Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association 2nd 2026 Newsletter

Presidents Message

Reflecting on Law Enforcement Sacrifice

Each year, we take time to remember and honor law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) will once again hold wreath laying ceremonies to pay tribute to our eight fallen troopers. This year, Dimas, Schoenberger, McMenamin, and Stainbrook will be honored on Wednesday, May 20th, 2026. Powless, Borostowski, Casper, and Pederson will be remembered on Thursday, May 21st, 2026. The Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association (WSPAA) will sponsor eight wreaths to be displayed in Washington D.C. during police week, ensuring their sacrifice is recognized on a national stage.

National Police Week and Historical Perspective

National Police Week is observed from May 10th through May 16th, 2026. This important week traces its origins to President John F. Kennedy's designation of May 15th, 1962, as a day to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, Wisconsin has suffered 312 line of duty deaths. The first recorded incident involved Sheriff Robert D. Lester from the Crawford County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Lester was ambushed, shot, and killed while paddling down a river in a canoe. The suspect in the case was later found dead, his throat cut from ear to ear, after charges were dismissed when the only witness failed to appear at trial.

Memorial Highway Designation Efforts

Progress continues on the designating and marking memorial highways for our eight fallen Troopers. Senate bill 1006 was introduced and sent to the committee on transportation and local government. A hearing took place on February 19, 2026, with State Representative Nancy VanderMeer, Colonel David

Fish, David Collins providing testimony, and my own attendance. The bill passed unanimously through the committee but did not advance to the Senate for a vote as the session adjourned for the year. The House also adjourned without holding a hearing. We have been informed that a special session in 2026 is highly unlikely. Our efforts will resume next year, with hopes of successfully completing the process in 2027.

Stay happy and healthy,

Mary

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is centered in the 400 block of E Street, NW, Washington, DC and is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, tribal, state, and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

The Memorial features two curving, 304-foot-long blue-gray limestone walls. Carved on these walls are the names of more than 24,000 officers who died in the line of duty throughout U.S.

history, dating back to the first known death in 1786. Unlike many other memorials in Washington, DC, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is ever-changing: new names of fallen officers are added to it each spring, in conjunction with National Police Week. This year 363 names will be added to the memorial wall.

Designed by architect Davis Buckley, the Memorial sits on three acres of federal park land in an area of Washington, DC called Judiciary Square, the historic seat of our nation's judicial branch of government. The Memorial grounds boast plush carpets of grass, nearly 60,000 plants and 128 trees. Each April, more than 10,000 daffodils bloom at the site, providing a burst of color for visitors. The Memorial's central plaza features an intricate paving pattern and a bronze medallion with the Memorial Fund logo: a blue shield with a red rose draped across it.

Bordering the Memorial's beautifully landscaped park are the two tree-lined "pathways of remembrance" where the names of the fallen officers are engraved. Each of the pathway entrances is adorned with a powerful statuary grouping of an adult lion protecting its cubs. Sculpted by Raymond Kaskey, the bronze statues symbolize the protective role of law enforcement officers and convey the strength, courage and valor that are hallmarks of those who serve and protect.

A number of commemorative ceremonies are held at the Memorial each year, and the site is visited by nearly a quarter million people annually. The Memorial's beauty and tranquility make it a special place for reflection, contemplation or just a quiet moment away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Alumni association wreaths purchased for the LE Memorial in Washington DC

Your WSPAA board voted to purchase eight wreaths for our eight fallen Troopers. These wreaths are being displayed at the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC for the duration of Police week in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The two above are for Gary Powless and William Schoenberger.

3-24-26 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Mary Sander, Phil Wenzel, Kim Hurley, Linda Woldt, Ruth Tiry Dave Hanson, Anne Maxson, Dave Collins, Jean Bengston, and Mike Jankowski.

Called to order: 10:01 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to accept agenda made by Kim, 2nd by Anne, motion passed.

President & Membership Coordinator Reports: Mary passed out some current membership lists and the list of non-renewals for this year.

Mary asked Kim the outcome of the voting last fall to amend the by-laws. Kim reported it passed with a majority approval from the membership.

Need new retirees to be notified somehow about the alumni association.

Motion to accept President & membership coordinator reports made by Phil, 2nd by Dave H., motion passes.

Secretary Report: Kim proposed a new feature in future newsletters called "Spotlight on…" where a former State Patrol employee will be interviewed and highlighted. Board discussion liked the idea.

Scholarship Report: Deadline for applicants is still a couple months out. Kim asked Dave Harvey if a link to the alumni scholarships be placed on the State Patrol website. He will look into it for us. Kim suggested that after this year the scholarship committee re-consider the requirements for applicants.

Motion to accept the secretary & scholarship reports made by Phil, 2nd by Linda, motion passes.

Treasurers Report: Savings account (scholarship fund) $6.856.28. Checking account balance is $16,702.65. A generous individual sent in a $1,000 donation. Mary advised that we are going back to reimbursing board members for travel to board meetings.

Per Mary, Kim will order wreaths at the National Memorial in Washington DC for our 8 fallen Officers to be displayed during Police week.

Merchandise Report: Ruth reports that sales are slow at this time. We have good inventory of most items. At the next meeting we will discuss ordering more shirts for alumni day. Motion to accept merchandise report made by Dave H., 2nd by Phil, motion passes.

History Committee Report: Dave C. threw out a couple dates to the committee members for our next meeting at the Academy. History committee will next meet on May 12th. Anne said we may get an office temporarily at the Academy to store our stuff in. If so, we will move our items out of the cubicle we currently have items in and into the office. (After meeting note: Kim & Anne went up to the Academy and moved everything into the office.) Anne also spoke of her continued work on the data base of all the items we have. Ideally the database will show where the items are being stored.

We are also looking at asking the WI Trooper's benevolent association for some more display cases to place in the museum.

Memorial Highway Signs Report: Dave C. said the bill for the 8 signs never got on the agenda before the recess for the year. Around January 3, 2027 is when the next session begins. Our bill will then be renumbered and we should start our actions right away to get it passed this time. Motion to accept History Committee and Highway Memorial signs report, made by Kim, 2nd by Linda, motion passes.

Regional Reports:

SWR – No report

SER – hope to start breakfasts next month, July 14th is CCW shoot.

NER –no report

NCR –planning to start breakfast on April 1st in Rothschild. CCW in Merrill on April 21st.

NWR – no report

Round Table: Only comment was about the new Wrightstown scale opening this year.

Next meeting is June 18th 10 A.M. at Wausau Post.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Linda, 2nd by Mike motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 1:44 P.M.

History Committee Notes

The history committee would like to thank some of our item donors;

Mel Yasick
Michele Martino
Robert Gohre
Gary Bauer
Paul Schulz
Frieda Haesler
Janet Sabatke
Gwen Schneider
Anne Maxson
Kim Hurley
Mary Ebben
Neal Sieglaff
Robert Kowalski
Jan Steinberg

Thank you very much for your donations to our museum!!

Keep them coming in.

The history committee met at the academy on 2-24-26. We continued to work on the displays and going through our inventory. We have found that our photos are not sticking to the poster board very well. We'll have to come up with a new game plan. At our next meeting we will discuss what to change the mannequins to for this year's retiree day. We will also discuss what display cases to change out to something new for retiree day.

The history committee is looking for one of these uniform shirts shown in the picture below;

PERSONNEL NEWS

HATS OFF!

State and district headquarters regularly receive many commendatory letters from members of the public who have been favorably impressed in their contacts with the State Patrol.

Although in most instances the officer was performing what he believed to be a normal and routine task, he created a pleasant and lasting impression. Space restrictions prohibit the printing of complete details, but the following officers and inspectors were specifically mentioned in commendatory letters since the last issue of the BADGE-R.

Capt. E.O. Wolff
Capt. C.W. Litkey
Capt. L.V. Veranik (2)
Capt. R.G. Cromey
Lt. John Schoenick
Lt. Howard Fuhrmann (2)
Sgt. Harry Worso
Sgt. Lester Walsingham (3)
Sgt. Jack Jorgenson
Sgt. Harvey Rauk (2)
Sgt. C.F. Holmquist (2)
Sgt. Ivan Anders
Sgt. Richard Miller
Sgt. James Waydick
Insp. Leon Luick
Insp. Harold Lyon
Off. Howard Goetsch
Off. Eugene Katzer (2)
Off. Edward Kolar
Off. Duane Zabel
Off. James Smetana
Off. Neil McCallum
Off. Merlin Ross
Off. Charles Foley
Off. Cyril Lepak
Off. Dale Perry
Off. R. C. Young
Off. William Berg
Insp. Howard Roberts
Insp. Richard Chandler
Off. Orville Froh
Off. William Edwards (2)
Off. LaVerne Malcom
Off. Philip Anderson (2)
Off. Roy Jarzynski
Off. Donald Ayers
Off. Jerome Koenig (2)
Off. Stanley Gatz
Off. Fred Frater
Off. Thomas Harris (2)
Off. Conway Fisher
Off. Anthony Testolin (2)
Off. Raymond King
Off. Kenneth Geuze
Off. Carroll Spencer
Off. Thomas Geske
Insp. Ronald Prissel
Off. Ellsworth Brooks
Off. Richard Mauel
Off. Erwin Bullette
Off. John Reissner
Off. Keith Wilder
Off. Arthur Schrock
Off. Lee Doberstein
Off. George Eder
Off. Garland Spaatz

SAFE DRIVER AWARDS

December

4 year awards

Jerome Lacke
Garland Spratz

3 year awards

L. E. Lutz
Arthur Schrock
L. W. Walsingham

January

6 year awards

R. Barbera
D. T. Bohlman
G. F. Burr
John Donley
L. W. Doge
D. G. Fisher
R. S. Gilbertson
Jack Jorgenson
J. D. Klug
C. D. Layman
W. R. Monibey
J. W. Moore
P. R. Reindl
J. E. Schoenick
W. O. Thomas
A. E. Weiland
K. L. Wilder
R. A. Worrich

5 year awards

M. O. Hughes
C. G. Johnson
J. S Loby
H. P. Morse

3 year awards

W. A. Edwards
Earl D. Scott

1 year award

Harold Carrier

February

5 year award

C. E. Gundlad

3 year awards

R. W. Gallagher
Robert Scheller
Arthur School

March

5 year awards

Paul L. Baxter
W. K. Berg
E. Brooks
W. Caramanolis
W. A. Harvey
W. J. Knutson
E. L. Kolar
D. W. Prisley
R. D. Roth
R. L. Snider
C. R. Yaeger
E. A. Zangl

4 year award

H. W. Rattanen

3 year awards

James Flanigan
R. C. King

2 year award

Michael Lach

1 year awards

Lawrence McKevitt
Carroll Spencer

Spotlight on_____(subjects name)

In coming newsletters will be a new feature called "Spotlight on". This will be from an interview of one of our fellow retirees that we hope you find interesting and hopefully it will share some history of the Patrol.

The Pledge of allegiance and what it means/ History of the Pledge.

The pledge says you are promising to be true to the United States of America. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart, fingers together and horizontal with the arm as near to a right angle as possible. After the words "justice to all", the arm should drop to the side.

As first published, the Pledge contained the words "my flag" and did not contain "the Flag of the United States." In June of 1923 the latter words were added on the ground that some foreign born adults & children when giving the Pledge might have their home country flag in mind.

"I pledge allegiance"

…I promise to be true

"to the flag"

…to the symbol of our country

"of the United States of America"

…each state that has joined to make our country

"and to the Republic"

…a republic is a country where people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people

"for which it stands"

The flag means the country

"one Nation"

…a single country

"under God"

…the people believe in a supreme being

"indivisible"

…the country cannot be split into parts

"with liberty and justice"

…with freedom and fairness

"for all"

… for each person in the country…you and me!!

****retiree day 9-25-26****

Send in your reservation now please.