Wisconsin Statr Patrol Alumni Assocation Newsletter

January 2026

President's Message

New Year, New Expectations, Old Plea,

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association. Our organization represents a proud tradition of service, professionalism, and dedication to public safety that continues long after our official careers have ended.

As alumni, we share a unique bond forged through years of commitment to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Wisconsin. Whether you served on the road, in communications, inspection, training, or administration, each of you contributed to a legacy of excellence that remains the standard for those who serve today.

Our goal as an association is to keep that legacy alive—by supporting one another, preserving our history, and maintaining strong connections with the active members of the Wisconsin State Patrol. Through continued engagement, events, and communications, we celebrate our shared experiences and ensure the blue spirit endures.

I encourage all members to stay involved—whether by attending gatherings, volunteering, or simply reaching out to reconnect with a former colleague. Together, we can strengthen the bonds that unite us and honor the proud tradition we helped build.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and continued support of the Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association. It's your participation that keeps our organization strong and thriving.

Stay safe and stay connected.
Mary

Newest members of the Wisconsin State Patrol

The 71st and 72nd recruit classes graduated on November 21, 2025 at the Ho-chunk Gaming convention Center. The 72nd class was composed of lateral transfers from other agencies across Wisconsin and elsewhere. The 71st calss was a traditional class. The ceremony was very well done starting with the two classes marching in together. Keynote speaker was Governor Evers, followed by Superintendent Carnahan for the commissioning, Chief Justice Jill Karofsky did the oath of office and then Attorney General Josh Kaul had a message for the new officers. Both class Presidents had an opportunity to address those in attendance. Family members pinned the badge on the new Officers.

WISCONSIN STATE PATROL

71st RECRUIT CLASS

GRADUATE	HOMETOWN	ASSIGNMENT
Rebecca Cherek	Sun Prairie, WI	Juneau Co.
Abdul Cole	Freetown, Sierra Leone	Juneau Co.
Adam Hayes	Neillsville, WI	Dunn Co.
Rylan Hill	Appleton, WI	Fond du Lac Co.
Kai Krogmann	Somerset, WI	St. Croix Co.
Jordan Lindner	Loyal, WI	Dunn Co.
Robert Scott	Almond, WI	Fond du Lac Co.
Zachary Udermann	Onalaska, WI	Monroe Co.
Carel Van Der Merwe	Southerland, South Africa	Monroe Co.
Troy Veigut Jr.	Waukesha, WI	Waukesha Co.
Erick Vigil	Richland Center, WI	Racine Co.
Ludmila Watare	Curitiba, Brazil	Kenosha Co.

WISCONSIN STATE PATROL

72ND RECRUIT CLASS

GRADUATE	HOMETOWN	ASSIGNMENT
Aemus Balsis	Kennan, WI	Eau Claire Co.
John Bertholomey	Elk Grove Village, IL	Rock Co.
Joseph Braun	Sussex, WI	Waukesha Co.
Ryan Cole	Fond du Lac, WI	St Croix Co.
Jack Fendt	Black River Falls, WI.	Jackson Co.
Dylan Helmrick	Sussex, WI	Racine Co.
Jeremiah Johnson	Weyauwega, WI	Ashland Co.
Logan Lange	Merrill, WI	Portage Co.
David Magnuson	Crystal Falls, MI	Jackson Co.
Robb Pfaff	Mauston, WI	Juneau Co.
Cory Schalinske	Fall Creek, WI.	Taylor Co.
Dale Soltow	Spencer, WI	Vilas Co.
Ryan Wilson	Argonne, WI	Forest/Florence Co.
Darin Wittnebel	Oconomowoc, WI	Waukesha Co.
Christopher Woods	Greenville, WI	Winnebago Co.

71st Recruit Class Graduates

72nd Recruit Class Graduates

71st & 72nd marching in

Honor Guard

New badges

Gov. Evers speaks to crowd

71st & 72nd taking Oath of office from Chief Justice Karofsky

New Trooper receiving his badge from family

Supt. Carnahan speaks

History Time

TIME CAPSULE

1956 —Uniforms are issued. New patrol cars are gray with a black roof and trunk. Ten percent of the cars are unmarked. Patrol adds Harley-Davidson motorcycles to their fleet. Breathalyzers are used for the first time.

1957 —Two-year contract with the Traffic Institute expires. The training program is continued by specially trained employees of the patrol. Wisconsin Law Enforcement Teletype System connects Milwaukee with the communications center in Madison. Legislature authorizes an additional group of 70 motor carrier inspectors.

Lieutenant John Sterba and Cadet Howard Kilday during the seventh recruit class in 1958

1961 —The Legislature gives State Patrol officers authority to handle non-traffic crimes committed in their presence on the highways. Patrol initiates aerial enforcement with Officers William Plendl and William Walker as pilots.

1962 —Automobiles are required to be equipped with seat belts. Patrol begins offering extension courses for small law enforcement agencies. First minorities join the patrol.

In 1962, the patrol made a promotional movie about the academy called "Guardians of the Road." Here, Trooper Jerry Voss is interviewed by patrol supervisors as the camera rolls in the background.

Remember that the 2026 scholarships are now open for applicants.

Please help us spread the word about these scholarships.

Information at http://wspalumni.org/scholarship.htm

More History

Oh the good 'ol days of carrying the radioactive detection devices.

What years were these used by the WSP?

Send your answer to wspaahistory@gmail.com

Name the year and the District in this photo.

Send your answer to wspaahistory@gmail.com

Here is another photo we need your help with. When was this uniform worn? What was the color of the pockets and epaulets?

Respond to wspaahistory@gmail.com

Now Hiring—73rd Recruit Class

Applications are now being accepted for the 73rd Recruit Class!
Class begins July 12, 2026, with graduation December 18, 2026.
- Salary: $71,448–$98,800 annually, based on years of certified law enforcement experience at hire.
- Training: 22 weeks at the Academy (room and board provided) plus 12 weeks of field training.
- Benefits: generous leave, affordable health/vision/dental plans, strong pension with employer match, wellness programs, paid uniforms/equipment, and a take-home cruiser upon graduation.

Candidates must meet Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) minimum requirements and have an associate degree or 60 college credits prior to the Academy start date (waivers may apply for approved military training). Applicants must pass background checks, physical readiness testing, medical and psychological exams, and meet vision and hearing standards.

How to apply:

1. Apply at Wisc.Jobs — click Apply for Job and sign in or create an account: https://wisc.jobs/Pages/SearchResults.aspx?keywords=18797
2. Upload current resume and official or unofficial transcripts under Supporting Documentation (include JST + DJ-LE-331 if requesting credit waivers).

For application help, contact Marley.Hellenbrand@dot.wi.gov.

Please have your old co-workers come join the alumni association.
Don't forget the regional breakfasts/gatherings

Next board meeting March 24th 10 am, Wausau Post.

Be well and we'll chat more soon.