holder) r) Member #] CREDIT CARD LAST 4 NUME . Membership - \$55
[] (Texas Concealed Handgun License Permit Holder) Lic. # [] (Out-of-State Concealed Handgun License Instructor or Permit Gactive or Retired Law Enforcement Officer) [] (Concerned Citizen) [] (Current Member Gership: (Check [√] Appropriate Box): [] Cash [] Check [Check No] New Member - \$20 [] Annual Membership - \$20 [] 3-yr.] Cond. Life Membership - \$400 (\$100 down / \$100 ea. qtr.) [] Life for Middle	it Holder) r) Member # CREDIT CARD LAST 4 NUME Membership - \$55 Membership - \$400
New Member - \$20 [] Annual Membership - \$20 [] 3-yr.] Cond. Life Membership - \$400 (\$100 down / \$100 ea. qtr.) [] Life is a sign of the second se	LAST 4 NUME Membership - \$55 Membership - \$400
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e Phone () - Business Phone ()	-
ail Address	
As a member of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association, I hereby promise to promote the continuation to present the standards and concerns of the members to the general public, the Department of Public Safety and the responsible firearm safety, ownership and use in our communities, to provide current information to our members aled Handgun License program, and to promote high standards of instruction and training. I will support the right ty carry firearms for personal protection. Sinclosed are my dues for membership in the Association. If you are a Texas CHL Instructor please submit a contion.	I the legislators who represent us. I furters about the laws, lesson plans and topic at of responsible, law abiding citizens to
Send completed application to:	nature
Texas Concealed Handgun Association Membership P.O. Box 116 Ropesville, TX 79358	

T.C.H.A. MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

DESCRIPT	ION OF ITEM(S)			<u>Q</u> 1	<u>Y.</u>
INSTRUCTOR	NCEALED HANDGUN ASSOCIATION LOGO EMBE ES., M., L, XL; \$26 FOR	ROIDERED ON A TWO-	BUTTON COTTON SHII		_
INSTRUCTOR	ONCEALED HANDGUN ASSOCIATION LOGO EMBI S ALL. ROYAL BLUE ONI	ROIDERED ON A SOLII		·····	_
	ONCEALED HANDGUN ATCH. RED, WHITE, AND C			······ —	_
4" PATCH (R	. LIFE MEMBERSHIP ED, WHITE, AND GOLD ON COMMITTMENT. AVAILAB	A BLUE BACKGROU	ND) WITH ROCKERS A	NNOUNCING YOUR	
	NCEALED HANDGUN ISTRUCTOR ASSOCIATION I				
6TH EDITI	TANDARDIZED CHL I TON \$65.00 . <u>Sold in</u> IVE LESSON PLAN/WORKBO	<u>SETS OF 10</u> .		FRAM.	
	FANDARDIZED CHL I	LESSON PLAN/WO	ORKBOOK		_
THE MOST D	R'S GUIDE TO THE FI EFINITIVE AND INFORMATI LITTEN BY A LAWYER IN 'P.	VE BOOK ON BEING A	BLE TO CARRY FIREA	•	_
MAIL ORI P.O. BOX	DERS TO: T.C.H.A.	MERCHANDISE		SUB-TOTAL	\$
ROPESVIL	LE, TX 79358			SHIPPING	\$
SHIP TO:	FIRST	MI	LAST	TOTAL OF ORDER \$	
				(SALES TAX IS INCL	UDED)
	STREET ADDRESS			SHIPPING COSTS CA	LCULATION
	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	\$0.00 - \$19.99 = \$20.00 - \$49.99 =	= \$5.00
	() Home phone number	ТСНА	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	\$50.00 - \$74.99 = \$75.00—\$99.99 =	•
CHARGE TO MY CREDIT CARD: (VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS)			\$100.00 AND UP		
CARD NUMBER EXPIRATION			TION DATE	SECURITY CODE	
			SIGNATURE		



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Help the Association Save Money ... Check your membership expiration date and <u>RENEW</u> your membership <u>NOW</u>!

To keep updated on Texas reciprocity, check the DPS website at: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/chl/chlsindex.htm or Texas Concealed Handgun website at: http://www.txchia.org/

Membership dues payable to the Texas Concealed Handgun Association are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes