

WSPAA 2025 Spring Newsletter

President's Sanders' Thoughts



Your WSPAA Board members have traveled to a variety of States across the Country; many of those States have signs honoring police officers that have died in the line of duty. I have often wondered why Wisconsin didn't have any. The Board has discussed this in the past, but when we did the research, it seemed that it was an impossible task. Two tragic events happened in northwest Wisconsin, on April 8th, 2023, a Chetek police officer and a Cameron officer were killed during a traffic stop on CTH SS in Barron County. A portion of CTH SS has been renamed Officer Emily Breidenbach and Officer Hunter Scheel Memorial Highway. On May 6th, 2023, a St. Croix County deputy was killed on STH 128 in St. Croix County during a traffic stop. A portion of STH 128 has been renamed Deputy Kaitie Leising Memorial Highway.

We formed a committee in 2023 to revisit trying to get memorial signs for WSP Troopers Don Pederson, Gary Powless, Deb McMenamin, Willy Schoenberger, Jorge Dimas, Trevor Casper, Anthony Borostowski, and Daniel Stainbrook. The committee members are David Collins, Ron John Wolfe, Ruth Tiry, Paul Matl, Anne Maxson and

me. In February 2025 each committee member reached out to Senators and Representatives from their area to seek support on drafting a bill. Senator Rob Stafsholt, who was instrumental in getting the memorial sign for Kaitie, agreed to take the lead.

We have had tremendous support from DOT Secretary Boardman, WSP Superintendent Carnahan and Colonel Fish. The WSP has started to notify the eight families of our fallen Troopers. The families will have the choice as to where the signs will be erected; this will give them the option of where the incident happened, a highway near their hometown, or place of burial. Many of Wisconsin's highways are already designated as memorials to groups, we aren't looking to rename them, but the plan is to have two signs approximately one mile apart in both directions to dedicate to our fallen officers.

Our next step is to get the Bill passed in both houses by the end of 2025 and we hope to stagger the installation of the signs throughout 2026.

Keep your fingers crossed that we can get this done now, as it should have been done long ago.

Mary

4-15-25 WSPAA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Mary, Phil, Linda Kim, Dave C., Dave H., Anne Maxson, Keith Young, Ruth Tiry, Ron John Wolfe & Jean Bengston. Keith is stepping back due to personal reasons and Jean Bengston will step in in Keith's place. Keith is still a member of the board.

Motion to accept agenda by Kim, second by Keith, motion passes.

Secretary's Report – Our snail mail list is dwindling. Kim continues to mail our snail mail members some of the weekly memos and reviews. Weekly memos from Hill farms have been slow in coming lately.

Scholarship Report – The committee has come up with a tiebreaker should we have another tie in the scores. Packets are due to Kim by May 16th.

Motion to accept the secretary & scholarship reports made by Ruth, second by Dave H., motion passes.

Treasure's Report – We no longer have CD's. Scholarship account is currently at \$5,010.33 and the general checking account is at \$12,417.13. Last year retiree day meals cost just under \$1,000.

Motion to accept treasures report by Ron John, second by Phil, motion passes.

Merchandise Report – Ruth stated sales have been very slow lately. We have not heard anything from Queensboro lately. Started a conversation on what we will need to order for retiree day. Kim will add the merchandise sales form in upcoming emails to the membership.

Motion to accept merchandise report by Dave H., second by Linda, motion passes.

History Committee – Our liaison at the Academy Sgt. Platt has been moved onto other duties at the Academy. Sgt. Jason Dingle is our new liaison at the Academy. Supt. Carnahan gave a box of badges that were at Hill farms to Dave C. Dave asked Pete Hill to think of display tags we could use in the museum to identify people or objects.

Motion to accept history report by Kim, second by Dave. H, motion passes.

Membership Report – We are down to 7 individuals that did not renew their membership for 2025. Mary has had problems with her new computer program in making the membership cards. Discussion on keeping the cards, or removing the expiration date, or stop laminating them or don't send cards every year. Keith made a motion to exclude the expiration date on the membership cards and use our laminator until it no longer works. Second on the motion by Anne, motion passes.

Presidents Report – This year we will not be ordering wreaths for Police week due to budget issues.

Keith revamped a letter that originated from Lucy Harvey on monetary donations upon death. Linda made a few suggestions on what should be added. Motion to accept the changes by Keith, second by Linda, motion passes.

Linda does not have an external hard drive to store WSPAA material on at this point. Motion made to get Linda an external hard drive made by Dave C, second by Ron John, motion passes. Ron John offered to get the drive and come down to Linda's house and help her get things set up.

By-laws – Mary had asked Anne to review the association's by-laws and make suggestions on changes. Anne made some spelling & punctuation changes. The main change was in section 4-qualification. The by-laws committee was Anne, Wendy Younglove, and Michel Martino. Anne will make the changes to the draft that will be presented to the membership at retiree day. Motion to accept by-laws report by Mary, second by Ruth, motion passes.

Regional Reports:

SWR – Dave mentioned the statewide wreath laying ceremonies for our fallen Troopers.

SER – Things going good in Racine & Kenosha

NER – lunch at Galvins in Appleton once a month, Ron John will set up a return to Aurora health for a coffee gathering.

NCR – No report

NWR – brunch in Menomonie on the 9th. Spooner shoot is June 17th.

Round Table – Nothing by everyone except Linda. She used to organize a bowling against Cancer event. She has pictures and wondered if the history committee was interested in those. History committee will take the pictures.

Due to Keith stepping back for a bit we will need a new photographer.

Motion to adjourn made at 1:53 pm by Keith, second by Linda, motion passes.

Next WSPAA board meeting at Wausau Post on 6-10-25 at 10 AM.



I am sure many of you remember the old station attendants.

4-22-25 History Committee Meeting at the Academy

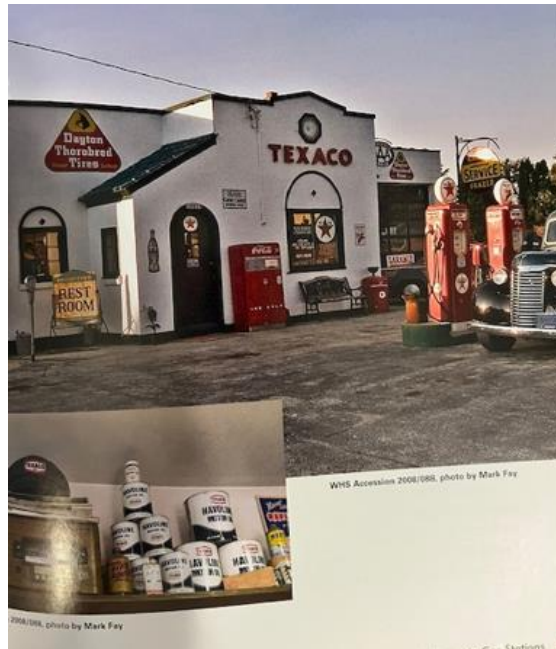
Present Kim Hurley, Dave Collins, Mary Sander, Anne Maxson and Pete Hill

Dave got a box of old badges from Supt. Carnahan. Pete reworked the badge display in the museum. Anne & Kim reworked the Inspector case in the museum. Dave worked on Academy-foot locker pictures. Pete did a trade with a gentleman in California to obtain one of our oldest license plates. He also got the old Bus driver style hat that was worn by Troopers in the early years. Thank you to Pete for making this trade happen.

We talked a bit about what we want to do for retiree day and how we want to move forward.

******* *Please remember that your history committee is accepting donations for our museum. If you would like to do so please contact Kim at kimwspaa@gmail.com. Thank you. ****

Our next meeting is 5-14-25 at the Academy.



5-14-25 History Committee Meeting Notes

Those in attendance were Mary Sander, Anne Maxson, Kim Hurley, Pete Hill & Dave Collins.

One task for the day was to pull together all the uniform items we have and put them in the wardrobe closet. The main task was to assist Anne in getting everything in the wardrobe closet and the museum built into a database that Anne developed. This database will help us keep track of what we have, who donated the items and whether they are donated or on loan to us.

At our next meeting we will work on what we want displayed for retiree day.

2025 Deaths

1. Tom Green died on 1-24-25 at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife Marlene, Sister Shirley and children: Melissa & Kevin. Tom worked in stores at Truax.

2. Terry Bengston died on 2-14-25 at the age of 81. Terry was a member of the 15th recruit class, badge # 2065. Terry is survived by his wife Pat, daughters Jean & Jackie and son Bill.
3. Ron Laretzen died on
4. Sterling Standiford, age 86, died on 2-11-25. Sterling was a member of the 11th recruit class, badge #376. He is survived by his children; Jon, Robin & Daniel.
5. Harry Blair, age 92, died on 2-23-25. Harry was a member of the 13th recruit class, badge #417. He is survived by his children Audrey & Howard, 8 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren

“Paying it Forward” By Keith young

In 2024 the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association (WSPAA) board received a draft proposal from Lucy Harvey for “paying it forward”. Lucy indicated that her spouse, William Harvey, was very proud of his years of service in the Wisconsin State Patrol, and that after his passing the family received monetary donations that they decided to send to the WSPAA Scholarship Fund. The Board reviewed and revised Lucy’s draft, the “paying it forward” letter that you see included with this article was adopted by the WSPAA board.

The choice that the Harvey Family made allows the WSPAA to do more to promote a career in law enforcement. In addition we are better able to memorialize and document the past efforts of members of our agency that got us to where we are today. As we are all aware these have been difficult times to recruit law enforcement officers across the Country, and this is just one way that we can do our part by “paying it forward”, while remembering the past.

“PAY IT FORWARD”

Dear Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association Members,

When planning your estate please consider a donation to the Alumni Association. The Association uses it's funds in various ways including but not limited to: -***The Scholarship Fund*** that helps the relatives of our law enforcement family pay for their education in a law enforcement related field. -***History Displays*** at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy -***Funeral Memorials*** for members who pass away. -***Wreath displays*** for our fallen State Patrol personnel at the annual National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC. -***Operational needs*** of the Alumni Association.

Another option is to include a simple line in your obituary to say: ***“In Lieu of flowers, Donations can be made to the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association.”*** Memorial Funds should be made payable to: WSPAA and forwarded to: Linda Woldt, Treasurer 3120 Breeze Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

If you need further information, contact Linda at 608-279-0661.

Please consider **“Paying it forward!”**