Texas legislators returned to Austin last week for the First Special Legislative Session. The governor's 20-item agenda currently does not include anything related to firearms. But, that could change and bills are being submitted by legislators which could affect firearm use in Texas. Be assured that we are carefully scanning these, and will keep you posted should the agenda change.

Texas Gun Sense (TGS) has been fortunate to have had excellent leadership during its four years. The TGS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Gyl Switzer has accepted the position of Executive Director to continue the able work of Andrea Brauer, who stepped down from the position in June. Gyl (pronounced Jill) begins her appointment with Texas Gun Sense on August 21st. Most recently she served as the Public Policy Director of Mental Health America of Texas where she has worked for the past nine years. Gyl, who holds a Masters in Public Health (Tulane) as well as a Masters in Public Affairs (UT LBJ School of Public Affairs), is not new to gun issues. She previously collaborated with TGS on a range of bills during legislative session, including the most recent one. We hope that you will join us in welcoming her to our efforts to make our Texas communities safer from gun violence.

We don't have to go far to find evidence of why we are committed to our work to prevent gun violence. One source that documents the heartbreaking frequency of gun violence and crimes is the Gun Violence Archive. "GVA began with the goal to provide a database of incidents of gun violence and gun crime. To that end we utilize automated queries, manual research through over 2,000 media sources, aggregates, police blotters, police media outlets and other sources daily. Each incident is verified by both initial researchers and secondary validation processes."

Please know that Texas Gun Sense never takes your support for granted!

Mary Lynn Rice-Lively

Mary Lynn Rice-Lively, PhD
TGS Board President