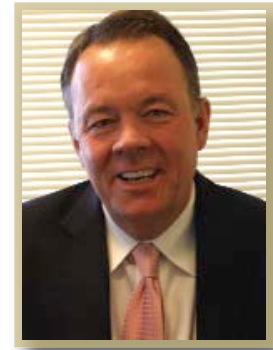


MESSAGE

from the Executive Director

SCOTT BURNS



NDAA's New Executive Director— Introducing Scott Burns

MY FAVORITE QUOTE IS “nothing easy is ever excellent, nothing excellent is ever easy” and my favorite people are prosecutors and cops.

The editor of this publication told me that my first “Message from the Executive Director” should tell people who I am and what changes are in the works here at NDAA. While I thought the foregoing was enough about myself (don’t you just hate it when people throw out they’ve done this or that?), she insisted on a bit more, so here is my background.

I was the elected county attorney in Iron County, Utah, for almost 16 years (like most DAs I tried everything from jaywalking to death penalty cases); I served seven years at the White House in the Drug Czar’s Office and concurrently in the capacity as the U.S. Sports Minister (we don’t have a real sports minister so the president appoints somebody to represent us around the world on matters relating to doping and sport—what a great job that was); and on March 21 of this year I was honored and humbled to be selected as the executive director of the National District Attorneys Association. I have many friends in Washington and across the country, and I’m going to make them all friends of NDAA.

As far as what we are doing here in Alexandria, Virginia, and Columbia, South Carolina, all I can say is “working very, very hard to make NDAA great again.” We brought on Richard Hanes to manage the office and start getting our grants and policies straightened out. Rick is known nationally for his skill and ability in management (he can actually sit and stare at numbers and columns for hours).

We convinced Bill Gibbs to take over our IT program, which was in pretty bad shape, and anyone who knows Bill will tell you that he has to be one of the best in the world (he’s from Australia and talks funny). Bill has already upgraded antiquated equipment and systems, is bringing our new CRM (customer relationship management for members) program online, which will enhance the information and assistance we can provide our members in a way that you will just have to see to believe.

I convinced my friend Jason Baker to be our director of government affairs who will work full-time for NDAA to increase grant and private sector funding for our training and

technical assistance efforts; secure permanent funding for the NAC and John R. Justice legislation; and get NDAA back at the table on every issue related to criminal justice. When I was at the White House, I had a hand in determining where \$12 billion for anti-drug efforts would go each year and I personally oversaw the \$230 million HIDTA program, and I thought I knew a few key people on Capitol Hill—Jason Baker knows “everybody” on Capitol Hill (he plays on eight softball teams and lives in the restaurants and pubs of our nation’s capital).

We finished interviews for our new grants manager and will hire a new director of research and development soon (this title used to be referred to as the APRI director, but our board has wisely decided to do away with all the confusion among NCD, APRI, NAC, etc. as we are now one tax ID number, one entity, and one family called NDAA).

While many people have left NDAA over the past few years, many loyal and dedicated people have stayed. I can’t tell you how proud I am of the folks in Columbia and Alexandria that truly understand the mission: to serve our 7,000 members and all of America’s prosecutors so that women and men, representing the people, can walk into court prepared to do justice.

I have to conclude by telling you that we all owe Tom Sneddon, former Santa Barbara County DA and our interim executive director, a sincere “thank you” (I could write this entire message about what Tom did to start turning NDAA around). Simply stated, Tom put in many, many hours and dealt with a myriad of lose/lose issues and somehow made it all work. President Joe Cassilly, if you haven’t met him, is everything a prosecutor should be and has worked hand-in-glove with Tom, the entire executive committee and many NDAA Board members, to start the process of making NDAA what it always should have been and soon will be.

I look forward to meeting you in the months and years to come; I understand that I work for “you”; and your NDAA staff and I are committed to doing whatever we can to make your hard work easier as you protect the innocent, convict the guilty and serve your community. Should you have questions, suggestions or comments, or if there is anything I can do for you, please pick up the phone (703.549.9222) or e-mail me (sburns@ndaa.org).