



WSPAA QUARTERLY

Volume 15

Mar 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **BY: Tim Heffernan, WSPAA President**

Here we are still locked in the winter of Northwest Wisconsin. You have seen all the snow you really want to see and more than enough ice. I know those of you in southern Wisconsin think you are all in paradise. Things are not always as they seem. During the winter of 1958/59 I was assigned to Highway 51 in Dane County. We lived in a farm house near Waunakee. It started to snow and come morning there was about 10 inches. My road or driveway were not plowed. Four days I walked over a ½ mile out to Hwy 113 where Bill Plendl picked me up. Finally they plowed the road and the driveway. Happy Day! I got out and it looked rosy. Saturday it started to snow a heavy snow and I was on the 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. shift. With the heavy snow another Trooper lost his windshield wipers so he jumped in my cruiser with me. It was really coming down. About 10 p.m. we were told to go to McFarland and not let anyone go south on Highway 51 as it was impassable and they were pulling the plows. It was not long before the other Trooper and I were unable to get out of McFarland. We spent the night at the truck stop that was there at the time.

The next morning we followed a snow plow north on Highway 51. We were still unable to get home so we crashed at a another Trooper's house in Deforest. We had now been going more than 24 hours without sleep. The next day we went to work and at the end of the day the closest to my house I could get was the junction of Bong Road and Highway 113. For 5 days I walked through the snow home. I also had to carry in milk and groceries to feed the kids. The worst winter I ever experienced and it was in Dane County. All this time I could see the Capitol Dome but could not get out or in. This happened during February and March.

Winter driving conditions are hazardous at their best and extra care and diligence has to be the rule. You have all seen drivers that think they have to drive the speed limit no matter the road conditions. I am pretty sure every Trooper and Inspector hates to work in a storm.

As you receive this next newsletter, road conditions should start improving. We, being retired, do not have to get out and face the bad roads. We get to make wise choices when it comes to traveling. Let us hope for an early spring and improving weather conditions for all law enforcement officers everywhere and may they all have safe travel.

Do you know of an ex-employee of the patrol that is not a WSPAA member? Sign them up. We have added 100 new members in the last year. The more members the easier it gets to fulfill our mission. The more former alumni meet, the more we share stories like the one above. The more we keep the good old days alive.

Feel free to contact me at any time for information or just to recall the alleged good old days.

Tim 715 419 0630 or tpretim@charter.net



CHANGES FOR TRAINING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

As we look back on our careers in law enforcement we see much has changed over the years: The cars we drove, the radios installed in those cars, our ability to talk to dispatch and each other, computers installed in every car to enter data and communicate directly from the car, computerized reports, our communications system including the communications centers and the infrastructure, etc. The list of changes goes on and on. For many of us we could barely compare what the State Patrol did in the early years and what the current employees deal with today. Change has been huge and inevitable.

The State Patrol was established as an agency dedicated to traffic patrol. The primary mission remains the same. However, as we see by every weekly report, State Patrol personnel are becoming more involved in all types of law enforcement functions, facing the same issues ALL law enforcement are responding to in the course of duty. Issues the public expects law enforcement to respond to in a manner the public believes is appropriate. This makes Law Enforcement Training one of those issues that is and must change with time. Changes in training must address current expectations.

Wisconsin has a long history of developing standards and criteria for law enforcement training. The Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau is the coordinating agency. They constantly work to develop training standards and competencies for Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers. The standards follow the trends and public values. Here is a brief summary of how the levels of training have changed.

THE PROGRESS OF STANDARDS SINCE 1970

| | |
|------|---|
| 1970 | Voluntary 120 hour basic training |
| 1972 | Voluntary 240 hour basic training |
| 1973 | Financial incentives for voluntary in-service training |
| 1974 | Mandatory 240 hour basic training with financial incentives for 320 hour training |
| 1975 | Financial incentives for specialized training |
| 1978 | Law Enforcement Training Fund (penalty assessments) commencing fully in 1980 as sole source of TSB program funding replacing federal grants |
| 1982 | Competency-based curriculum for selected basic training subjects |
| 1983 | 80 hour mandatory basic training for jail officers |
| 1988 | 96 hour mandatory basic training for jail officers |
| 1990 | 400 hour mandatory basic training with uniform student performance standards -24 hour mandatory in-service training |
| 1991 | Commencement of DOJBBS an online bulletin board and the predecessor of WILENET |
| 1992 | Pre-service training for civilians to qualify for certification after employment |
| 1993 | 120 hour mandatory basic training for jail officers - 60 college credit requirement for certification of law enforcement officers |
| 1995 | Training guides commence for law enforcement, jail and secure detention officers |
| 1997 | Initial strategic planning to improve law enforcement basic training |
| 2000 | Formal instructor (and Master Instructor) training leading to certification underway |
| 2002 | Career development (supervisor and management) training underway (as part of the specialized training program) |
| 2005 | 520 hour voluntary basic training |
| 2006 | 520 hour mandatory basic training |
| 2015 | 720 hour voluntary basic training |
| 2016 | 720 hour mandatory basic training |



TRAINING STANDARDS (Continued)

As you can see, the standards have made a near constant move to improve the profession. The current standard of 520 hours is a significant period of time. Yet there are all kinds of additions that have been proposed by a variety of factions. The trainers have been almost united to say they do not have enough time to train what is required and what is needed. With that in mind, the Training and Standards Bureau is proposing an increase to the minimum training standards from 520 to 720 hours. In training time and expense, this is a huge increase.

The final 720 hour curriculum was presented to the LESB in December of 2014 and approved for mandatory implementation effective on 01-01-16. Training facilities, including the State Patrol Academy, may choose to implement the new 720 hour curriculum in 2015 if they choose to do so. The new program is broken into three phases and the makeup of these phases will be published by Training & Standards by March 1, 2015.

The purpose will be to better prepare a new officer in areas such as: (not inclusive)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Officer Wellness | Professional Communications | Ethics Report Writing |
| Cultural Competence | Constitutional Law | Crisis Management |

Training is an area that must continue to evolve to produce the professional law enforcement officers we need to deal with today's street issues. The Wisconsin State Patrol has always been on the leading edge of the training curve. I suspect that trend will continue during this transition to the new standards. The people of Wisconsin can be proud of the professionalism and ethical standards demonstrated by the State Patrol. Let's continue the PRIDE.

WSPAA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For WSPAA members who have not already renewed your WSPAA membership for 2015, the renewals are being collected. Most of the members who attended the Academy Alumni Day have already renewed for 2015. The membership year runs from January through December AND IS STILL JUST \$15/YEAR. **The application form is attached for your convenience.** Please remember to let us know of any changes in your address, telephone number, or email address.

The WSPAA is a membership based organization. We rely on each other to find new members and for association leadership. Get involved. The pay is small but the rewards are excellent.

Please remember, a person does not need to be "Retired" to be a WSPAA member. The person needs to be a current or past State Patrol employee of any rank or classification. **JOIN TODAY!**

If you have any membership questions, contact our NEW Membership Coordinator, Mary Sander, 715-222-3524 - mamabear6615@gmail.com

WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

**MAY 8, 2015 — WI STATE CAPITOL — MEET ON THE CORNER BY THE MEMORIAL
12 NOON FOR THE CEREMONY — ATTENDANCE IS ENCOURAGED,**



WHERE DO OLD CRUISERS GO

By Mike Jennings

Until about 10 years ago, the State Patrol's well worn, used cruisers went from the State Patrol radio shop to Arlington, WI for the Department of Transportation (DOT) public auction. About 2005, DOT entered into a 3 year contract with the Lust Auction Service in Mt. Horeb WI. Richard Lust started his auction business in 1975. Today, he and his son, Matthew, operate an online auction service for a variety of clients. This online auction has done such a good job they are still working with other agencies to dispose of surplus materials AND reduce the workload of state agency staff.

All decommissioned State Patrol vehicles (drivable or not) are taken to the Lust parking lot in Mt. Horeb. Each vehicle is safety inspected before being put in the online auction. State Patrol cruisers are removed from service according to mileage and age. This is usually in the area of 115,000 miles and can date back to 2010. Some years ago, cruisers started coming with an engine hour recall button on the speedometer. The online photo provides details for each vehicle now shows a close-up of mileage plus the engine hours. Once the online auction is held, buyers submit bids and await the close of the bidding. The typical online auction selling price is \$3000 to \$5000.

Matt told me that at times, eight or more cars are bought by a single buyer from the eastern United States. He arrives for pickup with a car carrier semi truck to claim his purchases. Our old cruisers are sold all over the United States. Many are sold to taxi companies for use on the streets or for parts for their fleet. A company in Florida buys and refurbishes them for resale to police departments of smaller populations and budgets. Private security companies also prefer them for their use.

The online auction site sells more than the old cruisers. At times you might also see old light bars, prisoner cages and push bumpers that have been replaced on the auction. Along with the WI Department of Transportation other agencies who utilize the online auction to dispose of old vehicles include the WI Department of Justice, Department of Administration and Department of Natural Resources. The online site may also feature fire trucks and miscellaneous fire equipment for sale from around the state. Many Wisconsin School Districts also have found the online auction as a convenient way to dispose of their outdated items. Sometimes during the year, the site may feature an auction of all the firearms from a police department. Even the DNR's confiscated firearms and the DOJ's seized vehicles are put "On the block".

Visit their website at www.wisconsinsurplus.com You will see some surprising things at times..

Trooper Michael Jennings (Ret)

Mt. Horeb



“GLEN STEFFEN—A Collector of History”

By Bruce Bishop

Glen Steffen was born in 1937 in Wauwatosa, grew up on a farm in Wauwatosa and graduated from Oconomowoc High School in 1956. Two years later found him as a military motorcycle policeman with the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served from 1956 – 1961, rising to the rank of Specialist 4th Class and making 21 jumps. All of which inspired him to seek a civilian career in law enforcement and led him to the 19th Recruit Class at the Academy. He pinned on Badge Number 642 upon graduation in March 1969 and his assignment was in District 1 (at that time) in Madison and 2 years later to Watertown where he spent the remaining 27 years of WSP Service. He retired in 1996 as a Trooper III at the young age of 59.

Glen married JoAnne Frentzel in 1968 and they had two sons, Ryan and Brad. They also had a daughter Shawn who died a few years ago. Sadly, Glen also lost his JoAnne in 1997.

Glen is a history buff and through the years spent many hours recording newsworthy WSP happenings and maintaining newspaper accounts in large scrapbooks which he is preparing to donate to the Academy for display in the State Patrol Museum if it moves from the planning stage to reality.

From boyhood on he has trod or driven farm machinery thousands of miles over fields once travelled or camped on by the woodland native americans who left behind evidences of their passing and use only to be rediscovered by Glen as he worked the land. All of which developed in him a passion for native american-lore and set him on a lifetime search for native american artifacts spending countless hours combing the tilled fields of southeast Wisconsin searching for arrowheads, hammerheads, spear points, drills and other age old weapons and implements turned over by farmers plows over the many years and are now mounted on rustic display boards.

In a more modern theme, he has also mounted collections of WSP memorabilia; license plates, badges and shoulder patches from every state.

Glen fondly remembers other happenings in his 28 year career such as filling in for guards on strike at Fox Lake Prison in 1970, the native american takeover of the Alexian Brothers Novitiate near Gresham in 1975 and the many hours he spent organizing the trackmeter speedometer checks he set up and pre-arranged for District 2 and the photo assignments he carried out as the district's chief photographer.

Like all of us, Glen had a few close calls while on duty. Hair raising situations that needed defusing or call for backup. Of all of them, the one that defied solution and was most harrowing ,while at the same time comedic, he recalls, was playing “vehicle pacman” with a mentally deficient elderly pedestrian lady. She had abandoned her car and was walking down the center lane of the Westbound lane of I-94 and he had to take evasive action to avoid hitting her as he popped up over a rise. Protecting the scene as best he could, he started the bull fighting maneuvers trying to first convince her she was in danger while at the same time trying to navigate her and himself out of harm's way while dodging traffic and getting both of them to safety. Fortunately, no one was injured nor did cars collide. It was a problem that his Academy training hadn't addressed but thankfully God watched over them both on a cool day that left Glen drenched in sweat.

So if you want to view some native American artifacts, State Patrol memorabilia, reminisce about State Patrol history or just talk motorcycles look him up. (Glen has owned a Harley Ultra Classic since it was new in 1997 and this will mark his 15th year of riding to Sturgis South Dakota for the National Rally.) Visit with him at 1611 Neenah St, Watertown, WI 53904 Ph. 920 285 4806 or you may find him at the Goodyear Tire Store where he still fills in from time to time. Sorry, he's also one of the wiser ones of us and is not on-line.



Glenn Steffen

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS FOR WI RETIREES

By Dennis Hughes

The Governor's 2015-17 biennial budget has been introduced as Senate Bill 21 and Assembly Bill 21. Included in the bill are a few provisions of interest to WRS annuitants:

\$25 Million Health Insurance Cost Reduction – Directs the Group Insurance Board to work with the ETF health benefits consultant (The Segal Group) to find ways to save \$25 million in the cost of the State health insurance program over the next two years. With one exception (see next bullet), the methods of achieving these savings are not specified. (FYI: This Atlanta-based consulting firm was hired last year by ETF to recommend potential cost saving options, including what has become the annual re-consideration of moving from ETF's current HMO model to a self-insurance model. Their report is due out this Spring.)

State Health Insurance Opt-Out Incentive – Creates a \$2,000 annual stipend for employees who decline State health insurance coverage. (FYI: This is not a new idea. Some local WRS-covered employees have had a cash-in-lieu-of-insurance option for over a decade. Plus, State employees tempted to take the \$2,000 stipend will need access to other coverage AND will be betting their out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays, will total less than \$2,000 per year.)

Child Support – Currently, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) can attach child support payment obligations to WRS benefits. This child support payment authority would be extended to the ETF Income Continuation Insurance and Duty Disability programs.

The Governor's budget proposals are important, but they represent only one step in a process toward establishing the State's funding methods and spending priorities for the next two years.

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will use the bill as a platform for many additions, deletions and revisions. So, what's in the bill today is subject to change, and all kinds of other ideas will eventually find their way into it.

Be aware that other WRS-related items of interest to current and future WRS annuitants are still floating around, including leftovers that did not pass during the 2013-14 legislative session. These include:

Higher Retirement Age – Under 2013 Assembly Bill 470, the "early retirement" age would increase from 50 to 52 for protective service employees, and from 55 to 57 for all other State and local employees and elected officials. The change would only apply to WRS-covered employees under age 40 at the time of the bill's effective date. AB-470 did not get a public hearing and never got out of committee, but the sponsor (former-Rep. Stroebel) just won the February GOP primary in the 20th Senate District to replace former-Sen. Grothman and will run unopposed in the April election.

Longer Base for WRS Formula Benefit – Under 2013 AB-471 (also sponsored by former-Rep. Stroebel), the WRS annuity formula benefit would be based on the average of the 5 highest years of earnings, instead of the 3 highest years. The formula change would happen 5 years after the effective date of the bill. The bill would have no effect on the money purchase option, so its fiscal impact on the WRS Trust Fund was indeterminate. Like AB-470, this bill was sponsored by former-Rep. Stroebel and never got a public hearing.

Another WRS-related idea that may gain traction during Joint Finance deliberations was mentioned in the Fall 2014 WSPAA Newsletter: Higher State health plan premiums for post-retirement participants. The concept is to treat annuitants and active employees as two distinct health claims experience pools, which would then be used to establish separate State health insurance plan premiums for each group. In theory, the older we get, the more health care services we consume, which in theory would justify higher premiums and/or higher co-pays and deductibles for the retiree pool.

Stay tuned. The budget process will drag on into Spring. And whatever budget bill the Legislature passes will be subject to even further revision because the Wisconsin Governor has the most powerful line item veto authority in the US.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015—10:00AM TO 1:00 PM, PRIOR TO
THE VIRTUAL SHOOT AT GANDER MOUNTAIN, WINDSOR, WI
EVERYONE WELCOME— WE WILL ORDER SUBS FOR A WORKING LUNCH**

JOIN US

COMMENTS

We regularly receive comments following someone reading the WSPAA Quarterly or the News Brief. This comment following the “Where Are They Now” was unique in that it comes from a former Trooper. One of our own. It reads:

“I was reading your article “Where Are They Now.”

I remember Marsha Wiley. Some people thought she was getting special treatment, getting hired because of her family. I can attest to the fact that she quickly showed everyone she was a force to be reckoned with. I think all of us women for the most part dug in our heels determined not to let anything get to us. We all came to the Academy scared and excited. There was a lot of pressure on us to succeed and show they hadn't made a mistake in giving us the chance. My name was Linda Fillnow at the time. It is now Setzkorn. I retired from the Dane County Sheriff's Department in 1985 after I was hit head on by a drunk driver. Taking a medical retirement.

I was stationed far from home as a Trooper with no hope of getting back to Dane County for a long time. So I took a position with Dane County Traffic Department who later merged with the Sheriff's Department.

I was always thankful to the State Patrol and their advanced training. To all the male Troopers that shared their knowledge and experience with me welcoming me to their ranks. They made me a better, stronger, braver person. Helping me to trust myself and believe in myself giving me a firm foundation that prepared me for everything the future held. “

Sincerely, Linda Setzkorn

Thank you for the fine comments Linda. She has been advised we consider her an alumni and she would be eligible to be a WSPAA member. We hope to see her soon.

WSPAA SPRING VIRTUAL RANGE TARGET SHOOT

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

1:00 — 3:00 PM

GANDER MOUNTAIN, WINDSOR, WI

WSPAA members, spouses and guests are invited to test your skills and challenge others in one of the most state of the art virtual ranges in the country.

NO LIVE fire. NO ammo to buy. NO guns to clean. NO experience necessary.

Challenge yourself and others participating.

Take a look at the Gander Mountain Academy website. Watch the videos of what to expect and directions:

<https://gandermtnacademy.gandermountain.com/>

**Gander Mountain is on Hwy 51 just North of I-39,90,94 at Exit 132– Store is on your left.
608-242-9532**

COST: \$25 / person—There will be Door Prize drawings.

**Please let us know if you plan to attend. Drop an email to Phil Wenzel if you plan to attend.
philw@chulavistaresort.com — Please include the names of anyone participating.**

NO LIVE FIRE WEAPONS ARE ALLOWED IN THE VIRTUAL RANGE



EVENTS—Regularly Scheduled Gatherings:

Second Monday of the Month— Aurora Hospital Cafeteria, 2845 Greenbrier Rd. 9:00 am— Join us for coffee. All are welcome.

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. The location varies but is generally in the North Central portion of the state. Everyone welcome. den-niss@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.

2015 WSPAA OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

| | |
|--|---|
| President: Tim Heffernan | tprtim@charter.net |
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| Northeast (NE) Regional Reps: | David Catalano: wsp305@aol.com Bruce Conover: bconover@centurytel.net |
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| Southeast (SE) Regional Rep: | John Mundy: 489@wi.rr.com ———SE (second rep.) VACANT——— |
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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 - LRBliss57@gmail.com

Mary Sander, Membership Coordinator, 715-222-3524 — mamabear6615@gmail.com

Email: WSPAlumni.Inc@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.wspalumni.org