



Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

Arkansas • Arizona • Colorado • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas

SWACJ Web Page: www.swacj.org

Email: swacj.org@gmail.com

Messages from your SWACJ Board Members

First Vice President's Report

Hello SWACJ colleagues,

Welcome back to a new semester! I hope everyone is adjusting to the new “normal.” Although we had to cancel the 2020 SWACJ conference in Austin, TX, we are moving forward and excited to see all of you at the 2021 SWACJ conference in Little Rock, AR. Arkansas is actually my home state. I grew up in Hot Springs, AR which is about an hour from the capital city - Little Rock. I also lived a number of years in Little Rock while working on my BA and MA in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. All that to say that I am very excited to welcome you here next October and show you all the great things about the area. The 2020 SWACJ conference will be held on October 13-16 at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown. This hotel is located at the heart of downtown Little Rock, next to the Arkansas River and the River Market. It is connected to the Robinson Center and only blocks away from the William J. Clinton Library and Museum. There is plenty to do in the area as the hotel is right next to popular restaurants, local pubs, museums, and shops.

During this conference, we will continue our tradition of having a Quiz Bowl, CSI competition, undergraduate and graduate paper competitions, and various achievement awards. Deadlines for these activities, awards, and presentation submission will be announced soon. We will also have a number of new professional development workshops for students who are interested in graduate education and junior faculty who want advice on navigating the academic world and tips and tricks on getting tenure. The ad hoc professional development committee will be responsible for these workshops, so if you are interested in helping with the organization of these workshops, please volunteer and send us a quick message.

I am excited to announce that we have a new journal editor for the Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology (JQCJC). Please join me in welcoming Scott Jacques as the new editor of JQCJC (Georgia State University). The journal editor search committee and SWACJ board members were very impressed with his passion for qualitative research, open access, and strategies to move the journal forward. Welcome to the team, Scott! We will, however, miss Lynne Veriaitis (UT-Dallas), who served as the JQCJC editor for the past few years. She has been amazing to work with and I sincerely want to thank her for her dedication to the craft, professionalism, and insight. You will be missed, Lynne!



Last but certainly not least, I want to really thank the SWACJ Board members for their dedication to SWACJ and its membership. All the board members spent countless hours over the summer making sure that SWACJ (as an organization) remained strong during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. From re-negotiating contracts to figuring out how to conduct business for SWACJ members in this new virtual “normal,” I am fortunate and proud to work with such amazing and dedicated colleagues and friends. Thank you for all your hard work this summer! Thank you also to the SWACJ membership for your consistent support and loyalty to the organization. You are simply the best!

As we begin the fall, please mark your calendar for a couple of important dates that are coming up this year.

- Nominations for Second Vice President and Webmaster are due by September 13, 2020. Be sure to submit the full name of the person being nominated, university affiliation, and the position when submitting nominations to swacj.org@gmail.com. An online voting ballot will be sent out to members on October 12, two days prior to the general business meeting.
- We need volunteers for a number of committees. If you are interested in any of the committees below, please email us at swacj.org@gmail.com.
 - Audit committee (standing committee)
 - Professional development committee (ad hoc committee)
 - Awards committee (ad hoc committee)
- The SWACJ general business meeting will be held on Oct. 14, 2020 at 5pm (central) via Zoom. This meeting will be open to all voting SWACJ members. The new board members will be announced at the general business meeting.

See you all at the 2020 SWACJ General Business meeting in October. It will be great to catch up with everyone and see your friendly faces!

Trusty

Past President's Report

All I can say is Wow! This has been a tumultuous few months. The turmoil that COVID has caused has impacted every facet of life and no one has been immune to these effects. Like most of you, my university shut down in the spring and moved to an online format with varying success based on the classes, professors, and students. The transition was difficult for everyone involved (God bless those of you who also had grade school children at home learning virtually). I think the lack of outside human interaction made things more difficult and still does today.

The cancellation of the ACJS conference right before the quarantine went into effect, while a tough decision to make, was the correct call. I missed seeing all of you SWACJ folks there and holding our mid-year meeting. However, the safety of our members comes first, and that is



the main reason why we cancelled the SWACJ 2020 Austin meeting. We knew (even toward the end of the spring semester) like many of you that an October meeting was not a realistic possibility. Luckily, the hotel management was understanding, and we were able to renegotiate the contract for 2022. We also closed negotiations on the Little Rock hotel for 2021, which was a fantastic deal (Thanks Tusty!).

In other exciting news, we have secured a new editor for the Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology in Scott Jacques from Georgia State University. Lynne Vieraitis is stepping down after finishing up her three-year term as editor and we could not be more thankful for the job she has done. Her impact on the journal was outstanding and pushed us forward. Scott has big shoes to fill, but the search committee and the board believe he is up to the task. We are excited to see where Scott takes the journal next. Please give Scott a warm welcome when you see him at SWACJ in Little Rock.

With the unprecedented nature of the conference cancellation, we had to figure out some way to hold our annual business meeting. The board discussed this and came up with a novel solution. We would solicit nominations for the open positions (2nd Vice President and Webmaster) from the members, with a hard deadline. At that point the board would confirm the nominee's intentions to run for the position and ask for bios from the nominees. A Qualtrics survey (with a one-time link to each registered member's email address) would be sent out to voting members. The membership would vote for the positions and then the vote would be announced at our online business meeting. While this format has never been done in SWACJ's history, 2020 is a pretty historical year with COVID, protests, murder hornets, and the Tiger King.

If you are interested in helping out with SWACJ, I would encourage you to run for one of the open positions or to serve on the audit committee. Many of you know that I am rotating off the board in October after four years after first being elected as 2nd Vice President. But many of you may not know that I served three years on the audit committee prior to my service on the board. It is a good way to get started in service to SWACJ and helps you to get integrated into the organization.

As this is likely my last newsletter entry as a member of the SWACJ board, I wanted to thank all the SWACJ members for your help these past few years. The organization could not have been anywhere near as successful without your help and support. I would also like to thank all the board members that I served with over the course of my SWACJ career. Everyone was helpful, welcoming, and kind to me during my time on the board. I could not have asked for a better group of individuals to work with, so thank you! I look forward to seeing you at our online business meeting and am optimistic that 2021 brings a positive change to our fortunes. I hope to see you all at the 2021 ACJS conference in Orlando and our own 2021 SWACJ conference in Little Rock. Stay safe!

Mike

Journal Editor's Report

I am pleased to be incoming editor of *The Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*. You can learn more about me at scottjacques.us. As I write this, Lynne Vieraitis is still serving as editor. She recently published the summer 2020 issue, which is the third of volume 8. As she mentioned in the prior newsletter, her tenure ends with publication of the fall 2020 issue. I am in the midst of moving the journal to a new and improved website. More details to come in the next newsletter. Please join me in thanking Lynne for her tremendous service to the journal, SWACJ, and the field as a whole.

Scott Jacques

Regional Trustee's Report

Greetings Everyone,

I hope this finds you healthy, safe and surviving new teaching modalities. Since the cancellation of the 2020 San Antonio meeting, ACJS continues to move forward with the 2021 conference preparations. Cassia Spohn, the 2021 ACJS President, has hit the ground running. In addition to preparations for the 2021 conference in Orlando, Cassia is exploring alternatives to the face to face conference in the event we are not able to meet. A survey was sent this week as part of the contingency preparation and planning. Please let us know your thoughts for the 2021 national meeting.

If you have not had an opportunity – check out the ACJS website. ACJS strives to be up to date in meeting the needs of the members. In addition to working behind the scenes on a strategic plan, ACJS updated areas of the website. Letiscia Perrin, the Association Manager, often updates the front page graphics.

The ACJS Executive Board will hold the mid-year meeting via Zoom.

Items you may find to be of interest:

1. Similar to other organizations and institutions, the ACJS Executive Board prepared and provided a **public statement regarding the death of George Hogan** and other victims of police brutality. The *Crime Report* did a write up on our call to action (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_thecrimereport.org_2020_06_03_criminology-2Dgroup-2Dwe-2Dmust-2Ddo-2Dmore-2Dthan-2Dresearch-2Dthese-2Dcommunities-2Dfrom-2Da-2Ddistance_&d=DwMFaQ&c=61yQaCoNVjQr1ah003i6yA&r=FMsmufY_TVZ_8FfG1z3_qViBhMSl_-j6sc604YyH2QHc&m=IZQYGZEPJRGRPk6G_xOQU-q8-s0bF2LBZIAMj1p9NoE&s=fUA_EANzDzZbAmaC_X-b0fizkUzrqVN3i-6fqJlogBnQ&e=.)).
2. With the cancellation of 2020 national and regional conferences, below are **links to virtual conferences** that I know are scheduled this fall. NOTE: Participation and attendance are **free, and membership waived** for the meetings.

- a. **The Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA)** will host a 2020 Research Showcase: *September 8 to 10th*. The showcase **registration fee will be waived** for current members, as well as non-members. All student and faculty participants **will receive SCJA swag**. The most competitive submissions will be eligible to win an Amazon Gift Card with amounts ranging from \$25-\$500. Submission categories are:
 - i. **Lightning Talks:** These will consist of 3-minute research talks to summarize and engage the membership in research project findings. Participants may submit a video of themselves giving a 3-minute talk on a current research project.
 - ii. **Poster Presentations:** Participants may display their research in the form of a poster in a **36x72**.PPT or.PDF format.
 - iii. **Engagement Opportunities:** The lightning talks, posters, and other SCJA information will be made available on the Whova Research Showcase Platform and App with opportunities to ask questions, vote, and participate in other activities.

 - b. **Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators (TACJE)** Virtual Conference 2020, **Oct 26th -31st**. *Beyond the Horizon: Reimagining Justice and Embracing Change* is the theme of this virtual meeting. The registration and submissions deadline is September 21. Panels will focus on addressing criminal justice education pedagogy, modalities, effective instruction of CJ reform, and Black Live Matters topics. Also, traditional panels will discuss current research in the field of criminal justice and criminology. All submissions are to be **made through the TACJE portal** and are **due September 21**. For more information about TACJE, please visit the website www.tacje.org.

 - c. The **Criminology Consortium (CRIMCON)**, Annual Meeting of the Criminology Consortium, is **November 18th -20th**. The **submission deadline was June 30**. Submissions should be of similar quality or better to what would have been submitted to other in-person conferences this year. The link is <https://crimcon.org/>.
3. **ACJS awards.**
You can view a **full list of various ACJS Section Awards** available on the ACJS website here - <https://www.acjs.org/page/SectionAwards>. Several have a deadline of October 15, so please make sure you respond as soon as possible.
4. **The 58th Annual ACJS Meeting in Orlando, Florida**

Conference theme: Reforming + Transforming Criminal Justice

Event Date: April 13 - 17, 2021

Host Hotel: Caribe Royale Orlando All Suites Resort

[Hotel group block rates and details here](#)

[Registration Information](#)

[Exhibit with ACJS](#)

[Call for Presentation details](#)

[Join ACJS](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments, questions, or concerns.
Take care of yourselves and stay safe,

Christine A. Nix

Region IV Trustee

Important Information

2020 SWACJ Memberships

A few years ago, the SWACJ Executive Board moved to combine membership fees with conference fees. Since there will be no annual meeting this year, all members who attended the 2019 annual meeting will have their membership extended until 2021. For individuals who did not attend the 2019 annual meeting, or for new members, there is a \$25 fee to become an active member of SWACJ, which includes voting privileges. The link to apply and pay for memberships is located on the SWACJ website under the Membership tab.

Call for Nominations and Elections

There will be two executive board member positions that will become open in October 2020: Second Vice President and Webmaster. Any nominations (self or other) for these positions should be sent to the SWACJ board by midnight on September 13, 2020. Nominations should be emailed to swacj.org@gmail.com - please indicate the full name of the person being nominated, university affiliation, and the position when submitting nominations. An online voting ballot will be sent out to members on October 12, two days prior to the general business meeting.

Also, volunteers are needed on the audit, professional development, and awards committee. This is a good way to become active in SWACJ and often committee members end up running for executive board positions. Anyone interested in being on the audit committee, please contact the board at swacj.org@gmail.com.

General Business Meeting

There will be a general business meeting via Zoom on [October 14 at 5pm](#) (central daylight time). This meeting will be open to all voting SWACJ members. New board members are usually voted on during the general business meeting. Since the meeting will be online this year, an online voting ballot will be sent out to members on [October 12](#), two days before the general business meeting, and the new board members will be announced at the general business meeting. Please look for this important email.

Conference Updates

2021 Conference

We are happy to announce that the 2021 SWACJ annual meeting will be in Little Rock, Arkansas. We will be spending the next year getting ready to welcome everyone back (and in greater numbers we hope!) to the SWACJ family.

We know that university budgets are likely going to be tight for travel funds and donations, that help offset and defray some of the costs of the meeting, may be limited. The Executive Board is actively working on this and trying to find any and all possible sources of revenue and ways to minimize the costs to the organization. If you have any thoughts, experience, or are independently wealthy, please contact a member of the Executive Board. We are definitely interested in hearing from you about ideas. Also, there is a button on the bottom of the SWACJ homepage for members to make donations.

2021 Conference Hotel: Doubletree Hotel Downtown Little Rock

Dates: October 13-16, 2021

Room Rates: \$96 single and double rooms

Other Amenities: Free Wi-Fi and welcome amenities

Parking: \$10 a night (discounted rate)

Message from the Little Rock Convention Center

We'll Keep the Lights On: A Letter from Little Rock

Dear Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice Members,

Allow us to introduce ourselves: We're Little Rock, Arkansas, the host of your 2021 Annual Meeting. 2021 is a big year for us; it's our 200th anniversary of being named Arkansas's capital. So, we hope you arrive ready to celebrate next October.

It's alright if you're not quite sure where we are; we know that geography wasn't one of the skills people spent their time brushing up on during quarantine. In actuality, we're not that



far away: just a day's drive for 40% of Americans or just a single connection away from more than 300 airports around the world.

We also understand if you don't know a lot about us yet. Most people's idea of Little Rock centers around President Bill Clinton and, if we're being honest, he's kind of a big deal for us, too. Right downtown is the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park. It's home to his Presidential Library, one of the most popular attractions in Arkansas. When you visit, you'll get the chance to walk through an Oval Office replica, to see memorabilia from his administration and you'll get to ask yourself, "Were the 90s really that long ago?" The answer to that is "yes," but it also seems like 2020 will never end, so we understand the confusion.

Regardless of how you first heard of us, Little Rock's history began long before we found ourselves in the national spotlight in the 1990s and right now our future is being written by a cast of locals who make us incredibly proud. Take Jason Jones, an artist whose work you literally can't miss. His block-long mural of a little toy wagon, "Playtime" is just one of many new works of public art that have brought new life to our downtown core. And then there's Mr. Elihue Washington, of Lassie's Inn, our not-so-well-kept secret spot for fried fish. He won a James Beard award this year; just another milestone in the story of a family that's been serving Little Rock diners since 1905. Or there's Phil Brandon, a former white-collar IT executive who found happiness opening Arkansas's first distillery since Prohibition (the first *legal* one, at least). Now, ten years later, Rock Town Distillery's Main Street tasting room is decorated in the awards and trophies his gins and Bourbons have collected from around the world.

One of the benefits of being a just-the-right-size kind of city is that all of the things you'll want to do and all of the people who make Little Rock so special are all so close. Need to grab a souvenir between sessions? Visit the Shop the Rock gift shop and talk to our friend Charlie Oppedisano (his accent will give him away as a Massachusetts transplant, but we liked him well enough to let him stay). Or venture a few blocks down Main Street to Bella Vita Jewelry and ask for Brandy McNair. In 2008 she launched her jewelry design business at a local craft show. Now her designs can be found in stores around the world. While you're there, be sure to snag a snack from Cocoa Belle Chocolates. Carmen Portillo, Arkansas's end-all, be-all queen of chocolate makes the best truffles you'll ever have.

If you have a moment, we'd recommend taking a stroll through Riverfront Park. It's more than 30 acres of rolling hills and meandering pathways that lie parallel to the Arkansas River, and it contains more than 100 sculptures just waiting to be discovered. If you're wanting something a little more lively, you'll want to head to the River Market Entertainment District, Little Rock's nightlife hotspot. It's a three-block stretch of President Clinton Avenue where alcoholic drinks can be taken outside of the bars and onto the sidewalks. And, of course, we hope you'll enjoy a few meals at any of our fantastic local restaurants. Publications like *Wine Enthusiast*, *Bourbon & Boots*, *Food & Wine* and *Southern Living* have all raved about our food scene as being one of the best in the south and named us one of America's undiscovered foodie paradises.



We understand that *right now* may not seem like the ideal time to get out and explore a new city, and we also understand that Little Rock, Arkansas, probably wasn't the destination you kept dreaming of while you were stuck at home (We totally get it, we wish we were at the beach too). But when you get here, you'll find a city of people excited to see you. Welcoming folks is just what we do; our niceness is in our nature. Until then, y'all stay safe and get ready to have a fantastic meeting next year. We'll keep the lights on for you.

Love,

Little Rock

2022 Conference

The 2022 conference will be at the OMNI Southpark in Austin, Texas. Below is the information about this conference.

2021 Conference Hotel: Omni Austin Southpark

Dates: October 19-21, 2022

Room Rates: \$159 single and double rooms

Other Amenities: Free Wifi in guest rooms

Parking: Free parking

Final Thoughts

Thank you to all of our SWACJ members for their continual support. We appreciate all of you and we hope that you are doing well. Please feel free to reach out to any board member with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Tusty

Jon

Mike

Molly

Lynn

Tammy

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Tusty ten Bensel

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