



WSPAA QUARTERLY

Volume 13
Sept 2014

WSPAA Annual Meeting and Alumni Day

The WSP Academy Alumni Day Luncheon was held on Friday, September 5, 2014. The agenda for the day included the introduction of the current command staff and a briefing of the current issues of the State Patrol. The Academy is currently the temporary home of the members of the 60th Recruit Class. With 52 members of the class starting, this is the largest recruit class ever held. Currently, the class number stands at 49. Graduation is planned in December.

The Alumni Luncheon was attended by approximately ninety alumni and family members. It was a good day of reliving old memories and talking of good days and bad. Meeting old friends and meeting new faces we may have only heard of before. Meeting new retirees as well as some of the members back to the First Recruit Class. Talking about how things used to be and learning of how the job and the organization has changed.

As always a pleasant day.

Following the Alumni Day Program, the WSPAA held its Annual Business meeting. The membership attending was provided a status report of the WSPAA through reports of the officers and coordinators. Currently there are 257 paid members.

The election of officers was held. The officers serve 2 year terms. This way only half of the officers can change positions in any given year, under normal circumstances. Officer can only serve two consecutive terms in the same position. This year the office of President and Secretary were up for election. Several Regional Representatives were also due for election.

A nominating committee had been appointed by President Harvey. Janet Sabatke chaired that effort. Elections were held with the members present.

Officers for the next year include:

President: Tim Heffernan (former Vice President); Vice-President: Scott Lindemann

Secretary: Gary Brogan; Treasurer: Lyle Bliss (Not up for re-election this year)

Regional Representatives:

NW Region: Mary Sander, Keith Young

NC Region: Bruce Bishop, William Harvey (Newly Appointed)

NE Region: Jim Cmeyla, David Catalano

SW Region: Phillip Wenzel, Mike Jennings

SE Region: Jerold Witte, John Mundy (Newly Appointed)

As always we look forward to receiving news from around the State about alumni and State Patrol activities. We encourage anyone knowing of these news items to report them as soon as possible. Send news items to Bob Young at bjyoung@charter.net.

The WSPAA is YOUR organization. Get involved. Each of us can contribute or enjoy the activities or news reports of the Association. Be an active member. Help the WSPAA membership grow and this helps alumni grow and stay in touch. Thank you for your support and participation.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

BY: TIM HEFFERNAN

The annual Alumni Day is over and many stories have been exchanged and hands shaken. It was a time to renew old friendships and make new friends. We all are veterans of the Patrol but did not all work together or do the same jobs in the agency. I always look forward to these gatherings. The old saying, the older we get, the better we were, often rings true. It is really important to remember our history and how we got to this point.

Did you ever think about the members of your Academy Class and wonder where they are and what they are doing or even members of your old troop. Many left the Patrol to pursue other interest. Were they successful at whatever they chose as a career. My problem always was not only was my uniform blue, but I think my blood was also. Did I stay because I had a love affair with being a Trooper or was it some other reason? Every one of us has different interests and some found they were not cut out to be in law enforcement. I hope all of those found success in another field. At alumni time I think of those that have passed from this world. Luckily there were two members of the 6th class present this Alumni Day. It was really good to see them. Those of you in early classes remember the old Academy building and the open bay barracks. How did we have so much fun suffering through those conditions?

Now on to the subject at hand, the WSPAA. When this was first mentioned I was in attendance at that alumni meeting and offered my whole hearted support and was anxious to see the organization start and get off the ground. I look forward to the challenge of the President's position. I served 4 years as President of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officer Association and found it very rewarding. I want all of you that are members of the Alumni group to join me in recruiting new members. Some of the people you worked with are not members. Do you still have contact with them? If you do ask them to join? Remember the answer is always NO if you don't ask. 258 and growing sounds great but we can do better. Don't be afraid to volunteer to help with gatherings or coffee in your area. Hey, I am inviting you all to come to our next coffee October 23, at the Prime in Trego at 9:30 a.m. George Riedel told me he was coming up. I really think this is a great opportunity to stay in touch. If you plan something let Bob Young or me know what is [happening. tprtim@charter.net](mailto:tprtim@charter.net) If you want us to continue to look into mini trips in Wisconsin, we would love to do so. I even had a request for something on a weekend. Most of us that are fully retired take advantage of mid-week trips as rates are lower.

The WSPAA would like to help with the preservation of our history. We understand there are many boxes of old pictures in the attic at the Academy. Would you like to gather with a group of friends on a day there and help with the ID project. You are our history and to preserve it our help is needed. If we pick a day would, you show up to help? Also, all of you are welcome to attend any board meetings you wish. You would not be able to vote on an issue, but could have input. Our next meeting is November 14 at 10 a.m. and it is at the Academy.

Let us all be thankful to Bill Harvey (Lucy), Bruce Bishop, Janet Sabatke, and all the others who helped us get off the ground. It is now our job to see us grow. Welcome to my entire group of new officers and directors. We want to serve you. You can find their contact information later in this newsletter.



Immediate Past President William Harvey and Immediate Past Secretary Janet Sabatke—the first people to hold these positions in the WSPAA—Thank you.

75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WISCONSIN STATE PATROL

The Wisconsin State Patrol celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a banquet held on Friday, August 15, 2014, at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Approximately 340 current and former members of the State Patrol along with their family members and distinguished guests attended the event. Governor Scott Walker was the keynote speaker at the State Patrol's 75th Anniversary Banquet where he presented a proclamation to Superintendent Stephen Fitzgerald designating September 2014 as the "Wisconsin State Patrol 75th Anniversary Month." The Proclamation is as follows:



The program began with the presentation of the colors by the State Patrol Honor Guard and a motorcycle escort. The National Anthem was sung by Ted Meekma, Retired Administrator. Speakers during the program included: DOT Secretary Gottlieb, Supt. Fitzgerald, William Harvey (WSPAA President), Tpr. Glen Jones (WTA President) and Dan Lonsdorf (Retired Major). The program concluded with a Fallen Heroes Tribute to those who have lost their life in the line of duty. Conducted by the WSP Honor Guard with bag pipes by Kevin Lynch (Retired Sgt).

PHOTOS FROM THE 75TH BANQUET



Motorcycle Entrance



Honor Guard Presentation



Salute to flag



Gov. Proclamation to Supt



Table Display of Historical Items



Banquet Planning Team Discussion—Tpr Ryan Zukowski, Tpr. Mark Andrashko, Lt. Lori Petznik



Bill Harvey addresses crowd representing WSPAA



Tpr Glen Jones, Pres. WTA

STATE PATROL 75TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET (Continued)

HONOR GUARD SALUTE TO FALLEN HEROES



FACES IN THE CROWD



Bob Bereiter—George Eder



Terry Bengtson—Doug Van Buren



Dan Lonsdorf—Mary Albedyll



Warren Holsbo, Bill Plendl, and Ron Disher



WHERE ARE THEY NOW

By Bruce Bishop

In 1939, 75 years ago, a mixed bag of odd parts of various agencies which dealt with the regulation of motor vehicles, their licensing and operations were blended into a single organization, named the Wisconsin State Patrol. They were placed under the administration as the Enforcement Division of the Motor Vehicle Department. Forty-five men from these agencies became the first State Traffic Officers and functioned as clerks, inspectors and agents of the department than as true policemen, roving over hundreds of thousands of miles of highways covering the 72 counties that make up Wisconsin. Taking care of Department business, they were the field authorities on traffic laws and motor carrier regulations. They registered vehicles, weighed trucks, inspected school buses, licensed car dealerships, conducted driver tests, investigated accidents and issued citations for violations of all laws governing the operation of motor vehicles.

Their offices were the front seat of their cars, their homes or under their billed caps. They reported to a Captain by phone or a newly created two-way mobile communications system. They used their own cars as cruisers and were paid mileage for that use.

From 1939 to 1955 small increases in Patrol strength were made. The major gain was in 1952 when the ranks swelled to 85 which included a "Limited authority" group of 15 Traffic Control Assistants(TCA"s). TCA"s were assigned specifically to motor carrier enforcement duties and referred to as roving members of "District Weight Details."

The Patrol expanded in 1955 to a strength of 275. The "Old Patrol", then numbering about 80 included TCA"s became the nucleus of the "New Patrol". They blended in with the recruits at the newly formed State Patrol Academy. Every patrolman passed through the same curriculum and three month training program as the new hires. Following graduation, many assumed command and supervisory positions in the field and headquarters.

Only six of the 78 Officers and TCA"s hired prior to 1955 are still alive. We thought it was time to say "Thanks".

Donald Artz: Don hailed from Mattoon, WI . He joined the State Patrol in 1949 after military service. Don retired after 32 years of service. He served as the Lieutenant (Executive Officer) in Wausau when he retired.

Don and his wife, Eileen, live at 1203 Woodward Ave, Rothschild, WI. He can be reached at 715-359-4456. He is a WSPAA member.

Howard Fuhrmann: Captain Fuhrmann is 100 years old and the only surviving member of the original group of 45. He worked his way through the ranks to the rank of Captain. He retired in 1973 after 30 years of service, He did take a leave of absence to serve in the army.

Twice widowed, he recently moved to the Willow Manor Assisted Living Center in Iron River, WI. He can be reached at 715-372-5005 or by email at: willowmanor@cheqnet.net. He is a charter member of the WSPAA.

James Peterson: James was a military veteran. He served in many positions in DMV, MVD and the State Patrol. He was a counter clerk, cashier and radio operator. He joined the State Patrol in 1952 with the 3rd Recruit Class. His most gratifying job was that of Commandant for the 7th Recruit Class. Most of his 38 years of service were in the Wausau District. James and wife Rachel still live in Shawano. They can be reached at 715-324-5885 or at: wsp49@charter.net.

Lawrence Pavlinski: A native of Milwaukee, Larry was a West Point Cadet. He joined the State Patrol in 1953. After attending the Academy, he served as Director of Training, Commandant and program administrator concomitantly with the rank of Officer. He attended the NUTI long course before being assigned to HQ to develop the chemical test program. Larry left the State Patrol to work for the State Safety Council. He later moved to the Federal level working for NHTSA. Larry retired in 1983. He and his wife, Joyce, live the good life at 3521 S. Josephine St., Denver, CO. They can be reached at 303-759-3280

James Gruentzel: After serving the military as an MP in Korea, Jim returned to WI and became a TCA in 1954. Following the Patrol expansion in 1955, Jim attended the 4th Recruit Class. After attaining the rank of Sgt. and working at the Academy, he became the Director of Training. Following his attendance at the NUTI long course, he was promoted to the rank of Captain. In 1965, after 12 years with the Patrol, Jim became the Deputy Director and later Director of the WI Bureau of Civil Defense. Though retired, he still sits on the board of the WI Business Development Finance Corporation. He is a pilot and travels extensively. He and his wife, Betty have been married for 60 years and have 3 children. They live in Waunakee at 5460 Westshire Circle. They can be reached at 608-427-6661.

Bruce Bishop: At age 90, Bruce is the second oldest of this group. Bruce joined the State Patrol in 1949 after his military service. He attended the 1st Recruit Class. He is a NUTI Short Course and FBI NA graduate. As a Major he was the Patrol Field Commander. Bruce left the Patrol to work with WI Civil Defense. In 1965, he became Chief of Staff for Governor Warren Knowles. He also worked for FEMA in his career retiring in 1984. He and wife, Pat, have been married for 62 years. They live in Tomahawk in the summer and Florida in winter.

We salute these trailblazers for their leadership and in setting the pace for where we are today. If in their area, take some time to say HELLO and THANK YOU. I will bet they all have time to have a cup of coffee and a little discussion.

WSPAA OFFICERS FOR 2015



President Tim Heffernan



Vice-President Scott Lindemann



Secretary Gary Brogan



Treasurer Lyle Bliss

ALUMNI DAY 2014



Presentation of Colors by DSP Honor Guard



Supt. Fitzgerald greets the crowd



Front Row—Karen Knox, Donna McDonough, John Mundy and Bob Kowalski



Janet Sabatke, Maynard Stoehr, Jerome Klug and Fran Vickerman



Linda Woldt and Art Schrock



Left to right: Alumni Jim Gruentzel and wife Betty and Evelyn Fleming with alumni Russ Fleming

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.

2015 WSPAA OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

President: Tim Heffernan	tprtim@charter.net
Vice-President: Scott Lindemann	sgklindemann@charter.net
Secretary: Gary Brogan	Caboosedad@charter.net
Treasurer: Lyle Bliss	LRBliss57@gmail.com
Northwest (NW) Regional Reps:	Mary Sander: twocops@baldwin-telecom.net Keith Young: keithyoung@centurytel.net
Northcentral (NC) Regional Rep:	Bruce Bishop: blpabish@yahoo.com William Harvey: LOIS3545@aol.com
Northeast (NE) Regional Reps:	Jim Cmeyla: sistersnide@netzero.net David Catalano: wsp305@aol.com
Southwest (SW) Regional Reps:	Phillip Wenzel: wenzel@dwave.net Mike Jennings: mikeandjudy@mhtc.net Mike manages the WSPAA online store
Southeast (SE) Regional Rep:	Jerold Witte: jlwitte@charter.net John Mundy: 489@wi.rr.com
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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