



The Bulletin

Summer 2006



of the New Hampshire Retired State Troopers Association

NEWS UPDATES

Even though it is summer, your association has been busy. What follows is a chronological review of a few of the activities we have been involved in. This is your association.

June 21, 2006

Several members of the NHRSTA met with Bob Leggitt, the Executive Director of the NH Retirement System (NHRS). We asked for the meeting to discuss rumors being circulated about the system and specifically the Special Accounts. The NHRSTA members at the meeting included Roland Lamy, Dick Campbell and Paul O'Leary. Paul O'Leary prepared the following summary of that meeting:

We were impressed with the Director's gracious candor describing plans for the future. He made a point of emphasizing something we already knew, - - - the Retirement System does not provide Health Care, per se - - - it provides only a subsidy towards the payment of Health Care offered by the Department to retirees. Our Health Care comes as retired state employees, and the state gets the benefit of the subsidy. The current concern of teachers regarding their funding drying up in 2008 does not affect us directly. As has been stated from time to time, our concern is that we maintain the Health Care Benefits we already have as retired state employees, something we must rely on the legislature to provide. No solutions for some of

cont'd inside

THE REBIRTH OF THE BULLETIN

When the State Police was established in 1937, communications were essentially limited to telephone, mail, and a spotty one-way radio system that relied on the Massachusetts State Police to broadcast one-way messages to Cruisers in the southern areas of the state. Each week, usually on Mondays, the crew in the "Radio Room" at State Police Headquarters compiled information consisting of several mimeographed pages of events from the previous week, including stolen vehicles, wanted persons, and stolen property. The sheets also listed persons whose license and/or registrations had been suspended or revoked during the past week by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Other pertinent information on criminal activity or events of interest for Troopers was also included. A lot of the information was outdated by the time the Bulletin was printed and mailed. The sheets also served an additional purpose as a handy source for impromptu note taking on the reverse side of the pages. It was not unusual to find several past bulletins with notes scrawled on the back in the rear seat of cruisers. As time went on and technology improved, the "Bulletin" was abandoned in favor of the new technologies, two-way radios, e-mail communications, cell phones, etc.

In order to keep Retirees informed about activities of those with whom they served, it was

suggested several years ago that *The Bulletin* be resurrected to become the voice of our Association. We were able to acquire many of the badges, patches, and door decals used throughout the history of the State Police. The original white door decal of the then State Police Department has not yet been located. If someone has one or a good photo of one, we would appreciate your contacting us so we can take a photo of it so that our historical layout for the rebirth of *The Bulletin* can be complete. This is our first attempt. There will be many changes based on responses from the membership on form and content. A good deal of time and effort is required to put this together, so *if you question it's value and relevance, please let us know*. We want *The Bulletin* to be informative for our members, where they are, what they are doing, and maybe a story about something they have done or are doing now. Our intention will be to print *The Bulletin* twice a year in advance of our regular meetings. □

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 RETIRED STATE
 TROOPERS
 ASSOCIATION
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the current problems with funding certain benefits were identified in our discussion. That is not a responsibility of the Retirement System.

Director Leggitt outlined his plans to convene a conference of employers and employees and others involved with the Retirement System on July 10th. We were provided an outline and data of the details and an explanation of what will be presented at the conference.

Our meeting was very informative and certainly worthwhile and the Director extended an “open door” to us for any future meetings we wish.

June 28, 2006

NHRSTA Executive Board held a meeting at the Red Blazer in Concord. At that meeting we learned that price we have been charging for our meeting, including the meal, has not covered the actual costs. We have been charging \$18 per person but the actual cost to us has been just under \$23 per person. With Roland’s assistance we were able to negotiate a new price of \$20 per person for future functions there.

The Board also voted to waive dues next year for those members currently in good standing who have reached the age of 75. That had been reserved for members at the age of 80 years of age.

The Board voted to start a newsletter to be published and mailed 2 times per year. We have contracted with a small communication company in Concord to assist us with this. It will be 4 to 8 pages in length and will cost us about \$250 per issue to print and mail. The vision is to include current news, stories from the past, a few photos past and present, happenings involving NHSP, and whatever else we can find. We will need articles from our members. So,

if you are so inclined and would like to be involved in this...sharpen your pencils and find those old photos. Please let Prudy know if you want to participate.

Other committees such as Membership, By Laws, and Legislative are open to volunteers. So don’t be shy...let someone know if you would like to serve on a committee...

July 6, 2006

On July 6th a joint meeting was held with President Lou Copponi, and Vice President Bill Graham of the NH Troopers Association and members of the NHRSTA Executive Board. The meeting was great. It was informative for both groups and more importantly opened a dialogue. We agreed to meet more regularly and work on common goals. They offered their assistance in a number of areas. For instance, they offered their commercial vendors if we would like to get going on some NHRSTA memorabilia. We offered our assistance to them in setting up a Retirement Planning Seminar for those active members who are close to or contemplating retirement.

July 10, 2006

Retirement Coalition meeting was held at the NH Retirement System (NHRS). The meeting really highlighted the divide even among retirees over the matter of health care. The teachers in Group I will run out of money to pay their health care subsidy in 2008. Unless funding is found soon, they (the retirees) will have to come up with it on their own. The subsidy for 2007 will be \$695 for the two-person plan, \$347 for the one-person plan. For Medicare recipients, the cost will be \$438 for the two-person plan and \$219 for the one-person plan. Police Group II won’t face this crisis until 2019.

Some factions in the Retirement Coalition want to use the Federal Mediation Service to help resolve this crisis. Other factions feel that it is premature to do that. No matter what decision is finally made, these next few years could be very difficult for public employees who are retired.

Following the Retirement Coalition Meeting, the NHRS held an informational meeting similar to the one we attended back on June 21, 2006. The meeting was attended by retiree groups, active groups, employers at the local and state level as well as political figures such as the Senate President and the Speaker of the House. Issues with retiree benefits are on the front burner!

July 11, 2006

We met with Colonel Booth to discuss the status of the Federal law entitled Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. This bill authorizes retired police officers to carry firearms under certain circumstances. The new law takes effect on 8/6/2006, and it authorizes Police Standards & Training to certify firearms qualifications for retired police officers.

We contacted PS& T Director Keith Lohmann. He told us that PS&T is in the planning stages of managing this. They have to write rules to accommodate this before anyone gets certified. There will be a fee associated with this, and it will encompass both classroom time and time on the range. Keith anticipates that this program will be up and running by Spring 2007.

July 18, 2006

The Law Enforcement segment of Group II met as a coalition at the Department of Safety. Representatives of the NH Chief’s Association, NH Sheriff’s Association,

NH Police Association, NH Troopers Association, NH Retired Law Enforcement Officers Association as well as the NHRSTA took part. The meeting was a first step towards getting law enforcement to move in the same direction on retirement issues. The group wants to have Major Dave Kelley and Chief Crombie of Somersworth, the law enforcement representatives on the NH Retirement Board of Trustees, meet with us and provide factual information on the state of the system and the special accounts. That meeting will take place in early August.

That is it from here. Hope everyone is having a great summer with plenty of family time, recreation, and good health! Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 13th! More information will be out shortly. ☐

ILLNESS

Lt. (Ret) David Lennon has been diagnosed with Cancer of the upper stomach and esophagus. He started Chemo Therapy and radiation this past Monday which will last six weeks. All the surgery/treatment in the early stages will be conducted at a facility within four miles of his home in North Carolina. Any significant surgery will be performed at Winston-Salem which is a world-renowned facility. Dave's spirits are high, and he has not experienced any negative reaction so far. He thanks all for their concern and well wishes, and says that he "hasn't had a good battle in a while, and is looking forward to this one"!

You may reach him at trekker7@charter.net ☐

PROMOTIONS 2006 ACTIVE STATE POLICE

MAJOR

David W. Kelley – March 3, 2006 –
Commander – Investigative Services
Bureau

CAPTAIN

Russell S. Conte – March 31, 2006 –
Assistant Bureau Commander –
Investigative Services Bureau

LIEUTENANT

David L. Cargill, Jr. – February 17,
2006 – Terrorism Intelligence Unit

Mark E. Mudgett – May 12, 2006 –
Major Crime Unit

SERGEANT

Gregory N. Ferry – February 17,
2006 – Troop B – Patrol Supervisor

Jayson S. Almstrom – March 31,
2006 – Troop C – Patrol Supervisor

Scott M. Champagne – March 31,
2006 – Troop F – Detective

Todd A. Cohen – March 31, 2006 –
Troop D – Patrol Supervisor

James J. Geraghty – May 12, 2006 –
Troop B – Patrol Supervisor

TROOPER II

Scott K. Gilbert – March 10, 2006 –
Major Crime Unit

Peter D. Todd – April 14, 2006 –
Troop F

Maureen E. Steer – June 9, 2006 –
Troop A

TROOPER I

Francesco Campo – April 1, 2006 –
Troop B

Stacey F. Edmunds – April 1, 2006 –
Troop E

Christopher S. Storm – April 1, 2006 –
Troop A

William M. Bright – June 24, 2006 –
Troop B

Christopher J. Cummings – June 24,
2006 – Troop B

Nicholas P. Cyr – June 24, 2006 –
Troop A

Bryan R. Plamondon – June 24, 2006 –
Troop B

Brian V. Viglione – June 24, 2006 –
Troop B

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CIVILIAN

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DETAIL DESK

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

Elizabeth K. Westgate
February 10, 2006

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

Sarah L. Prevost
March 3, 2006

DATA CONTROL CLERK II

CRIMINAL RECORDS UNIT

Patricia Skourtis
April 14, 2006

COMMUNICATIONS

SUPERVISOR HEADQUARTERS

COMMUNICATIONS

Dorothy Carter
April 14, 2006

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DETAIL DESK

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

Anne M. Abbott
April 28, 2006

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N.H.R.S.T.A. MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 ● SOCIAL: 5:30 PM – DINNER: 6:30 PM

THE RED BLAZER • 72 MANCHESTER STREET • CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

GUEST SPEAKER: SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

A speaker from the SSA will provide updated information on legislative changes and their impact and Questions & Answer session.

DINNER SELECTIONS

_____ PASTRY STUFFED CHICKEN

_____ BAKED STUFFED HADDOCK

_____ PRIME RIB

Please make your reservation by mailing a check of \$20.00 (per dinner) payable to NHRSTA for the cost of each meal(s), no later than September 6, 2006 to NHRSTA PO Box 848, Concord, NH 03302-0848. If calling or using email to reserve a dinner, please remember that if you do not show and a dinner has been reserved for you, you will receive a bill for the dinner. Email address: Secretary@NHSTA.org

Anyone who needs a ride, please contact us and we will try and coordinate with others in your area.