

LIFETIME ACHEIVEMENT

Lisa Dvorak, Assistant Chief of Police began her career in law enforcement as a dispatcher at the San Marcos Police Department in 1977 and in 1981 became the first female officer hired by the department. This was just the beginning of “firsts” for Lisa in her law enforcement career. She was assigned in 1984 to the newly created Crime Prevention program at the department and within one year was named the Outstanding Crime Prevention Specialist of the Year by the Texas Crime Prevention Association for 1985. She was the first female to receive this statewide award.

Community service is important to Lisa and she strives to include department members and citizens in numerous endeavors. This has included raising \$17,000 to help defer medical bills for a child paralyzed in an auto accident, raising \$6,000 in funds to provide every kindergarten through fifth grade classroom with its own McGruff puppet, raising nearly \$85,000 in donated materials for a 17,000 square foot handicapped-accessible playground for the children of San Marcos, and organizing the police department’s first participation in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Lisa is well-known for her strengths as an investigator and was a lead investigator in the cold case investigation of a 1980 abduction, sexual assault, and murder of an eight-year-old female. She coordinated the local investigation with state and federal agencies and investigators. The joint investigation culminated in the arrest and conviction of the suspect for capital murder, and a conviction for a similar murder in 1990 of a nine-year-old female in Wichita, Kansas.

Lisa promoted through the ranks at the San Marcos Police Department and broke through barriers to become the first female to be promoted to Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief of Police. She has served as the Assistant Chief of Operation Division since 1998, and is responsible for all patrol, criminal investigations, narcotics, foot and bike, motorcycle, and mental health units. She is a graduate of Texas State University-San Marcos and the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute.

Assistant Chief Dvorak has published papers during her distinguished career. One of which has been used as a reference by the Director of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in Washington, D.C. (“Designing and Implementing a Citizen Police Academy”, 1996).

Lisa served as a Region Director for the Texas Police Association (TPA). Lisa is only the second woman in the organization’s history to serve as a director and the first to serve multiple terms (three). Lisa was the Region Six Director which encompasses 46 counties.

Another quality that Lisa is well-known for is taking care of her people. She worked to achieve TCLEOSE academy accreditation for the department in 1992. She brought forth equipment and training for officer to improve safety and reduce injuries. And for the past twelve years, she has personally served Christmas breakfast to all on-duty personnel.

In 2003, Lisa Dvorak was inducted into the Texas State University “Women of SWT-First 100 Years” and she received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas State University in 2005.

By late 2007, the strained relationship between citizens of San Marcos and students attending Texas State University – San Marcos reached a breaking point. Noise and general disorder was taking a toll. City leaders and university leaders were not in agreement about how to address the issue. Lisa Dvorak took this as her next challenge. She began forging pathways and relationships between the City of San Marcos and Texas State University in early 2008. Her efforts have included a rewrite of the city noise ordinance, a coordinated response to complaints by multiple city department to address disorder and quality of life issues, training of department staff on educating student and non-student residents on being a good neighbor, promotion of university projects that impact the community in a positive nature, survey of police services, and neighborhood gathering to bring student and non-student resident together.

Once again, Lisa led the way on solving a community problem by involving all the community. She co-authored *Noise in Neighborhoods: A Community’s Path in Problem-Solving, Cross-Cultural Communication, Partnerships, and Student Involvement* and has been invited to present at the 5th Annual Best Practices in Building City/University Relations Conference.