



## **FBI St. Louis Citizens Academy Alumni Association 2023 Annual Report**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The FBI St. Louis Citizens Academy Alumni Association's 2023 Annual Report highlights the Chapter's initiatives and accomplished objectives that were established in the 2023 Memorandum of Agreement with FBI St. Louis. Founded in 2006, our Chapter remains committed to supporting the FBI's mission and outreach priorities as demonstrated by the programs, events, and community service projects that our all-volunteer membership delivers in partnership with the FBI.

## 2023 MOA GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**MOA Goal #1: Provide virtual cyber security awareness to small businesses and non-profits. Offer multiple events at different times of the day and week to accommodate as many participants as possible.**

FBISTLCAAA members provided free cyber security webinars each quarter to help protect small businesses and nonprofits that cannot afford a cybersecurity team. The webinars featured nationally known presenters and included information about low-to-no-cost ways to stay safe, as well as the emerging threat from cyber criminals exploiting Generative AI. Participants from as far as Guam attended the webinars. The Chapter's efforts received extensive coverage on local FOX TV news.



L to R: SAC, Webinar Presenter, Past Webinar Attendee, News Anchor

**MOA Goal #2: Increase public awareness of FBI St. Louis' Twitter account, SAC's LinkedIn, and HQ's social media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, and Instagram).**

FBISTLCAAA served as a force-multiplier for important messages from FBI HQ, St. Louis Field Office, and the National Citizens Academy Alumni Association, through the reposting of social media messages and forwarding important electronic bulletins to community organizations as appropriate. Specifically, members promoted awareness of FBI St. Louis' social media presence as a trusted source of information for the public.

**MOA Goal #3: Raise awareness about what FBI deems as the most urgent threats (such as sextortion against young teen boys, hoax threats, business e-mail compromise).**

Cybersecurity has remained a key focus of FBISTLCAAA and FBI St. Louis. As described above in MOA Goal #1, members provided webinars educating businesses on information security.

Members helped increase local school district awareness of FBI resources surrounding sextortion.

Members also coordinated FBI St. Louis ASAC's panel participation at a St. Louis Regional Crime Commission event.

**MOA Goal #4: Partner with FBI St. Louis on community events to include, but not limited to:**

- **Annual Redbird Rookies Health Fair where 500 kids are invited**
- **On-going engagement at Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club**

Members supported FBI St. Louis at the annual St. Louis Cardinals "Redbird Rookies" health fair at Busch Stadium where hundreds of families participated.



FBISTLCAAA provided meals for FBI St. Louis' various outreach events, including a shoot/don't shoot interactive demonstration for community leaders and activists, Teen Academy, and Citizens Academy.



## OTHER CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FBISTLCAAA hosted an Annual Members Meeting and social event featuring SAC's year-in-review presentation followed by an extensive Q&A between members and SAC.

Board Members met for a half-day Strategic Planning Meeting to update the 2023 objectives for the MOA and plan how to accomplish them.

FBISTLCAAA hosted a breakfast with SAC for Life Members, where SAC encouraged questions. The event was successful in dispelling disinformation and recent high-profile accusations against the FBI.

FBISTLCAAA co-sponsored an annual charity golf tournament in memory of St. Louis FBI Special Agent L. Douglas Abram, who lost his life in the line of duty. Our Chapter also made a significant financial donation to the memorial fund.



Members participated in the annual trip to FBI HQ in Washington, D.C. and a day-long tour of FBI Academy in Quantico.

Several Board Members attended the 2023 National Leadership Conference in Boston.

Board Members attended an FBI Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop to learn about the dangers of IEDs produced with ordinary household products. The workshop included a live demonstration of the devices' explosive power.

Members continue to volunteer as decoys for TSA's K9 training program at the St. Louis Lambert International Airport. These volunteer opportunities are not open to the general public. FBISTLCAAA is a trusted group for the TSA.



## **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is responsible for governance, oversight and operations of the Chapter and meets quarterly to plan, organize, and report on progress toward our goals. The Board works closely with the Field Office PAO, COS and other FBI personnel to ensure our actions align with Field Office priorities and continue to build a strong, strategic partnership. The Board of Directors in 2023 included:

Peter C. Smith, President  
Jim von der Heydt, Vice President  
John Nickel, Treasurer  
Dr. Stephen Liang, Secretary  
David Brickhaus, Immediate Past President  
Eling Lam, Director  
Philip Deitch, Director  
Eric Stafford, Director  
Dr. Ghazala Hyatt, Director  
Sidney Hirsch, Director  
Victor Salguero, Director  
Michael Wild, Director

## **Membership Development**

Our chapter ended 2023 with 156 paid members, a significant increase from previous years when Citizens Academy was cancelled during the pandemic. Of our paid members, approximately 95% are Life Members. Several factors contributed to membership growth in 2023:

- In February 2023, the Chapter encouraged past members to rejoin using an email campaign to highlight upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.
- Board Members attended each of the FBI Citizens Academy classes and spoke about the Chapter's partnership with the field office. We gave a presentation on CAAA's mission and activities at graduation, where an overwhelming majority of the 2023 class joined the Chapter.

## **Volunteer Hours**

Chapter members and Board members volunteered hundreds of hours to plan, organize, implement, and staff outreach programs. Board members also dedicated significant hours to managing Chapter operations and securing compliance with National reporting requirements.

## **Chapter Operations Improvements**

- Upgraded financial record keeping and reporting thanks to Treasurer John Nickel's initiatives.
- Continued to deploy resources provided via StarChapter, an association management platform integrating web, database, event registration, and financial reporting. In addition, we deployed Square as our remote-payment platform for enrolling new members and accepting donations at events.

## **SUMMARY**

Our achievements in 2023 can be attributed to a solid strategic plan developed in partnership with FBI St. Louis, forward thinking Board leadership, engaged members committed to the mission, and community partners who support our goals. We believe our plan provided a thoughtful roadmap to set direction, define priorities, and focus limited resources on programs to make that happen. As the future unfolds, new needs and opportunities will no doubt emerge, and we are prepared to embrace change while staying on course.

## **SUBMITTED BY:**

Peter C. Smith

Board Position: President

Contact Email: [Psmith@fbistlcaaa.org](mailto:Psmith@fbistlcaaa.org)