



The Bulletin

Winter 2006
of the New Hampshire Retired State Troopers Association



NEWS UPDATES

GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

The September meeting of the NHRSTA held at the Red Blazer in Concord. We paid tribute to Les Menzies, Lieutenant Retired. Les was one of the original Troopers from 1937 and retired as Troop Commander of Troop D in 1972. Prior to becoming a Trooper, Les was a Concord Police officer. He told the group that before he became a police officer he was a general handyman and did some competitive boxing to earn money.

A Senate Proclamation from Senator Lou D'Allesandro was read by Roland Lamy. Additionally, Les was presented a clock from the NHRSTA.

Below an emotional Les Menzies listens as an equally emotional Roland Lamy told Les's story.



Mr. Stuart Russell (pictured below) from the Social Security Administration spoke on Social Security related matters affecting



retirees and their spouses, past and current.

Mr. Russell is Hanover native who has worked at Social Security for over 30 years.

Presentations were also made to Roland Lamy as Past Chairman and to Kate McGovern who assisted us in writing the book "User's Guide to the NH Retirement System". The book, a project of the NHRSTA has been distributed by the association. Each member of the NHRSTA received a free copy of the book.

GROUP II RETIREMENT COALITION

Group II Retirement Coalition meeting was held on 9/21/2006 at the Department of Safety in Concord. We met with members of the Troopers Assn., Chiefs Assn., Sheriff's Assn., NH Police Assn. and the NH Assn. of Retired Police Officers.

It was agreed that the interests of law enforcement officers are best protected by working together on matters of retirement. A meeting was scheduled with Group II Police Trustees Major Dave Kelley and Chief Dean Crombie.

There is a general frustration over the health of the system. It appears that the system is about 60% funded. At one time it was 115% funded. However stock market losses a few years back dropped the value of the system. Additionally, the system feels the crunch of more people drawing on the system for longer periods of time. Discussion is underway to come up with solutions to improve the funding of the system.

We have met a few other times as a law enforcement group. We will be watching this situation very closely.

Additionally, we met with the general gathering of the Retirement Coalition on 10/2/2006. This is an organization comprised of Group I & some Group II organizations. The Teacher Group I people are desperate to solve their issue of the depletion of their Medical Subsidy in the next 2 years. This does not affect us at this time. However it is worth watching to see how it is resolved.

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NHRSTA PUBLISHES “A USER’S GUIDE TO THE NH RETIREMENT SYSTEM”

After 6 months of work, the NHRSTA produced the first easy to read guide for NH Public Employees. The project was in the works for over 6 months. It is written in an easy to read format it helps the reader clarify many of the mysteries and myths about retirement.

The groups who participated in the project financially, received a quantity of books based on their contribution. Additionally, we invested in the project and produced extra copies of the book which are sold for \$1.50 each. We make about 25 cents from each book that we sell. So far we have sold about 2000 books.

We initially printed 6000 books as of now all have been sold!

Unfortunately, on 10/17/2006 the NH Retirement System put out a general notice via email as follows:

The New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) has not issued or endorsed a recently-released publication entitled “A User’s Guide for the New Hampshire Retirement System”. It is our understanding that an external party who does not represent NHRS is now selling this publication.

We encourage our membership to contact the NHRS office directly with any questions about NHRS via email at info@nhrs.org

We say unfortunate because the NH Retirement System was fully aware that the publication was a product of our association, the NHRSTA. Further, they had been consulted on numerous occasions about the book and were even offered the final product by then NHRSTA Chairman Roland Lamy. The first courtesy copy of the printed book was provided to NH Retirement System Executive Director Bob Leggett in September.

At our September 13th General Meeting 2 organizations of interest to retirees were discussed. Those organizations are:

Retried Troopers Association
PO Box 47

Spencer, IN 47460-0047
<http://www.retiredtrooper.com/>

American Association of State Troopers Inc.

1949 Raymond Diehl Rd
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308
Tel.# 800-765-5456

www.Statetroopers.org

These organizations have membership requirements and benefits that may appeal to you.

GENERAL NEWS

We met with Colonel Booth on 10/6/2006. One of our members has been having a difficult time with the NH Retirement System and the interpretation of some related laws. Colonel Booth had a few options to try and help improve this person’s situation.

In late August we were saddened to learn of the death of Stuart Bates, Lieutenant Retired. Stu had been living in Maryland since retiring. A memorial service was held in Lebanon on 8/26. Our condolences to Stu’s sons Eric & Justin.

We are all saddened to learn of the passing of **Ann Winn**, wife of Tom Winn back on September 27. Ann had been ill for quite some time.

On November 28th we were all saddened to learn of the death of **Lieutenant Retired Al Foisy**. Lt. Foisy had been the Troop Commander in Troop E prior to his retirement. The barracks was at the old schoolhouse in Moultonboro during his tenure.

On November 30th we were saddened to learn of the passing of **Marjorie Harrison**, wife of retired Trooper Paul Harrison. The Harrisons were living in Deland, Florida.

On October 10, 2006 the NHRSTA endorsed Governor John Lynch for his re-election. The press conference held at the LOB featured endorsements from a number of police agencies as well as the NHRSTA.

On 10/17/2006 a Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Red Blazer in Concord. The Board voted to make a donation to the family of slain Manchester Officer Michael Briggs

Family in the amount of \$500.

The Board also voted not to hire a lobbyist this year. Instead we will revert back to utilizing Denis Parker as a consultant for the legislative session.

On October 26th we met with Keith Lohman, Director of Police Standards and Training. He told us that they are hard at work in preparing a firearms training program for retired officers. The Training Council voted its approval and rule making is in progress. It is expected to begin in the spring of 2007.

We also discussed obtaining access to their quarterly publication **Articulable Suspicion**. You can go to this website listed below:

<http://inservice.pstc.nh.gov/moodle/login/index.php>

Access has been limited previously. This is a good source of general police information and law updates.

On November 2, 2006 we endorsed Bev Hollingworth for Executive Council in District 3. We also supported Michael Downing for NH Senate in District 22. All 3 candidates we supported won their elections.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The NHRSTA has grown over the years. Our membership is over 160 strong. Membership can now be enjoyed by State Police retirees from Group I or Group II as well as widows. This change allows the extension of the camaraderie that develops over working together throughout a career. Additionally, members over the age of 75 and all widows have their annual \$50 dues waived.

We have grown in our role as an organization. We now have a web site, send out regular update emails, have developed a printed Bulletin, produced a one of a kind book with A User’s Guide to the NH Retirement System and we monitor legislation and political activities that may affect us.

We need people to step up to the plate. It takes a variety of ideas and points of view to make an organization work. The current leadership has specific terms and will eventually be moving on.

We need writers to keep the Bulletin up and running. That includes someone from each Troop or County as well as in Florida. The publication has room to grow and expand in the future.

Legislative involvement takes up a lot of time and energy. This past election has brought many new faces to the General Court. You can be sure that many bills will be filed that could affect our quality of life- COLA's and healthcare to be specific. There are many groups out there that are very well organized and financed. Some have an agenda that is different than ours. It is critically important that we remain engaged at all levels.

The Holiday Season is upon us. Take the time to reflect on those things that are important in your lives and to enjoy your retirement.

FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY ASSOCIATES HONOR EXEC. MAJOR CAMPBELL.

Richard J. Campbell, retired Executive Major, was honored by the FBI National Academy Associates of New England at their Annual Retraining Conference at Portsmouth in June. Deputy Chief Paul Stavrenger of Merrimac PD, President of the multi state Association presented Campbell with the coveted Colonel Walter E. Stone award. The award is given to an FBI Academy graduate, selected by the membership, *"who by his personal example of integrity, perseverance, unselfish dedication and outstanding professional performance in law enforcement has substantially furthered the prestige of law enforcement and the membership of this association"*

MILITARY SUPPORT VOLUNTEER LEADER

Maj. Ernie Loomis is the current State Chairman of the NH ESGR (Employer Support of Guard and Reserve) and his office is located at State Military Reservation, 4 Pembroke Rd. Concord. Ernie has played a very prominent role in organizing the send-

off and welcoming ceremonies of the troops from NH going to or returning from the war zone in Iraq.

STATE POLICE 1965 HAMPTON BEACH UNIT REUNION

After a full scale riot nearly destroyed the beach front on Labor Day eve 1964 Gov. John King ordered the State Police to Hampton Beach during the summer of 1965. The unit of 20 troopers was housed and operated from a converted 14 room former rooming house on Hampton Beach Boulevard. The unit was disbanded after the summer of 1967.

Some of the remaining members of that unit held a reunion of sorts in Manchester recently when Don Bazin came back to visit NH from his home in Florida. Among those present, at the luncheon, all of whom served while the unit functioned, included Paul O'Leary, Warren Brown, Don Bazin, Dick Campbell, Dan Golden, Butch Loven, John Newhall, Craig Sandler, Walt Morse and Ray Buskey. Four troopers who served in the unit have passed on. The group will continue to meet periodically to rehash some of the "now it can be told" events of those days gone by decades ago

New Hampshire Retired State Troopers Assn Meeting Minutes September 13, 2006

Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed for all our departed members. Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Stuart Russell a claims representative with the Social Security Administration based in Concord since 1978. He is familiar with the aspects of the Social Security Law that affects Group II retirees. Those attending were given a fact to supplement our booklet.

There are three areas of concern which he discussed

1. WEP (Windfall elimination provision). Special formula for figuring social security for those like us who have the State pension
2. Government Pension Offset
3. Social Security is computed on highest 35 years. Can go online to Social Security. We all receive a statement every year that tells how much you will receive when you retire. Those figures are not correct for Group II.

Medicare information is available at NH Help Line 1-800-MEDICARE

Mr. Russell opened it up for questions.

Roland Lamy spoke about Les Menzies. He had hoped to be half the trooper that Menzies was. He described him as loyal, serious and had a good sense of humor. He said that he was a "stand up Lieutenant" who was for the men who worked for him. Roland said he was proud to have worked and him and be his friend. Les was presented a resolution from the NH State Senate and a clock for his dedicated service and a clock from the association.

Les Menzies thanked all who had a part in making this night special and put so much work into it, especially Roland Lamy. He remarked he would never forget the greatest bunch of fellows. He gave an overview of how he started in Law enforcement, first with Concord PD and then State Police. He cannot forget the experience when you relied on each other and were like brothers. Tonight was another example of the companionship we had. Thanked Lamy and anyone else who took the time and appreciated it very much. Wished his wife could have been there but she is not in the best of health.

The User's Guide to the NH Retirement System book was presented to the membership and special editions were presented to Roland and Les Menzies. A clock was also presented to Kate McGovern for her assistance with the book project.

Raffles were drawn which included 50/50, Home Depot and Mobil Gas cards.

Motion to waive the financial statement was made by Paul O'Leary, seconded by Ernest Loomis. Motion carried.

Paul Doyon talked about American Association of State Troopers and memberships benefits that are available to current and retired troopers. Insurances available are Vision and Term Life. Dues \$24.00 a year.

Kevin O'Brien discussed the book project and its status. The initial printing was for 6000 books. The NHRSTA stands to make about 25 cents per book. The groups who participated in the project were provided with a number of copies based on their financial support to the project. Courtesy copies have been presented to key political leaders as well as other key state, county, municipal employees as part of the marketing.

A donation was sent to NH National Guard in support of Sugar Hill Police Chief Jose Pequeno.

Kevin O'Brien sent a letter of support to the sons of Stuart Bates.

A thank you note was read from Kristen Helmsted the Jim Noyes 2006 Scholarship recipient.

Discussion of new law Health Care law under RSA HB 1735. Legislative committee is now involved in the selection and identification of health care needs of state employees active and retired. Our current healthcare package is good through 2007.

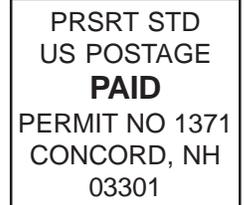
COLA's that are discussed in February and now moved till May.

Meeting adjourned: 8:48 pm. Next meeting will be in May 2007

Minutes submitted by:

Prudence Gagne

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TROOPER MAGAZINE

The NH Troopers Association sends a copy of Trooper Magazine to all retirees. If you have not been receiving it, contact Mike Doucette at mgdoucette@adelphia.net.

Mike will see to it that you get on the list. The most recent issue has an excellent article about Les Menzies in it.