During the height of Hurricane Harvey slamming into Houston, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Warden Richard Babcock found himself traversing a desolate but flooded landscape on foot to get to the Kegans ISF near downtown.

"After addressing all three shift briefings and insuring that the facility was as prepared for the storm as it could be, I left Kegans on Saturday evening in my car to go home, intending to return quickly to the facility," said Babcock. "Unfortunately, the storm came in faster than I anticipated and I couldn't drive any further so I ended up at a friend's house north of Loop 610."

Babcock set up a make-shift office in his friend's house where he tried to manage operations long distance but soon realized that he needed to be back at the Kegans facility. He related that it is a gut wrenching feeling knowing that you need to be at your facility, but having so many obstacles in the way.

"My friend drove me to Ella and Loop 610 on the north side of town," said Babcock. "We couldn't drive any further because of the flooding so I started hiking towards downtown." He recalled that it was kind of eerie walking across the 610 highway with no cars in site. Between him and the facility however was a bigger obstacle, a huge bayou, fortunately he found a railroad crossing, but there were still many obstacles in his way.

It took Babcock, who is 43, nearly three hours to walk almost six miles through high water and deserted neighborhoods to reach his command. He said it felt apocalyptic...
What an AMAZING time for all who attended the American Correctional Association (ACA) 147th Congress of Correction in St. Louis, Missouri had that. The workshops received high marks, with many discussions being centered on how correctional professionals should be in the forefront with lawmakers when legislation is drafted. I was impressed by the workshop presented by North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) own Tanisha Mathews and Susan Griffin on social media. It was well-attended and received great evaluations.

The Warden of the Year and Medal of Valor Banquet set the bar high again. The food was outstanding and everyone had a wonderful time. Deb Schuman, NAAWS Conference Coordinator, and her committee did an excellent job planning and coordinating the event.

The Medal of Valor recipients are: Deputy Captain John Lewis and Lt. Timothy Wallace from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Victorville, CA; Correctional Officer Richard Cooper, Sgt. Christopher Brett and Sgt. Samuel Shuler, Florida Department of Corrections, FCI Liberty-Correctional Institution; and Correctional Officer Rhonda Dendiger, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. These correctional professionals have distinguished themselves with a deed of personal bravery and self-sacrifice involving the risk of life. NAAWS is extremely proud of the courageous acts of bravery.

The 2017-2018 Warden of the Year recipient is Warden Jerry Goodwin of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections. Warden Goodwin has demonstrated that he has gone the extra mile to solve problems at his institution, involved himself in the community and with local organizations and mentored in the development of his staff. Warden Goodwin was extremely proud and gave a heartfelt acceptance speech. The recipients of both awards were very well deserving of the awards and NAAWS is extremely proud of their accomplishments.

As you will read in the Executive Director’s letter, Gloria Hultz has announced that she will be vacating the position of Executive Director for NAAWS as of August 2018. As President, I speak for the entire organization when I say I want to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to Gloria for her unwavering commitment to NAAWS and the guidance she has given the membership and elected officers along the way, myself included. Gloria assured me that as she enters into this new chapter of her life that she will help in anyway needed to make this a smooth and seamless transition. Per the by-laws, as President I will select a new Executive Director with the approval of the Board of Directors. I have appointed Mark Saunders, Past President of NAAWS, to serve as the Chairman of the Search Committee. Chairman Saunders will appoint members for the search committee with my approval. Any NAAWS member who is in good standing and who is interested in serving as the Executive Director should email their interest to Mark Saunders at mark@nakamotogroup.com and myself at Robert.Welch@odrc.state.oh.us. Additional information regarding the process will be forthcoming.

During the NAAWS Business Meeting, 1st Vice President, Seth Smith of Louisiana informed the membership that he is stepping down from being on the board but he assured NAAWS that he will continue to support the organization. The current elected vacancies are as follows: 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and a Sergeant at Arms. Per the by-laws, as President I will appoint a member to fill each vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term. Any NAAWS member who is in good standing and who is interested in serving may contact me at Robert.Welch@odrc.state.oh.us

Steve Jobs stated, ”You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Wow! Fall is here and so much has happened since St. Louis. Think about all the changes that have occurred since then: Harvey, Irma, Jose, Mexico City, and Maria.

I know our correctional families are helping each other and doing a great job. I really hope and pray all of our members are safe. God Bless America!

Cathy Linaweaver is doing an outstanding job at getting our program for the annual conference in Tempe, AZ together. She is also helping Mike Graziano, Membership Chair update everyone’s e-mails. Please help by giving us your personal e-mail and not your work one. We want to ensure everyone gets our e-blasts and newsletters.

The forms for submitting your Warden of the Year and Medal of Valor nominations are out and can be found on the NAAWS website. Please adhere to all the rules and have them returned on the specified date. ACA is early this year, and we will meet on January 7th, 2018 in Orlando. Once the suite location is determined we will send it to everyone in an e-blast.

Lastly, I would like to inform everyone that I will be retiring after August after the Warden of the Year presentation. I will stay on to help work with our new Executive Director. This was a hard decision for me to make, but it is time. Please send your resume to the President at Robert.Welch@odrc.state.oh.us and Mark Saunders at mark@nakamotogroup.com. This has been a great run for me and I am just stepping down, not leaving NAAWS.

Let’s all continue together to stay one of the most outstanding professional affiliates of ACA!

In closing, I left the St. Louis ACA conference encouraged, invigorated, and focused on the future of NAAWS. We must remain diligent about recruiting new members, but we must also ensure that we have a strong foundation in order for us to continue to share our mission and vision with others. New members are the lifeline to the future of corrections and I want NAAWS’ voice to continue to be a strong voice that is sought after and heard when it comes to corrections issues.

I look forward to seeing you in Orlando, Florida.
TDCJ WARDENHIKES TO WORK DURING HARVEY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Warden Babcock is a very humble individual, and while relating his story, said that it is truly about the employees not him. We know however, that it takes positive leadership to lead employees through the toughest of times. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice states that Warden Babcock is just one of hundreds of TDCJ employees who reflected the agency's core values of perseverance, integrity, courage and commitment to push through difficult circumstances during Hurricane Harvey and placed their duties before themselves.

tic the whole time because of the lack of cars on unflooded roads and all the people had evacuated their homes.

“I had to get back to my unit to take care of my employees and the offenders under our care,” said Babcock. “I was determined to get there and I wasn’t going to let anything get in my way.”

When he arrived at the facility to relieve his Major he found her tired but doing a great job. Employees were at their posts covering for those who could not get to work. They also had to take in offenders from another facility, which was closed due to flooding.

Many employees suffered losses from the storm and flooding. Eleven Kegan employees lost everything; vehicles, homes, clothing, etc. On their days off, facility employees are helping their fellow employees recover. Warden Babcock led this effort by showing them how to drywall. He stated that it was very sad seeing all of their possessions, mountains of them, piled on the curbs. It was rewarding however, to see the employees helping others in need.

STAYED TUNED
Coming soon from President Welch, the announcement of the members of the NAAWS Board of Directors
Greetings to all my fellow NAAWS members! It’s amazing how quickly the time flies. It seems like just yesterday we were in Knoxville, and now it’s time to get geared up for the 2018 NAAWS Conference in Tempe, Arizona.

If you didn’t get a brochure in the mail about a month ago with information regarding the 2018 conference, please email me at (clinaweaver@yahoo.com) or text/call me at 816-213-3784. That means we don’t have your current contact information on file, but I will get it updated if you contact me!

Save these dates: April 30-May 4, 2018. Attendance in 2017 was wonderful, and we want to have another great turnout next year. Our conference theme for 2018 is, “Today’s Corrections – It’s Not What it Used to Be!” The theme opens many doors of opportunity for our members to provide a workshop or be part of a panel discussion on current trends in Corrections. If you are interested in being a presenter, PLEASE contact me as soon as possible. We have a few slots still open, but they will close up quickly.

Be on the look out for more information on the 2018 conference as the dates get closer. In the meantime, I will leave you with this small teaser about some of the fun we have in store. Have you been to Top Golf in Scottsdale, AZ?
1. **Welcome**  
President Welch opened the meeting and allowed introductions.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from January 23, 2017**  
Minutes from the meeting were published in The Grapevine. Minutes from all future meetings will be published in The Grapevine.

   Motion to approve minutes. Motion made by Graziano and seconded by Linaweaver. Accepted.

3. **Executive Treasurer’s Report**  
a. Report given by Gail Heller.

   b. All meeting participants received a copy of the financial report from January 16, 2017 to August 15, 2017 which was reviewed in detail by Executive Treasurer Gail Heller.

   c. The association continues to do well financially and has a current balance in all accounts of $49,980.04.

   Motion: To accept the financial report as presented. Motion made by Hultz and seconded by Heller. Accepted.

4. **Executive Director’s Report**  

   b. Director Hultz encouraged greater participation with CPOF. She thanked Don Dease for the work he does with children through the organization. Mr. Dease thanked NAAWS for the donation provided for the CPOF Honor Guard breakfast.

   c. Director Hultz notified the board that officer changes would be forthcoming once the executive board meets and that Seth Smith, would be stepping down as First Vice President; Mel Williams will move from being the Training Chair and will now oversee the website that has previously been overseen by Charles Albino. Cathy Linaweaver will become Training Chair.

   d. Next business meeting is to be held Jan 8, 2018 at ACA in Orlando, FL.

   e. Director Hultz congratulated Richard Stalder for being a recipient of the Dunbar Award.

5. **Warden of Year and Meal of Valor**  
Director Hultz stated that the call for nominations will go out and must be returned by Dec. 15, 2017. She stated that all nominations must come from the head of the organization (Director, Commissioner, CEO, etc).

6. **Membership Report**  
a. Report given by Mike Graziano.

   b. Currently have 922 members with 506 members who are past due by up to a year and half. He explained that he sends emails and letters to remind members when payments are due. Emails may bounce back because they are inaccurate. He also sends welcome letters and a lapel pins to all new members. Some discussion was had regarding how to get email addresses for new wardens in different states and ideas were discussed on how to recruit new members. Richard Stalder asked that NAAWS speak with Commissioners and Directors to ask that agencies pay membership dues for Wardens. Pete Grande advised that the federal government will not allow appropriated funds to be used for professional memberships.

7. **Arizona Conference Update**  
a. Report given by Cathy Linaweaver.
b. Cathy thanked everyone for making the Tennessee conference a success. She received great feedback on presentations and evening activities. Had 100+ members and vendors to attend.

c. Flyers were placed in the NAAWS hospitality suite for the upcoming Arizona conference. She encouraged members to ensure physical and email addresses were up to date. She is working with Past President Todd Thomas to get speakers and evening activities scheduled.

d. Conference theme will be “Today’s Corrections–It’s Not what it Used To Be.”

e. Deb Shumann and Todd Thomas discussed the hotel block of rooms and possible need to increase the number of rooms.

8. Grapevine/Website  
   a. Report given by Chuck Albino.

   b. Reminded the board that they previously approved three publications of the Grapevine in February, June and October annually and that this has been working well. Thanked Cathy Lineaweaver for her article.

   c. Website has been polished up and some minor changes made. Members of the board remarked that the website looks good. Stated that he will work with Mel on keeping the website up to date and getting a timeline together for necessary changes.

   d. Thanked everyone for all of their support and announced his new Executive Director role with MAS-CA but stated he would still be active with NAAWS.

   e. The transition to Mel Williams taking over will occur around October 2017.

9. Old Business  
   Executive Director Hultz requested to give the Ohio Wardens and Superintendents Association (OWSA) $500 annually for their conference and to consider making permanent the annual $5000 donation given to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) and the $500 donation to the New York Children and Youth Services Association (CAYSA).

   Motion to give OWSA, CPOF and CAYSA donations annually. Motion made by Linaweaver and seconded by Welch. Accepted.

10. New Business  
   a. Mel Williams gave an update on the Make a Smile Foundation’s next planned project which will be in Lumberton, North Carolina. The organization will help to rebuild two parks that were greatly affected by last year’s flood between October 1 and October 5th. He stated that the organization can use donations but also reminded the members of the need for volunteers. Anyone who wishes to volunteer may contact Mel Williams directly. Parks in Louisiana will likely be the following project.

   b. Thanked CPOF and NAAWS for previous donations to Make a Smile. Also expressed that articles are needed for “In the Trenches.”

   c. Don Dease expressed thanks for the partnership between NAAWS and CPOF

11. Adjournment  
   Motion to Adjorn. Motion made by Welch and seconded by Williams. Accepted.
Membership Application

Name: _______________________________ Title: _______________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ___________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________ Fax: _________________ Email: ____________________________

I am a:

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewing Member

Please remit check or money order, payable to NAAWS in the amount of:
(please check one)

☐ 1 year ($25 US)

☐ 2 years ($45 US)  ☐ 3 years ($65 US)

send to:

NAAWS
P.O. Box 3573
Dublin, OH 43016