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MEDIA RELEASE

NASSLEO'S 39th Annual Conference "In the Cradle of Liberty" a success.

The National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers (NASSLEO) held its 39th Annual Conference in Philadelphia this week. Over 100 people from around the United States and Canada were in attendance. Fifteen speakers addressed a wide variety of topics that included the Virginia Tech shootings, bullying, cell phones and electronic devices, Family Education Records Protection Act (FERPA), cyber crimes, At Risk Issues, child predators, counter-terrorism, The Single School Culture, truancy, and a display of current street weapons.

Twenty-three vendors displayed the latest in school security technology and services available to schools and police departments.

Conference Coordinator Commander Augustine W. Pescatore of the Philadelphia Schools Office of Climate and Safety was pleased that he and his staff had met the conference objectives of providing challenging and meaningful training to a varied audience while proudly introducing his hometown to the visitors. However, he was equally excited about the awards received by local people, to include a student and a leader in the Philadelphia School District.

Ms. Gwendolyn Moore-Porter, Executive Director of Philadelphia School District's Office of School Support Services was the recipient of NASSLEO'S 2008 Administrator of the Year Award for her leadership in the school security arena. Praised for her determination and her over coming numerous obstacles in her career, Ms. Moore-Porter gave an inspiration acceptance speech that captivated the organization's Annual Awards Dinner audience. High School senior DeAnna DelGaiso of Girard Academy was presented a \$1,000 Past-President's Scholarship that was presented by former Executive Director Eugene (Red) McAllister. Her parents, John and Mary DelGaiso were in attendance and were also recognized for their part in the success of their daughter, who is the President of the Student Council at her school.

Other awards were presented to NASSLEO'S outgoing president Larry Hill of Memphis, Tennessee; Gary Avery J.D. of Pompano Beach, Florida; and Commander Pescatore.

Five Hundred Dollar Student Scholarship awards were presented to Olu Silver of Ft. Worth Texas; Daniel Griesi of Mississauga, Canada; Vincent Stines of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and; Avana Johnson of Kentwood, Michigan. SchoolSafe Communications sponsored the conference, and the awards dinner sponsor was InnerLink, Inc. Raptor Technologies was the third Gold Sponsor. All three organizations were recognized for their sponsorship and for their impact on the quality of the conference. Also receiving an award for its continued sponsorship of the Student Scholarship was Keyscan Access Control Systems of Canada.

For the second consecutive year, the conference featured a special “Executives’ Session” in which forty chiefs, directors, superintendents, principals, and others who are responsible for school security addressed the most serious issues of the day.

Co-moderators were Chief James Golden of the Philadelphia School District and Assistant Chief Jeff Crawford of the School Police in the Los Angeles District. The topics included budget and resource reductions, recruiting qualified personnel, the affects of rising gas prices, training, and other current concerns. It was agreed that the four hours devoted to this session needs to be expanded to a full day at the 2009 conference.

Michael Herrington, Chief of the Duval County School Police (Florida), assumed the duties of President replacing Larry Hill of Memphis. Larry Borland of Colorado Springs won the vote for President-Elect, and Augustine Pescatore of Philadelphia was elected Vice-President. LoEster Posey of Ft. Worth and Sally Cox-Lawson of Richmond were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Jeff Crawford was elected to the vacant Region VI (west coast) Director position, replacing Craig Apperson of Olympia, Washington.

Executive Director Peter Pochowski thanked President Larry Hill for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. During this time the organization delivered two significant conferences (Colorado Springs in 2007 and Philadelphia in 2008) and grew by more than ten-fold to 1,500 members, which includes many of America’s large cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, Milwaukee, Denver, Jacksonville, Ft. Worth, and Grand Rapids. President Hill made it comfortable for small agencies as well, Pochowski said, but it was his popularity with the Board of Directors and his quiet yet decisive leadership that created the environment in which this significant growth was possible. Hill now assumes the position of Board Chairman.

Also recognized was retiring Chairman of the Board Ed Ray of Denver, who has served NASSLEO with distinction since 1995, including two years as president.

NASSLEO will celebrate its 40th anniversary in New Orleans in 2009. Dates and location have not yet been confirmed.