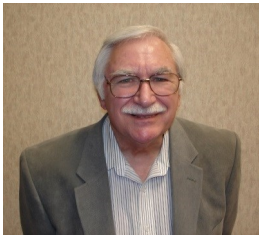




# WSPAA QUARTERLY

DECEMBER 2016



## 2016 WSPAA QUARTERLY President Scott Lindemann

Today's headlines: (written 11/21/2016)

San Antonio Chief on Cop Killer- "The uniform was target". ABC News

"4 cops shot in 3 states during bloody Sunday for police nationwide."-Fox News

"Officers injured, slain in what appears to be targeted shootings," CNN.com

One officer shot and killed was shot while sitting in his squad; writing a report from a completed traffic stop. Sound familiar? This is the bread and butter of what every Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper and Inspector does on duty. Every other law enforcement agency can identify the same activity. Traffic stops lead to more public contacts than any other reason.

The difference is most people being contacted have no intent to harm the officer. They are cooperative and everyone goes home later in the day. Not true for the growing number of people who show an intent to injure or kill a police officer. The intent is so strong, their intent grows to be so strong, they target officers. Set them up to ambush the officer.

What happened to respect for the law enforcement officer? Police officers are not hired to harass the citizen. They are hired to maintain law and order. Officers have a duty and responsibility to uphold the law. They have the legal authority to carry out their duties. This includes the right to defend themselves.

With these duties and responsibilities come regulation and a process to review an officer's actions. These reviews take place following every officer involved shooting.

There seems to be a gap between what protesters think they should be able to be allowed to do and what law enforcement should be allowed. The most recent trend is the demand for "Community Control of Law Enforcement." This seems to be a dangerous trend for the law enforcement community.

The WSPAA supports the fair and equal enforcement of our laws. Reasonable Use of Force must be used in the enforcement activities. We support the job our Troopers and Inspectors do as they go about their duties in a safe manner.

As of this morning 58 officers have been killed in the line of duty in 2016 in the United States.

I urge you to be careful in your daily activity. Be Safe. Use your knowledge and training at all times.

My sympathy to the officers killed and their relatives. You are OUR Heroes.

(Since this article was drafted, there has been at least one additional officer shot and killed in the line of duty. Now is the time for our political leaders and courts to stand-up to stop this tragedy. Allow law enforcement to do their job as we have all been trained. Time to stop being politically correct. Be careful at all times.)

# WSPAA GROWTH AND PROJECTS

## By Scott Lindemann

The WSPAA continues to grow with a membership in excess of 310. Several projects have been started to document the history of the WSPAA and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Before his retirement, Supt Fitzgerald proposed a Division wide Historical Committee to include the DSP, WTA and the WSPAA. This committee was going to be an on-going effort to collect and preserve the Division's history.

I plan to appoint a committee of association members to preserve the historical record of the WSPAA: original members working on organization, documents, membership information, etc. **If you have any interest in being a part of either of these committees, please let me know.** These are efforts to document the past before the information is lost. As long as more documentation is discovered, our work is not complete. Contact me at:

[sgklindemann@charter.net](mailto:sgklindemann@charter.net)

**NEXT WSPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Everyone is welcome**

**December 20, 2016—State Patrol Tomah Post—10 AM**

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT By J.D. Lind

The Wisconsin State Patrol experienced significant change in its organizational structure during the past several months. Superintendent Steve Fitzgerald retired on August 5 and Colonel Brian Rahn retired on August 29. On October 30, I was appointed Superintendent of the agency. I am honored to have been selected to serve in this capacity and I look forward to leading, what I consider to be, the best trained, professional law enforcement agency in the state. Major Charles (Chuck) Teasdale was promoted to Colonel on October 30, as well. On December 11, Captain Steve Krueger will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and Captain Tony Burrell will promote to the rank of Major in the Bureau of Field Operations.

Many of the members of the Alumni Association know me, however I am certain there are a number of members who are not familiar with me or my career path with the State Patrol. Prior to joining the Wisconsin State Patrol, I was a high school Marketing Education teacher. In 1994, I applied for and was selected to be part of the 44th Recruit Class. Upon graduation from the Academy I accepted an assignment at "Scale 34" in Outagamie County as an Inspector. Inspector Mary Ebben (retired) was my Field Training Officer and Sergeant John Wolfe (retired) was my supervisor. I was fortunate to have these two individuals as mentors at the start of my career.

During the past twenty-two years I have held every rank in the division and I have served at the Academy and all of the State Patrol Posts, except Waukesha. My amazing wife of 25 years, Michele, and my two children (now adults) Isaac and Emma, have always been extremely supportive and willing to move as opportunities with the State Patrol were available. Without them my career path would not have been possible. I am blessed.

Colonel Chuck Teasdale was also a member of the 44th Recruit Class. Colonel Teasdale is native to Madison and has served his entire career in the SW-Region. Early in his career he was involved in traffic reconstruction. In 2000, he promoted to sergeant in the Motor Carrier Section at Central Headquarters and in 2001 to the rank of Lieutenant in the Motor Carrier Section. In 2005, Chuck promoted to Motor Carrier Captain and in 2008 he transferred to the SW-Region Commander's position. Chuck was promoted to Major in the Bureau of Field Operations in 2015 and served in that capacity until his most recent promotion to Colonel. I am extremely pleased to have Colonel Teasdale as part of the Division's Executive Command Team. He is very intelligent and presents a great deal of enthusiasm for his role.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Krueger started his career with the State Patrol in 1988 in the North Central Region. Steve promoted to Sergeant in 1997. In 2012 he promoted to the rank of Lieutenant of the North Central Region and in 2015 promoted to Captain.

Major Tony Burrell has been a member of the Division of State Patrol since 1990. He promoted to the rank of Captain in the Northeast Region in 2015. Tony was the recipient of the Wisconsin State Patrol Medal of Valor for action related to the line-of-duty death of Trooper Trevor Casper. During his career, he has served in both the Southeast and the Northeast Regions.

We are quite fortunate, as a division, to have the type of leadership and support we receive from the Department of Transportation Secretary's Office. Secretary Gottlieb, Deputy Secretary Paul Hammer and Assistant Deputy Secretary Tom Rhatican are extremely supportive of the Division of State Patrol and appreciative of the work our sworn and civilian staff perform. The DOT Secretary recently participated in a ride along with a trooper from the SW-Region. After the ride along he shared how impressed he was with the trooper and with the equipment/technology utilized to perform in today's law enforcement environment. Last May, the Secretary authorized sending fifteen State Patrol personnel to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Washington D.C. at which Trooper Trevor Casper was honored. In addition, the Secretary has been extremely supportive of sending honor guard members to line of duty death funerals for members of other State Patrol / State Police agencies around the Nation.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Recruit Class began training at the State Patrol Academy on October 3. The class started with 51 cadets and, as of today, 44 remain. Graduation will be held in La Crosse on April 7, 2017. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Recruit Class is slated to start in the fall of 2017.

The annual Division Awards Ceremony was held at the State Capitol on October 26. Governor Walker made opening remarks and took part in a photo opportunity with this year's awards recipients. Four Division level Lifesaving and two Commendable Service Awards were presented.

Construction of a new DOT Central Headquarters building is well under way. The nine story structure is scheduled to be completed in the spring, 2018. The State Patrol will be housed on the ninth floor of the structure.

Continued recognition of the six individuals from the Wisconsin State Patrol who died in the line of duty is extremely important. Plaques memorializing all six troopers (Donald Pederson, Gary Powless, Debbie McMenamain, William Schoenberger, Jorge Dimas and Trevor Casper) are now prominently displayed at each Post the Academy and Central Headquarters. On the anniversary date of their line of duty death, the entire division pauses for one minute of radio silence to remember their sacrifice. In addition, a wreath laying ceremony is conducted at the grave site of each of the six at the end of May. Next year's wreath laying ceremony will be held on May 25 and 26, 2017. I would highly encourage as much Alumni Association attendance as possible. I am certain the families of the fallen would be grateful.

The men and women of the Wisconsin State Patrol work very hard to keep the citizens of Wisconsin safe through enforcement and education efforts. As Superintendent, I will do everything in my power to provide our personnel with the resources, training and equipment they need to be as effective in their efforts as possible. I believe our agency must focus on our core mission of highway safety through aggressive and diverse enforcement while treating people with dignity and respect. In addition, we must continue to focus our efforts on highway criminal interdiction to identify criminal activity and remove it from our roadways.

Working closely with our partner agencies is also important to maximize and leverage limited resources and to continue to foster strong relationships.

The health and wellness of the division's personnel is a priority. During the 2017, Trooper and Inspector In-service training at the Academy, a health and wellness block of instruction will include a classroom and physical fitness assessment. The goal is to help the agencies personnel continue to meet the physical demands of the job and to encourage healthy choices.

The current environment in which law enforcement professionals operate is extremely dangerous. We have observed, over the past two years, a surge in officer line of duty deaths. Social unrest, as a result of officer involved shootings, places officers in volatile, dangerous situations. Training and vigilance are more important than ever.

The civilian personnel who serve the Wisconsin State Patrol are integral to the agencies core mission. The work they do often goes unrecognized by the public. I have had the pleasure over the course of my career to work with civilian staff in every corner of the state. Our agency has some truly dedicated individuals whose contributions are essential to our continued success.

I want to thank all of the members of the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association for your continued support of the agency and your interest in ongoing efforts by the division. You paved the way for future generations who are committed to carrying on the long standing traditions of the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Respectfully,

J.D. Lind

Superintendent

## **THOUGHTS AND THANKS**

### **By Phil Wenzel, WSPAA V.P.**

Good day to all members of the WSPAA and readers of this letter.

Here it is just a few days after an election to choose a new President of the United States. Many of us can look back and say, "Wow", how things have changed in the way people run for office. It seems more time is spent on running down the opponent than stating why they are the person for the position to which they are running. When I was asked to run for vice president of the WSPAA, my first thought was, ok, and if I do, what can I do to help the guide and lead this organization? Is 34 years of experience enough experience to help guide and lead this organization? The majority of those who voted must have thought so and for that I thank you. I will continue to do my best.

We are fast approaching the season to thank and give thanks where people of all faiths will be celebrating for one reason or another.

If I could ask of you to take just a moment to think back and remember just a few of the incidents you were involved in during your careers that could have gone in a different direction. We in the law enforcement community were challenged every day in what we do or did and how we did those things. Please take a moment to ask yourself, why did it go the way it did? Was it the result of the training received or a higher power looking over you? Regardless, be sure and thank someone for those events going in your favor.

I note more than ever the things I missed with my family as a law enforcement officer. Working nights, weekends, being away from home on special occasions. I am very lucky grandchildren, and now I get to spend time with them and attend functions that we were unable to do with my own children. For that, I am very thankful. Would I have changed my career? Never! It was a great, rewarding career and I am proud to have been a Wisconsin State Trooper.

Again, I ask. Who do you thank that you are still able to read this? I do not care who, but thank someone!

I would like to say a very heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of you for your service to the Great State of Wisconsin. All the best to you and yours in the coming New Year.

With Respect,

Phil Wenzel, WSPAA Vice President

## **Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Shortages by DENNIS HUGHES**

This 15-member special study committee was referenced earlier this year in a WSPAA quarterly newsletter since many Association members have been involved with volunteer fire or EMS services. The Committee has met five times since July, with Sen. Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater) serving as Chair and Rep. Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum) serving as Vice-Chair. They will wrap up their work in December. To date, the Committee has created 13 separate preliminary bill drafts, which if enacted into law during the 2017-18 legislative session would reform a number of Wisconsin statutes related to volunteer fire/EMS services and personnel, including funding for first responder training and authorizing the creation of fire service districts with the power to levy property taxes. In addition, the Committee is expected to ask the Department of Health Services to revise an existing administrative rule related to ambulance service staffing requirements. For more details on the Committee's activities and its numerous preliminary work products, go to their website at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2016/1498>



## **WISCONSIN STATE PATROL K-9 Unit**

**By Sgt Todd Brehm – Lucy  
Harvey**

2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the Wisconsin State Patrol K-9 Unit. Since 2006, the unit (troop) has grown to eight K-9 teams strategically located throughout the state. Seven are trained in detecting the odor of narcotics and one trained to detect explosives. The K-9 Troop is now assigned to Bureau of Specialized Services (BSS).

This unit is completely funded by asset forfeiture and donations. During the last 3 years – 2013, 2014, 2015 there were:

4,613 total deployments for our narcotics detection K-9's (commercial motor vehicles, passenger vehicles, buses, buildings (prisons/residential), schools)

\$550,731 U.S. currency seized relating to drug profits

1,338 total seizures of marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and other miscellaneous designer drugs.

In an article in the Fort McCoy News, Sgt. Brehm also noted how important the K-9 teams are to the State Patrol, especially during traffic stops.

"Narcotics are transferred at one time or another by a vehicle," Brehm said. "Our primary focus, as the State Patrol, is to ensure the safe passage of motorists and to enforce the motor-vehicle laws, and to do that, we do what is called interdiction. Highway criminal interdiction is done on the interstate highways, state highways, and even county highways.

"Some areas (of the state) are more prevalent to narcotics movement than others, particularly in the more-populated areas, so we look at some areas closer than others," Brehm said. "There are certain things we will look for at traffic stops called indicators. If we see those indicators, that will determine whether or not we will deploy a K-9 around the vehicle. It's not just one indicator; it's several indicators, the totality of the circumstances during the traffic stop. That's why this training is so important."

Since 2012, State Patrol has been training its own "green dogs." Sgt. Todd Brehm attended a trainer's course in Pennsylvania for three months to become a trainer. This was done for cost saving measures and to ensure only the best dogs get the position. Once a dog is selected, Sgt. Brehm trains the dog on the odors it must certify on: marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine. This takes approximately four weeks to complete.

Once the dog receives its initial training, the new handler is brought in to be teamed with their new partner and training begins for the team. Training a new team takes four to five weeks and then must go through a certification process by a nationally recognized K-9 organization such as the North American Police Dog Work Association (NAPWDA). The certification process is completed on an annual basis and must be in place in order for the teams to be used on the streets.

# **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



## K-9 UNIT Cont.

When asked to describe the relationship between the canine and the handler, Sgt. Brehm said “trust and loyalty.” The K-9 unit often receives a lot of positive attention and is in the spotlight. Particularly with the WisDOT EAP (Employee Assistance Program) Cram the Cruiser Challenge. This is open to all DOT employees to raise goods needed by area animal shelters. Office teams are encouraged to challenge other teams within a department and provides a way for state employees to give back to their communities. Since the inception of the challenge three years ago, employees have donated 1000’s of pounds of pet food, supplies and monetary donations. The K-9 teams often visit drop off points for photographs with the crammed cruisers full of supplies being delivered all over the state to animals in need.



(Trooper Tim Smith and K-9 Rocky, along with Trooper Jodi Kummet, with items donated during the 2016 Cram the Cruiser campaign)

WSPAA members Bill and Lucy Harvey and Cub Reporter Kaylee Stutzman (grand-daughter of former Trooper Fran Hart) had the opportunity to meet K-9 Nora and interview Trooper Mathew Strickland. Nora is a Belgian Malinois, a breed from Holland. In addition to Nora there are German Shepherds and a Labrador Retriever in service. A breed is chosen because it is intense, high energy and intelligence. Nora eagerly worked among vehicles looking for drugs, and her reward for successfully finding them was a lively game of tug of war with her handler. Nora “lives for action” so she needs exercise either on the job or after the work day is completed.



(Trooper Mathew Strickland plays tug-a-war with K-9 Nora)

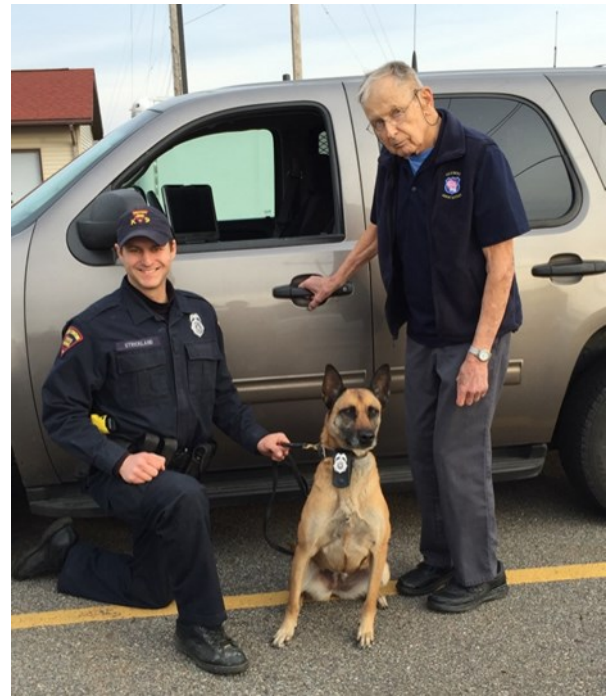
Committing to become a handler falls on the shoulders of the entire family because the canine lives with the family and must be exercised, fed, and monitored every day. In addition, the canine troopers and their K-9’s are away from home for three days and two nights of specialized training every month where they discuss legal matters and share their expertise. So that the dogs do not become complacent and rely on their previous experience at a particular location, training sites such as schools, junk yards, truck hubs, etc. are used all over the state necessitating long separations from the trooper’s family. Despite these issues, however, the K-9 teams are committed and dedicated.

Since the inception of the unit in late 2006, the K-9s, equipment and training that were originally funded through a Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) grant and administered under the Division of State Patrol/Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) has become self-funded. The WSP K-9 Unit has evolved into a respected entity in criminal interdiction working with all facets of law enforcement in all modes of transportation.

## K-9 UNIT (Cont)



Trooper Dave McCarthy and K-9 Capo pose in front of a new K9 Tahoe cruiser)



(Trooper Mathew Strickland and K-9 Nora with Bill Harvey)



(Training time)

# UPDATE ON ETF MOVE TO SELF-INSURANCE

## By Dennis Hughes

The Group Insurance Board (GIB) met in Madison on November 30 to review nine different vendor proposals for self-insuring and/or regionalizing the State Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP). The GIB also reviewed proposals from vendors to perform data warehousing services.

Since these proposals contained confidential/proprietary information, the GIB heard the proposals in closed session. The Board did not take formal action on self-insuring and/or regionalization at this meeting.

The GIB will reconvene on December 13 to consider and vote on possible changes in the structure of the GHIP. The earliest any changes, if approved, would take effect is January 2018.

At this time, no benefit coverage changes are being considered in this process. That being said, coverage changes could happen in the future – as they have from time to time in the past.

Vendors were asked to specify how Medicare annuitants would be served under their Medicare Advantage plans. However, this element was not included in the scoring process used by ETF and the agency's health insurance consultant. ETF staff will present separate recommendations to the GIB regarding how to proceed with covering Medicare annuitants if the Board decides to adopt a self-insurance model.

For a thorough, but technically detailed, background explanation of the self-insurance issue, here is the link to the ETF memo sent to GIB members in preparation for their November 30 meeting: <http://etf.wi.gov/boards/agenda-items-2016/gib1130/item6.pdf>

Many interested parties are concerned about potential negative consequences of moving the entire health insurance program to a self-insurance model. Some have shared their concerns with the GIB.

A coalition of 14 leading health insurance system stakeholders has expressed concern about the impact on the state's health insurance market. Here is the link to their letter to the Governor: <http://etf.wi.gov/boards/agenda-items-2016/gib1130/item5a3.pdf>

And here is the link to a very well written letter to ETF from the ACE (Association of Career Employees): <http://etf.wi.gov/boards/agenda-items-2016/gib1130/item5a2.pdf>

Stay tuned. This could be a very big deal for the over 200,000 people covered under the State GHIP.



ALUMNI



ASSOCIATION

## 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](mailto:bjyoung@charter.net). Send items in as soon as you hear of them. Thank you.

**President: Scott Lindemann**

[sgklindemann@charter.net](mailto:sgklindemann@charter.net)

**Vice-President: Phil Wenzel**

[philw@chulavistaresort.com](mailto:philw@chulavistaresort.com)

**Secretary: Gary Brogan**

[Caboosedad@charter.net](mailto:Caboosedad@charter.net)

**Treasurer: Linda Woldt**

[vdbriese@frontier.com](mailto:vdbriese@frontier.com)

(NW) Regional Reps:

Keith Young: [keithyoung625@gmail.com](mailto:keithyoung625@gmail.com)

Bob Follis [bcfollis@charter.net](mailto:bcfollis@charter.net)

Northcentral (NC) Regional Rep:

Bruce Bishop: [blpabish@yahoo.com](mailto:blpabish@yahoo.com)

VACANT:

Southwest (SW) Regional Reps:

Mike Jennings: [mikeandjudy@mhtc.net](mailto:mikeandjudy@mhtc.net)

Frank Hefti [the.heftis@gmail.com](mailto:the.heftis@gmail.com)

SouthEast (SE) Rep:

John Mundy: [489@wi.rr.com](mailto:489@wi.rr.com)

VACANT

Membership Coordinator:

Mary Sander: [mamabear6615@gmail.com](mailto:mamabear6615@gmail.com)

By-Laws Chair

Maynard Stoehr: [mistoehr@charter.net](mailto:mistoehr@charter.net)

Webmaster:

Diane King: [dianeking@charter.net](mailto:dianeking@charter.net)

Publications:

Bob Young: [bjyoung@charter.net](mailto:bjyoung@charter.net)

Proof-reading:

Janet Sabatke and Frieda Haesler

## 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](mailto:mamabear6615@gmail.com)) 715-222-2524 OR

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

Email: [WSPAlumni.inc@gmail.com](mailto:WSPAlumni.inc@gmail.com)

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