



WSPAA QUARTERLY

June 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE President Scott Lindemann

As the WSPAA Annual Meeting approaches I want to bring you up to date. We have finally broken the 300 member mark. A goal we have been striving for some time. We have appointed a "Membership Coordinator" to concentrate on this function. While membership recruitment is really everyone's job, a coordinator can work with the regional representatives for concentrated efforts in any region of the state. Help us recruit new members for organizational growth.

Speaking of Regional Representatives. The WSPAA was founded with the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and five Regions. The Regions outline the same geographical area as the State Patrol boundaries. Each region would have 2 Regional Representatives. The Board of Directors consists of the four officers and the 10 Regional Representatives elected for various terms at the Annual meeting. Any member in good standing is encouraged to seek election. It was planned for the Regional Representatives to recruit members, organize social and educational functions, be a media representative to the WSPAA and coordinate efforts of the WSPAA and State Patrol activity. The WSPAA is planned to work with and coordinate current and past employees to bring and create lasting relationships. The WSPAA is not a "Retirement Association". Current employees can be members as well as retirees.

As with any association, we have projects to meet organizational goals. We encourage members to become involved in projects, committees and groups. Some of these projects may involve State Patrol or WSPAA history, employee history, equipment history, etc. Part of the WSPAA Mission and Goals is to work with the State Patrol to maintain organizational history and promote professionalism in law enforcement. Who better to write the history than those who lived it. Get involved!

The WSPAA has an excellent working relationship with the State Patrol. Superintendent Fitzgerald and Colonel Rahn have created a cooperative and supportive environment. We receive information and cooperation that would not be received in many organizations. We have been asked for assistance on several projects involving State Patrol history and personnel. We accepted those offers and participated willingly. After all, this is the organization we grew up in and for many the organization we built our careers in. The pride is still there. We thank the Wisconsin State Patrol, the leadership, current staff and all past employees for maintaining the image and professionalism.

JOIN NOW!



CALENDAR ALERT:

ANNUAL ALUMNI DAY AT WSP ACADEMY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—MORE INFO COMING SOON!

RIBBON-CUTTING: YOU ARE INVITED

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation held a public open house for the new Superior Safety and Weight Enforcement Facility (SWEF) on: **Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 11 a.m.** WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb was the keynote speaker.

The Superior SWEF is located in the median of US 2 and US 53 approximately 5 miles south of the City of Superior and 2 miles north of the US 2 and US 53 split.

The new SWEF replaces an inadequate and aging facility built more than 45 years ago. The new \$13.5 million SWEF features:

- Mainline and ramp weigh-in-motion scales used for sorting of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs)
- Triple static scale for efficient official weighing of CMVs
- Operations building with workspace and counter area for customer service.
- Inspection building for indoor, drive-through safety inspections of CMVs.
- Performance brake testing system funded by a federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) grant
- Multipurpose room for staff meetings, conferences and training
- 24-hour restrooms, weather information and vending for resting and out-of-service CMV drivers
- Emergency command post capabilities

The new SWEF site was designed using natural elements and hardscapes to be more environmentally friendly and minimize mowing. The building's custodial care will be performed by workers with disabilities coordinated through Superior Vocations Center. County workers will perform snow plowing and mainline mowing. The razing of the old SWEF was part of a wetlands mitigation and restoration initiative.

Superintendent Stephen Fitzgerald said, "We certainly hope that former members of the State Patrol will stop in as we take another step in our efforts to protect Wisconsin's highway infrastructure and improve traffic safety."



RETIRED LEO RECERTIFICATION

by Tpr. Clifford Parr

On May 26, 2016 Spooner Post Troopers Cliff Parr, Tim Smith, Mike Morrin, Dean Luhman, and Jodi Kummet hosted the annual Northwest Region Retiree's shoot. This year 14 retirees were in attendance. All 14 qualified! The weather was beautiful and the food was good too. Special thanks to Lt. Dori Petznick for supporting this event!



Kneeling (from left to right): Keith Young, Doug Jensen, Duane Weingarten, and Bill Daniels.

Standing (from left to right): Bob Young, Joan Peterson, David Woodruff, Dick Fankhauser, Eric Erickson, Don Aderman, Dennis Lewis, David Paulsen, and Dennis Ebner. (Missing from the photo: Phil Sampon).

ETF Cautions Retirees About Unsolicited Telephone Calls by ETF, May 26, 2016

Some retired members of the Wisconsin Retirement System have reported receiving unsolicited telephone calls from persons asking them to update their beneficiary designations.

These phone calls are fraudulent. The Department of Employee Trust Funds does not solicit members in this way, nor does it share or sell member information to third parties.

Individuals who have concerns about receiving one of these solicitations should contact ETF toll-free at 1-877-533-5020. You are also encouraged to file a complaint with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Please send an e-mail to datcph hotline@wisconsin.gov or call 1-800-422-7128.

Resources:

The Office of Privacy Protection in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection provides assistance to residents of Wisconsin to prevent identity theft and fraud.

NEW TO RETIREMENT OR SOON TO BE?

New to retirement, medicare, supplemental health care coverage, etc? Don't know where to look or turn? The answer may be a click away with professionals who can answer those questions. ETF is your resource for your use. Don't hesitate to ask. They have the latest information available.

<http://www.etf.wi.gov/retirees.htm>

BUREAU OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES

BY OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

At first glance, crash reconstructionists, K-9 handlers, pilots and communications engineers might not seem to have a great deal in common. However in the Wisconsin State Patrol, they all are part of the Bureau of Specialized Services (BSS), which supports the complex and challenging needs of the division as well as other local, state and federal agencies.

Previously known as the Bureau of Public Security and Communications, the Bureau of Specialized Services is organized into four sections:

The State Patrol Academy—provides diverse training for the State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies.

The State Traffic Operations Center (STOC)—has responsibility for the Technical Reconstruction Unit (TRU), the K-9 Unit, Honor Guard Unit, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and the Air Support Unit.

Engineering and Communications Section—oversees the Fleet Installation Center (formerly known as the Radio Shop) and the communications voice and data networks statewide.

Information and Technology Services Section—provides information technology support, such as upgrading and maintaining computer equipment and services.

Under the leadership of a Major, the resources and expertise of BSS staff are in constant demand. In the 2015, the BSS' activities included the following:

The Air Support Unit flew 71 traffic safety enforcement missions in 28 counties. The missions were federally funded through the Bureau of Transportation Safety.

The HIDTA interdiction initiative, which includes State Patrol officers, had 289 seizures of illegal contraband and executed 96 search warrants leading to 58 subjects arrested.

The K-9 Unit had 1,460 deployments that included 479 drug seizures. The unit's explosive-detection K-9 had 35 deployments for security sweeps at high-profile events and responses to actual bomb threats.

The TRU performed crash and other technical reconstructions of 441 cases of which 250 were criminal cases.

The Honor Guard Unit staffed 64 details including 37 funerals (13 of which were for State Patrol retirees), 12 law enforcement memorial events, and 15 color presentations.

A major undertaking for the communications professionals in BSS was the transition in December 2015 from the use of legacy computer aided dispatch (CAD) software to the use of Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling (MACH) CAD statewide.

For the seamless and secure sharing of information, MACH features automatic vehicle location, silent dispatching, secure car-to-car messaging, in-car mapping and the ability to query the Wisconsin Transaction of Information for Management of Enforcement (TIME) system. Managed by the State Patrol and funded cooperatively with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, MACH has more than 3,300 users from 130 state, county, tribal, city and local public safety agencies across Wisconsin.

As law enforcement challenges increase and the tools needed to meet those challenges constantly change, the State Patrol's Bureau of Specialized Services is well equipped to meet the demands of traffic and public safety statewide.

RETIREES, THE BUDGET, ETF NEWS AND BENEFITS

BY DENNIS HUGHES

ETF UPDATES:

1. The Department of Employee Trust Funds recently issued a caution to WRS annuitants about reports that some retirees have received unsolicited telephone calls from persons asking them to update their beneficiary designations. These phone calls are fraudulent. ETF does NOT solicit members in this way, nor does it share or sell member information to third parties. If you have received one of these solicitations, notify ETF at 1-877-533-5020 – and you are also encouraged to file a complaint with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection via e-mail to datcph hotline@wisconsin.gov or call 1-800-422-7128.

2. At the May meeting, the Group Insurance Board received an update on the timeline and process for bringing on board a consultant later this summer to assess options for structuring a self-insured health insurance program for State/local employees and WRS-covered annuitants. The entire 2.5-hour GIB meeting was video-recorded by Wisconsin Eye and is available for viewing on-line at: <http://www.wiseye.org/Video-Archive/Event-Detail/evhdid/10607> While it is not an exciting “must see TV” due to the dry, technical subject matter being discussed, many current and past State employees are concerned about the pros/cons of such a major change in the structure of the WRS health insurance program, which could happen as early as 2018. The discussion of self-insurance begins at the 10-minute mark of the video and lasts for a full 60 minutes. The status report slide show presented by the two consultants (but not shown in the WisEye video) is available on-line at: <http://etf.wi.gov/boards/agenda-items-2016/gib0518/item3b1.pdf>

3. Also in May, ETF launched a new "Government Relations" page on their website, with links to relevant State legislative initiatives (current/past bills of interest to ETF and State/local employees and WRS annuitants, plus biennial budget bills), public pension-related Federal legislation (a very short list), "Partner" organizations (including Wisconsin retiree organizations, SWIB, national public pension associations, NCSL, etc.), and "Facts/Research" (including copies of the past 16 biennial studies comparing WRS to its peers around the US). Here is the link: http://etf.wi.gov/gov_relation/index.asp

WSPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES JUNE 3, 2016

WSPAA Board of Directors Minutes 6-3-2016

Wisconsin State Patrol Academy

Attending: Scott Lindemann Phil Wenzel Linda Woldt Mary Sander Mike Jennings
Maynard Stoehr Keith Young Bob Young

Minutes prepared by Bob Young at request of President Lindemann

The meeting was called to order by President Lindemann and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Financial Report- Treasurer Linda Woldt reports a balance in the bank of \$12082.16 . This is a balance after collecting member dues for 5 years. Expenses have been kept to a minimum.

President Lindemann reported an attempted scam on the WSPAA. Someone used the e-mails of a couple board members to ask that a bank to bank transfer be made to a bank in Florida. Treasurer Woldt questioned this request and worked with Scott to hold any action on this request. Scott has made contact with law enforcement in FL. It is clearly a scam. Watch any email traffic you receive and question anything that looks unusual. Investigation continue.

Membership Report- Mary Sander (Membership Coordinator) reports the WSPAA now has 303 members with 18 not paid for 2015 and 48 not paid for 2016 yet. The effort to collect these will intensify after discussions today.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR (CONT)

A committee was appointed earlier to research several issues including: Life Time Membership, multi-year membership, husband/wife - domestic partner membership dues and proper dues structure. The committee was chaired by Linda Woldt with Mary Sander, Dennis Hughes and Bob Young staffing. The committee gathered dues and member information from around the country and from a variety of organizations. All actions recommendations approved would have been effective in 2017. None of the recommendations included a life-time membership. A five year dues package was recommended which would have saved most members money by paying for five years up front. Some increases in dues was recommended since the dues have not increased since set five years ago.

The Board did not approve any of the recommendations but requested the committee review the proposals and develop a short range (operational) budget and a long range (capital) budget to clearly identify the need for an increase in dues. This report is due for presentation at the next Board of Directors meeting scheduled in August 2016.

E-mail system update and Editor progress- Bob Young reported on the progress of transitioning to a GOOGLE.GROUP system. We have had more issues than expected and still receive an outage or two weekly. It is now time to send a system wide message on the old system to ask if anyone has or knows of others with issues. Then an address check of old vs new comparison needs to be conducted. This will be time consuming and should be done in the next couple of weeks.

We are searching for someone to take over the editor position. We have identified a potential candidate and hopefully we can resolve that by the Annual meeting.

WSPAA History and DSP History Committees- The Division has indicated there will be a committee formed to document the history of the DSP. The WSPAA was asked for a representative on that committee. We are still looking for a volunteer.

President Lindemann has indicated the WSPAA needs to form an association history committee to maintain the history as we progress. A couple suggestions made include the founding fathers (Bruce Bishop, Maynard Stoehr, Bill Harvey, Lyle Bliss, etc.). Lucy Harvey was picked out since she invested so much time and effort documenting the original work. It was suggested Scott make contact with Lucy.

Following this discussion, President Lindemann announced that he had received a note from the Harvey's stating Bill Harvey will be resigning as a Regional Rep. Suggestions for a replacement were requested.

Former Trooper Steven Williams has contacted the President. He is interested in being a Regional Rep. A motion was made and seconded to include Steve as a Regional Representative. Motion Passed. President Lindemann is to notify him.

WSP Academy Annual Retiree Day- Mark your calendar for this Annual Event on September 9, 2016. The Board of Directors will not hold a meeting the morning but instead will be available for Meet & Greet. Dues will be collected with a program yet to be developed.

The WSPAA will hold its Annual Meeting that afternoon. As always the election of officers will be held. Officers to be elected, per the By-Laws include: President; Secretary and Regional Reps from the SWR (SouthWest Region) and NWR (Northwest Region). Anyone planning to run for office or to nominate someone for office needs to notify Membership Coordinator Mary Sander prior to August 24, 2016.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is planned for Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at the Tomah Post, in Tomah starting at 10:00 am.

Motion made and second to adjourn. Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

WE RELY ON THE MEMBERS TO PROVIDE NEWS TO EACH OTHER. EACH ONE OF YOU IS A "REPORTER". OUR NETWORK OF REPORTERS STATEWIDE IS HARD TO BEAT.

IF YOU SEE OR HEAR OF INTERESTING INFORMATION OF THE DIVISION OR ALUMNI, SEND IT TO ME AT BJYOUNG@CHARTER.NET TO BE REPORTED TO YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

BY CARL GUSE, retired Frequency Specialist

The Wisconsin State Patrol communications systems continue to evolve in support of the agency's mission. Formerly known as the Bureau of Communications, (BOC), the group tasked with developing and maintaining these systems is the Communications and Engineering Section within the Bureau of Specialized Services. The systems include:

- State Patrol conventional voice radio network
- Dept. of Natural Resources voice radio network
- State microwave network
- State Patrol IP computer data network
- State Patrol IP phone system
- WISCOM statewide multi agency digital trunked radio system

Section Chief Jeff Ohnstad leads a new team of field supervisors. The last two years have seen the retirements of veteran field supervisors Brian Hudson, Geoff Snyder, and Steve Kondreck, along with Frequency Specialist Carl Guse. The new line up is:

- Logan Zinsli in Eau Claire supervising the Eau Claire and Spooner shops
- Mark Rasmussen in Wausau supervising the Wausau and Fond du Lac shops
- Jim Krause in DeForest supervising the DeForest, Tomah, and Waukesha shops
- Jim Westover, formerly a SER LED, is the Spectrum Manager (frequency specialist)
- Paul Schulz was promoted to manager of the IP network
- Marie Treazise replaces Eric Engel as the Engineer

The Mobile Data Communications Network (MDCN/IPCN) was turned off at the end of 2015. This system had provided the ability for the State Patrol and numerous county and local agencies to have computers in squads. Federal security requirements, and the need for greater bandwidth to support new applications such as MACH and TRACS, have led to the use of cellular aircards for data communications to the squads.

The legendary "Red" phone system has been replaced by a new Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone system. This system is owned, managed, and maintained by DSP staff and virtually eliminates the traditional phone bills.

New radio communications towers have been brought on line at Grand View in Bayfield County and Phelps in Vilas County. The Grand View site fills a long standing coverage gap, and the Phelps site replaces the use of a rented tower outside of Eagle River. These towers also support the statewide WISCOM communications system and county radio systems. The recently constructed Superior SWEF has a monopole tower, along with backup power and a fiber network connection.

Squads are currently being equipped with new dual band VHF/800 MHz mobile radios. These digital trunking radios will provide for operation on the WISCOM system but also county radio systems and the Dept. of Corrections on the 700 and 800 MHz bands. Installation is to be completed in July. Dispatch and routine communications will move from the conventional analog radio system to the WISCOM digital trunked radio system in August. Benefits of the WISCOM system include wide area car to car communications, automatic switching between towers, identification of the radio being received, and improved emergency button functions. The wireless mics, which replaced the vehicular repeaters, are being switched from the Kenwood radios to the new EF Johnson radios, and will support the emergency button. The Kenwood radios will continue to be maintained in the squads for communications with county and local conventional radio systems.

The Communications Section continues to develop and support numerous projects to maintain and improve communications for the State Patrol and all public safety agencies in Wisconsin.





EVENTS—Regularly Scheduled Gatherings

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

First Thursday of the Month - Anyone formerly employed by 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 Connie Salquist (ConnieSalquist@yahoo.com).

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. 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.

President: Scott Lindemann

sgklindemann@charter.net

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philw@chulavistaresort.com

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VACANT

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WSPAA OFFICERS & CONTACTS



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

_____ New member, please complete the entire form

_____ Membership Renewal: If there is no change in your address, telephone or email, please enter the year (s) you are renewing for in this box and fill in your name below.

Membership year runs from January 1, through December 31.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

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

Highest Rank or Position: _____

_____ Full Member: \$15.00/year or _____ Associate Member: \$15.00/year

Amount Paid: _____ Renewal Year(s): _____

Make your check payable to: WSPAA, Inc. and return this form along with your check to: Linda Woldt, 3120 Breeze Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

For Inquiries on your Membership, please contact:

Membership Coordinator: Mary Heffernan – Sander (mamabear6615@gmail.com) 715-222-2524 OR

WSPAA Treasurer: Linda Woldt (vdbriese@frontier.com) 608-279-0661

Email: WSPAlumni.inc@gmail.com

Visit our website: <http://www.wspalumni.org>