



WSPAA QUARTERLY

Volume 10

Dec 2013

PRESIDENT'S PONDERING **By Bill Harvey, WSPAA President**

The WSPAA held its Second Annual Meeting on Alumni Day at the Academy in September. I was pleased to see the number of members who came forward to help our organization by stepping into leadership roles as well as offering suggestions for strengthening the WSPAA. See the list of current officers, regional reps. and coordinators that follows in this newsletter.

During our 75th Anniversary year, the history of the Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) is being captured. As of November 15, at least 5,000 images have been scanned. WSPAA members' help will be needed to identify many of these images in the future. The system is not ready for our help in identification yet. We will hope to hold several group sessions where the alumni can help in the identification process soon.

After talking with other retired members of the WSPAA, I got to thinking of all the changes that have occurred in the Patrol's equipment. The following is a list of changes and improvements that have taken place in my 30-some years of service:

Remember the sirens mounted on the right front fender? Remember the short period of time that helmets were required to be used when driving? The wearing of the dress uniform for regular duty? Push bumpers were a new addition. Strobe lights replaced the old Mars light. Prisoner shields became standard equipment. Speed detection equipment (VASCAR, RADAR, LIDAR) were placed in each car. Remember the little green radar boxes that sat on the side of the road and two troopers were needed – one to read the set and another to apprehend the speeder?

Also, police radios went through many changes. I had a two-channel radio. One frequency for car-to-car and the other for car-to-base. Next, on-board computers brought us by leaps and bounds into the new millennium. The Communications Centers have been updated and to the untrained eye they look like space ships.

While equipment has been upgraded, changes in equipment have been necessary to keep pace with the increase in traffic. Nowadays it is not unusual to have multiple crashes involving 25 or more vehicles. We need more troopers and inspectors to meet increased demands. A concept we have all known for years. The Division has taken on numerous new responsibilities over the years with no additional personnel. I have said many times, "We can only handle so many success stories before something has to give."

Accident reconstruction is a needed and valuable service. The WSP receives many requests from city and county agencies for help with accident reconstruction. The Traffic Reconstruction Unit's system works so well that it is being used for crime scene processing for federal, state, city, and county departments.

Lest we forget, the Patrol has 14 motorcycles and 5 canines. All of which are valuable assets.

Behind all of this activity are increased accounting and record keeping, changes in software, and new personnel. The office staff somehow keeps track of everyone and addresses their needs. They also are in contact with retirees and we are glad to see their cheery faces.

Law enforcement has changed over the years. Much more technology driven now. Most of us could not even sit in a cruiser and know how to turn the equipment on.

That is one of the reasons for the WSPAA. Stay in touch. Maintain friendships and acquaintances.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERING (Continued)

In October, Dennis Schroeder, Lucy Harvey, and I spent the better part of the day getting together with retirees and their wives in the Northwest Region. This friendly group meets every two months for breakfast at The Prime in Trego. The restaurant provided a good selection of breakfast items for the more than 15 people who showed up. I thought we would be visiting with northern personnel. To my surprise most of the people I got to visit with had worked in District 2 and District 1 before transferring up to "God's country." I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with the "old timers", of which I am a part. Thanks to Tim Heffernan for arranging this enjoyable camaraderie.

We have started to host a nice get-together over breakfast at the Friendship House at Hwy Q and 51 just south of Merrill every month. This brings together current law enforcement officers and retirees from various local, county, state and federal agencies.

I would encourage you to attend one of the retiree gatherings held around the State. You may find people attending you would not expect to attend. Maybe a long-time acquaintance. Maybe, a classmate. Check out the events schedule later in this newsletter.

We are a member based association. Get involved. There are a lot of ways to get involved. Be a regional rep. Work on a committee or help with a project. Let us know your desire. We will connect you with the right people.

Thank you for your support. Our membership is about 230. Let's recruit others who are not members and grow even more. I look forward to a wonderful 2014. Happy Holidays.



Supt. Fitzgerald



75th Anniversary
Logo

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By STEPHEN FITZGERALD, WSP SUPERINTENDENT

It's safe to say that 2013 has been an important year for the Wisconsin State Patrol. The most noteworthy achievement is a significant reduction in traffic fatalities. As of the end of November, traffic deaths were down about 15 percent compared with the same period in 2012. Fatalities also were down about 8 percent compared with the five-year average. Although we are encouraged that traffic fatalities are declining, we cannot rest until the number of preventable traffic deaths is zero in Wisconsin.

To make progress toward the Zero In Wisconsin goal, our 59th Recruit Class is busy training at the Academy and will graduate in March 2014. They will join the ranks of current and former members of the State Patrol who have served our state and its citizens honorably and effectively for 75 years.

Like all of you, I am excited about the Wisconsin State Patrol's 75th anniversary in 2014. We have an illustrious history to acknowledge and celebrate.

I urge all of you to save the date of the 75th Anniversary Banquet, which will be held the evening of Friday, August 15, 2014, at the Chula Vista Resort near Wisconsin Dells. Reservation information and other details will be distributed early next year.

Thank you to the members of the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association for their past service and their continued support of our agency. The WSPAA is well represented on our 75th Anniversary Planning Committee, and we will keep you informed of upcoming anniversary events and programs. I hope you will use this historical milestone as an opportunity to remember the Wisconsin State Patrol's distinguished past as while we also look forward to a bright future.

75th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 20, 2013

The 75th Anniversary Planning Committee has been diligently working in preparation of the Wisconsin State Patrol's 75th Anniversary.

This is an update.

Anniversary Reception.

The banquet will be held on August 15, 2014 at the Chula Vista Resort. Invitations will be sent. There will be an opportunity to make reservations and payment online.

Anniversary History Book.

The anniversary book committee is forwarding items to Acclaim Press. There is still time to order a book. If everything stays on schedule the books are slated to be delivered starting June 15, 2014.

Anniversary Commemorative items.

Sales for the replica badge should begin next week November 25th.

The commemorative coin mockup will sent out the 25th of November with availability in early December.

Calendar distribution started last week. We are asking all employees and alumni to help in the sale of them. You can request calendars from Mark.Andraschko@dot.wi.gov

Commemorative License plate and decals for cruisers.

The design of the plate has been approved and will be ordered for distribution by the end of 2013.

The decals are of the 75th Anniversary logo and will be ordered for distribution by the end of 2013.

For the latest in 75th Anniversary information go to our website at www.wspalumni.org. This includes the instructions in how to order the calendars which are a fund raiser to cover the costs. Let's show our support for this effort.

RETIRED OFFICER FIREARM CERTIFICATION FOR 2014

It is that time again, when the first group of retired officers need to think about their qualification shoot. Sgt. DeFrang advises: "I plan on holding one on January 28, 2014 at 12:30p.m., the announcement will be put on our learning page later today. The programs at the Post seemed to work well so I hope to coordinate a session in each area during the late spring and summer to offset travel for the retirees. I also plan on holding a second session at the Academy during the retiree day event. I hope to have dates set at the Regions by the January 28 qualification, which I will get out to you and put on our training page as they get to me.

As you make your plans to re-qualify, visit the Academy website for specifics and registration. The link is:

<http://wspa.mrooms3.net/>



Communications Center – date and location unknown

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

by Bruce Bishop



DICK LINDBECK, RETIREEE WITH A PLATE FULL

Retired Sergeant Richard Lindbeck has an inquiring mind, a talent for organizing, a love for law enforcement and a dedication to his fellow Vietnam Veterans. Born in Iron River, Michigan, in November of 1944, Dick came to Wisconsin in 1968. While waiting to graduate from high school in June of 1963 he enlisted in the Air Force and thus began his first duties in police work as a combat security air police for the Strategic Air Command (SAC) serving two years in the tense security hot bed of Ton Son Nhut Airbase in Saigon. Returning in 1966, he was assigned to security at Ft. Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. Dick met and married his high school sweetheart, also from Iron River. Dick and Susette have been married for 47 years.

After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he started his civilian career in law enforcement with the Springfield, Michigan Police Department. In 1968 he moved to Milwaukee as a welder. But welding was a far cry from police work, so in 1969 he joined the WI State Patrol. He was 25 years old when he graduated with Academy Class #20 (April 1970) and issued Badge #660. He served for 10 years in the Fond du Lac District and 19 years in the Waukesha District. During his career with the State Patrol he developed guidance for officer survival, armorer, and dignitary protection, and contributed to the fashioning of the aerial enforcement and motorcycle programs. He earned an Associate Degree in Police Science and in 1990 was promoted to Sergeant. He completed training with Northwestern University in Police Administration. As a Sergeant he was assigned to work on the Governor's Conferences and all Presidential Details in the Southeast area of Wisconsin. Dick retired in 1998 and then worked with Harley Davidson in organizing their 95th year anniversary. His last State Patrol assignment was as a Sergeant in Waukesha County.

Today, he teaches a Police Firearms Course at the Milwaukee Area Technical College in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and is rated as a Master Firearms Instructor. He also works as a gunsmith, repairing firearms, and is authorized to instruct and certify applicants for concealed weapons carry permits.

While serving as an alderman for the City of West Bend, Dick was approached to run for President of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Wisconsin State Council. He felt that Veterans came first and today devotes much of his time and travel to those administrative tasks. He is an active member of the VFW, American Legion, 40 et 8, Air Force Security Forces Association, Vietnam Security Police Association, Tan Son Nhut Association and the 377th Security Police Association. Dick also serves on the Board of Directors and is treasurer for his local Chapter 448 of VVA in Newburg and is on the Wisconsin Veterans Foundation Board of Directors. He also works at the Indian Summer in Milwaukee promoting Veteran Benefits for our Native Americans.

You just may catch this busy: Airman, Trooper, Father and Civic Volunteer at home, with Susette, at 125 University Drive, Unit 201, West Bend 53095. Ph. 262 334 9753 or Email at thunderbird14@charter.net



Dick and Susette Lindbeck

EVENTS

Regularly Scheduled Gatherings:

First Thursday of the Month - Anyone retired from the State Patrol is invited. This is an informal gathering, no reservations needed, just show up at 9:00 am at the Green Lantern, McFarland, WI.

First Thursday of the Month - DOT Retiree Lunch at 11:30 am. Held at Monona Garden Family Restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road, Monona. No reservation needed.

Last Thursday of Even Numbered Months - WISDOT/DNR Retiree Breakfast at 9:30 am at "The Prime" in Trego, WI. Contact Tim Heffernan (tprtim@charter.net).

Monthly — ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) - contact Dennis Schroeder for date, time, and location. Everyone welcome. denniss@charter.net

Second Tuesday of each month — Retiree Breakfast at 7:30 am at the Hwy 51 Truck Stop (I-39 & CTH Q) south of Merrill. Contact Bill Harvey at lois3545@aol.com if you are attending.

Every Thursday — Eau Claire Retired Law Enforcement Breakfast Group, at 8:00a.m., any retired law enforcement officer welcomed. Held at VFW Post 305, 1300 Starr Avenue, Eau Claire, WI.

If you know of additional events or gatherings of State Patrol alumni, please let us know so we can post it for all to see or attend. Send these items to bjyoung@charter.net. Send items in as soon as you hear of them. Thank you.

2014 WSPAA OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

President: William Harvey LOIS3545@aol.com
Vice President: Tim Heffernan tprtim@charter.net
Secretary: Janet Sabatke jsabatke@tds.net
Treasurer: Lyle Bliss LRBliss57@gmail.com

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Keith Young: keithyoung@centurytel.net

Northcentral Regional Rep: Bruce Bishop: blpabish@yahoo.com
Position available

Northeast Regional Reps: Jim Cmeyla: sistersnide@netzero.net
David Catalano: wsp305@aol.com

Southwest Regional Reps: Phillip Wenzel: wenzel@dwave.net
Mike Jennings: mikeandjudy@mhtc.net Mike manages the WSPAA online store

Southeast Regional Rep: Jerold Witte: jlwitte@charter.net
Position available

Membership Coordinator: Mary Albeydyl: mgalbedyll@yahoo.com
By-Laws Coordinator: Maynard Stoehr: mistoehr@charter.net
Webmaster: Diane King: dianeking@charter.net
Publications: Bob Young: bjyoung@charter.net Proof-reading: Janet Sabatke and Frieda Haesler
75th anniversary Committee: Scott Lindemann



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

____ New member: Please complete the entire form

____ Membership renewal: If there are no changes in your address, telephone or email address - only fill in your name and check this box.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Winter Address (if different than above) _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Current DSP Assignment: _____ Retired/Separated (Date) _____

Highest Rank or Position: _____ Date Started State Service: _____

May we share this information with other members: Yes ____ No ____

*Dues Paid: _____ Full Member or ____ Associate Member: \$15/year each

*Return to Lyle Bliss, 927 Nantucket Dr., Janesville, WI 53546-1759 *Payable to: WSPAA, Inc.

Membership Contacts: Lyle Bliss, Treasurer, 608-931-4060 or Mary Albedyll, Membership Coordinator, 608-444-4710

Email: WSPAlumni.Inc@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.wspalumni.org