



2024/2025 Newsletter



President Sander's Message –

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I thought this was a good time to review what we have accomplished since I have been president.

I want to thank each of you for being members of the *Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association*. I also want to thank the Board members. They continue to step up, donating their time and working together to accomplish the goals we have made (more about that later). The Board members are Phil Wenzel vice president, Linda

Woldt treasurer, Kim Hurley secretary, northwest regional representatives are Keith Young and Ruth Tiry, northcentral regional representative is Ray Sondelski, northeast regional representative is Ron John Wolfe, southeast regional representatives are David Hanson and Anne Maxson, southwest regional representatives are David Collins and Paul Matl. You can see we have a diversified group, but we are all equal when it comes to making decisions for the benefit of all. There is currently an opening for a northeast and a northcentral regional representative. Please consider joining the Board, we'd love to have you and your fresh ideas.

One goal that was set was to form a scholarship committee. The members are Kim Hurley chairperson, Lucy Harvey, Janet Sabtke, Phil Wenzel and me. The scholarship was named the Bruce Bishop & William Harvey Memorial Scholarship to honor the WSPAA founding fathers. We give two \$1000 scholarships annually. The criteria are a parent, grandparent, spouse, aunt or uncle currently serving or have served as a Wisconsin State Patrol employee. Applicant is pursuing a career in law enforcement or criminal justice, attending or planning to attend an accredited college, university, or technical school as a full-time student. Currently have a 2.5 grade point average or better. Candidates must meet all the criteria to be considered. More information can be found on our website www.wspalumni.org.

Another goal was to form a history committee. The members are David Collins co-chairperson, Kim Hurley co-chairperson, Gary Bauer, Anne Maxson, Timothy White (WTBF liaison), David Harvey (WSP liaison), Peter Hill, Phil Wenzel and me. Our first order of business was to go through and completely empty the attic at the Academy. We were able to sort and save many items. Captain Frank Hefty offered the display cases and the waiting room area at the Academy to use. We partnered with the Wisconsin Troopers Benevolent Fund, and we were able to establish a museum at the Academy. The WTBF provided financial support, so we were able to get a wardrobe closet and two more cases that have a glass tops to display items. A ribbon cutting and dedication was done on Alumni Day September 6, 2024. We also purchased a male and female mannequin to display different era uniforms. The committee still has

several containers to go through and organize, so it is going to be a long and tedious process. We are asking for any items you may want to donate, if you contact Kim (608-444-4636) she will tell you where to send or arrange a pickup.

These were two big accomplishments, but I couldn't have done either without the hard work of the Board and committees. We have a few new ideas to work on in 2025. We currently have 256 members. I would like to see more involvement from all of you. It seems that you like and want the association to continue, but we need your help. You can volunteer for a committee, provide an article for the newsletter, give us ideas of what you would like to see done by the Association, or even become a regional representative.

Looking forward to 2025,

Mary





1. What year is this Camaro?
2. Starting in what year were drivers required to register their vehicles?
3. In the begging what was the cost of vehicle registration?
4. In what year was the driver's license first issued?
5. When did the exam and road test become part of getting a driver's license?
6. What gas station used the following slogan; "Put a tiger in your tank"?
7. Which station used "The performance company"?
8. Do you know when the Wisconsin State Highway commission was created?
9. The first 7 miles of Interstate highway in Wisconsin was where?
10. President Eisenhower signed the Federal-aid highway act in 1956. How many miles of Interstate system were to be constructed throughout the United States?
11. "You can trust your car to the man who wears the star" belongs to which company?
12. What station used "You can be sure of _____"?

Where did these fun pictures and questions come from? Well they came from a book called "Filler up The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations" by Jim Draeger & Mark Speltz

Maybe you remember some of these from your childhood.

Hope you enjoyed this little side track of information.



WSPAA 10-29-24 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mary Sander, Phil Wenzel, Linda Woldt, Kim Hurley, Ron John Wolfe, Anne Maxson, Ruth Tiry, Keith Young and Dave Collins. Guest: Mark Rasmussen.

Absent: Paul Matl, Dave Hanson and Ray Sondelski.

Meeting called to order: 10:04 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to accept agenda made by Ron John, 2nd by Phil. Motion passed.

Mark Rasmussen from BNEIDI spoke and asked that if you have pictures of radio gear in your old squads he would like them sent to him at the Wausau Post. The history committee can work in conjunction with Mark.

Presidents Report –

Alumni day review – Linda brought up people getting raffle tickets that don't stay around for the business meeting, so one person can win multiple items. Linda suggested we change it from getting tickets when they come in, to when they enter multi-purpose room for the business meeting after lunch. Motion to change this by Kim, 2nd by Anne. Motion Passed

Zingler sign & design did our sign for the museum. Mary passed around the invoice and the discount they gave us.

By-laws – website lacked "left in good standing", but the membership tab had it. Should we revisit the by-laws? Discussion about this verbiage. Mary would like a by-laws committee. Mary suggested that Anne chair that committee. It does not to be board members on the committee Mary said. Anne can pick her committee.

Pete Hill had sent some information to Mary about a historical plate opportunity. A gentleman by the name of Tony has two of the State Patrol's first license plates. Tony would give us the two plates in return for a current motorcycle and cruiser plates. Motion to accept by Keith, 2nd by Phil. Motion passed.

Scholarship Report – Kim announced the two winners; Haylee Zawislan and Ashton Kummet. Haylee is daughter of Trooper Zawislan and Ashton is son of Trooper Kummet.

A 2025 scholarship timeline will be released after the committee discusses the timeline.

The scholarship fund has enough money for a couple years. But how do we fund it after that? The board discussed a donation letter and if we should make it multiple choices, such as scholarship, history or general fund. Or should we just have a letter explaining where the money may go? Keith will work on a new letter for donations.

Motion by Linda, 2nd by Ron John to accept this report. Motion passes.

Financial report- We are leaning to cashing out our cd's and that would give us approximately \$5,000. One option proposed was that we cash out two cd's and that money could go into the scholarship fund. And if we cash out the other 3 cd's that money could go into the checking account.

Motion by Keith that we cash out the cd's in January and move the money into the general fund. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passes.

We will re-evaluate buying wreaths for the National Memorial in Washington D.C.

Membership Report – Mary passed out a list of members that have yet to renew their memberships.

Motion to accept the report by Phil, 2nd by Ron John. Motion passes.

Merchandise Report – Ruth said we sold \$500 of merchandise at alumni day.

Motion by Keith, 2nd by Linda to accept the report. Motion passes.

History committee's next meeting is January 14th at the Academy. Pete Hill is now on the history committee.

Highway Memorials – Discussion on this will be tabled until after the elections and the first of the year

Regional Representatives reports –

SWR Dave –Nothing

SER Anne – nothing

NER Ron – there is a group of Fond du lac Post folks that get together.

NCR - no representative in attendance

NWR Keith – nothing

Roundtable – Phil would like to join the history committee.

Next board meeting on April 15, 2025 10 AM at Wausau Post.

Motion to adjourn by Kim, 2nd by Linda. Motion passes.

Meeting ends at 2:18 pm.

History Committee updates

Your committee recently met up at the Academy and continued to go through all the printed materials and objects we currently have. We achieved some more organization of these items. We enjoy seeing these old items and someone usually has a story to share. Pictures are a whole day in itself (most likely), to get them organized.

Can you help out the committee and tell us when this radio head was used? Did you have one in your cruiser?



Scholarship Committee updates

The 2025 scholarship information will be on the website in February, <http://wspalumni.org/scholarship.htm>. The qualifications will remain the same as in previous years.

Letter from 2024 winner Haylee Zawislan

"Dear Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association scholarship committee.

I am writing this letter to personally thank you all for selecting me to be a recipient of the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association scholarship. I am honored to have been selected two years in a row for this scholarship and I thank you for your support and generosity. With the help of the scholarship I will be able to focus on my studies and extracurricular activities without having to worry about financial constraints.

One day I hope to be in a position to give back to students who are in need, just as you have done for me. Once again, thank you for your investment in my future."



2024 WSPAA scholarship winner Ashton Kummert



Pictured are Ashton Kummert, Keith Young and Trooper Jodi Kummert

Both Haylee and Ashton are good students, wanting to go into law enforcement, and active in their communities. They are fine representations of our applicants. Haylee loved softball and Ashton loves hunting.

2024 Deaths –

1. Phillip M McCoy, age 70 died on February 13th. He is survived by his wife Susan and stepdaughter Richelle. Phillip was a member of the 32 recruit class, badge numbers 986 & 1551.
2. Bonnie Burghaus, died on 3-25-24. 32nd recruit class, badge numbers 992 & 1541.
3. James Smetana, age 92 died on 4-25-24. He was a member of the 4th recruit class, badge #236. He is survived by his children James, Paul, and Randolph.

4. Roger Steiner, died on 4-30-24. He was a member of the 13th recruit class, badge #434. He is survived by his kids Allen & Natalie.
5. Wally Landree, died on 6-17-24. He was a member of the 31st recruit class, badge numbers 978 & 1524. He is survived by his wife – Donna, children – Kodie, Krista, Kelsie & Adam.
6. Mike Moe, age 76, died on 6-4-24. He worked in the radio shop in Madison. He is survived by his wife – Deborah and children – Bryan & Mathew.
7. Don Dionne, age 78, died on 7-14-24. He was a member of the 18th recruit class. He is survived by sister – Mary, brothers – John & Mike.
8. John Hendrickson, age 87, died on 7-22-24. He was a member of the 12th recruit class, badge #395. He is survived by his wife – Gale, sons- Bob & Jim and daughter – Kathy.
9. Walter Dunford, died on 8-2-24. He was a member of the 21st recruit class, badge #682. He is survived by his sisters; Bessie & Ginny and his son; Bruce, Gregory, and Randal.
10. Orv Froh, age 91, died on 8-19-24. He was a member of the 2nd recruit class, badge #124. He is survived by his children; Tim, Monica, Mary and Tess.
11. Keith Nollenberg, age 86, died on 9-8-24. He was a member of the 18th recruit class, badge #582. He is survived by his wife Betty, daughters: Holly, Carrie and Wenda.
12. Phil D. Hunter. Phil was a member of the 24th recruit class, badge number #775.
13. Charles Johnson, age 75, died on 11-18-24. Chuck was a member of the 26th recruit class, badge #822. He is survived by his daughters Nicole & Jennifer, and his ex-wife Linda.