



# The Bulletin

Summer 2007



of the New Hampshire Retired State Troopers Association

## GENERAL NEWS

In December John Zalgenas, a retired Cambridge MA police officer and brother of Joe Zalgenas passed away.

In February, William Babcock a retired Melrose MA police officer and father of Kevin Babcock and father-in-law of Dan Linehan passed away.

In March Grace LeBlanc, mother of Lionel Leblanc passed away in Berlin.

In June Tom Hurley's mother Rita Hurley of Epping passed away.

We have continued to monitor the serious medical condition of Sergeant Gerry Berry of Troop F. A benevolent fund has been established for him at Troop F. The address is The Gerry Berry Benevolent Fund c/o Troop F PO Box 440 Twin Mountain, NH 03595. The NHRSTA voted to send \$500 to the fund and is encouraging members to donate individually as well. Gerry has 29 years in law enforcement and is originally from Rollinsford. He has spent his entire State Police career as a member of Troop F and as a member of the Motorcycle Unit. Gerry's retirement is effective 7/1/2007. The Board voted unanimously to make Gerry a member of the NHRSTA and waive all dues.

We have also been monitoring the ongoing medical conditions of Lt. Mark Mudgett. He had surgery in the spring that resulted in serious life threatening complications. He has improved slowly and his wife says he is a little better each day. He will be retiring on 9/1/2007.

Retired Major Craig Wiggin was named the Sheriff of Belknap County,

replacing Dan Collis. We hope Craig holds this job for a while as it is his 5<sup>th</sup> since retiring!

Lieutenant Donald Buxton passed away on June 26. Don was an active member of the NHRSTA who rarely missed a meeting and an opportunity to catch up with old friends. He will be missed by all.

Major Richard Tuck is recuperating at home after surgery in late June. He is feeling well and on the mend!

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, Alice Menzies, wife of retired Lieutenant Les Menzies passed away after a period of failing health. You may recall that we paid a special tribute to Les at our September 2006 meeting.

## TROOP A HOLDS A REUNION

*by Dan Linehan*

I had been asked numerous times by Col. O'Leary to put together a breakfast for retired members of Troop A. He said it was "my turn" and finally, in late fall I decided to put something together.

I was aware that small groups of guys had gotten together periodically in different places over the years, but not one all-inclusive event. That's what I decided to do and the challenges then became numerous. What restaurant that was large enough in the Troop "A" area served breakfast? Could it be done at a price attractive enough to encourage participation? Could the contact data be collected in a timely



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
RETIRED STATE TROOPERS  
ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 848  
Concord, NH 03302-0848  
[www.nhrsta.org](http://www.nhrsta.org)

enough fashion to allow enough notice to participants?

With these and other considerations in mind, I forged ahead. With the help of Cheryl Janelle and a few other sources such as Dick Brow and Frank Breen, the addresses, phone numbers and emails addresses were collated in my office. We think we got

everyone and hopefully, future events will be easier to co-ordinate with a more detailed contact list.

A real treat for me was reaching out to some folks I hadn't chatted with for years. It was nice to play "catch up", even though they could not attend. January is no doubt a tough month. A lot of people want to be where it's warm. I talked with numerous members who wanted to attend, but had committed to travel plans. Other people who live away from NH were glad to be included and remembered, but couldn't attend, mostly due to short notice. Every person I spoke with was excited about the idea of a troop-wide reunion breakfast. I wanted to include everyone who had ever worked at Troop "A", not just retired folks.

Finally, on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the event was held at the Village Square Restaurant on Route 111 in Hampstead at 0830 hours. A buffet style breakfast was offered for \$11.50 per person (a price even the most frugal Troop A alumni was willing to pay). There were 40 former and active Troop "A" members present. It was a great time!

Overall, I received a lot of positive comments. Everyone seemed to like the format, liked that it was social and not business oriented, liked that it was informal and was limited to just a few hours. Quite a few members asked if it would be a yearly event and I am hopeful that it will be.

In retrospect I'm glad I did it. Preserving the connection that we share is one of the most important things in life. I'll look forward to doing it again. I should note that the accompanying photos are courtesy of Rich Mitchell. If you think you should have been included but weren't, contact me at: [dan\\_linehan@comcast.net](mailto:dan_linehan@comcast.net).

## LEGISLATION 2007

by Paul O'Leary

During this session of the legislature over a dozen bills were submitted on retirement issues. Most didn't survive but several were *retained*

for further consideration, including one that provides for a permanent COLA (HB 779).

Two bills that did survive are most important to Retirees:

**HB653 Amended.** Well founded concern for the health of the system prompted a complete replacing of the BILL with language crafted by a sub committee of the House ED&A Committee led by Rep. Ricia McMahon. However, there was no provision for any COLA. It did provide some necessary changes in the Retirement Law most notably the System's accounting methods.

In order to restore the solvency of the system as quickly as possible, all of the interest gained by the System investments needed to be retained within the system. No portion was to be allocated to the Special Account, the source of COLA's and other additional benefits, until the System funding ratio reached 85%. That was predicted to take between 15 to 20 years.

Fear not that we have not seen an end to COLAs, as you will learn further on.

When HB 653 reached the Senate after a landslide endorsement in the House, we proposed a series of changes that would provide a 2.5% COLA. The Senate ED&A Committee chaired by Sen. Peter H. Burling inserted a 2.5% COLA as an amendment to the Bill and this was endorsed unanimously by the Senate after a superb presentation on the Senate floor by Sen. Burling prior to the vote.

Other groups interested in Retirement issues had attempted to amend the bill by adding a "Sunset Clause" that if accepted would have had defeated the effectiveness of the bill. We were able to beat back this attempt and it was never offered. The bill was sent back to the House with the Senate amendments and a Committee of Conference created. After three days of tough deliberations, the House firmly rejected the 2.5% COLA and rejected a compromise offer

of the Senate of 2 .25% for a COLA.

In return they offered a "tiered" COLA that would have seen retirees at the lowest end getting a 2.5% COLA and reducing the amount up the ladder to the top, to a 1% COLA. However, Senator Burling would not budge. In the afternoon of the third day, the House unexpectedly agreed to the 2.25 % offer of the Senate and the case was closed *as we say*. The Committee Report was passed by both bodies on Wednesday and now on way to the Governor for signature.

There are many in the Senate, on both sides of the aisle, who were extremely helpful to our cause. No one better than Sen. Peter Burling, who stands out alone, and then his ED&A Committee, composed of Senators Joe Kenny, Molly Kelly, Mike Downing, Martha Fuller Clark and Jaclyn Cilley. They deserve our acknowledgement as do Senate President Sen. Sylvia Larsen and House Speaker Rep. Terrie Norelli.

**HB 876** The Retirement System has needed overhaul for some time. HB 876 was designed to create a committee to study the system and designated who committee members would be. Group II members were to be from two firefighter groups, one led by David Lang and the other by Arthur Beaudry; and one from the NH Police Association, which was actually misidentified in the Bill as the "NH Patrolman's Association". That would have put us (retirees) on the outside looking in.

Once again with the cooperation of members of the Senate, the Group II designations were removed and simply indicated as 3 Group II members to be appointed by the Governor. We were able to have an additional member designated as a "retiree" added to the Bill in each Group. There was little or no disagreement at the Committee of Conference and the Senate version with a minor change for the House was accepted.

This Commission will be appointed for

# ANNUAL MEETING MAY 23, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the NH Retired State Troopers Association was held May 23, 2007 at the Red Blazer in Concord. More than 85 people attended this historic meeting. The meeting was historic in that both the Commissioner of Safety, John Barthelmes and the Director of State Police, Colonel Fred Booth addressed the meeting.

In brief remarks, Barthelmes laid out his vision for the Department of Safety and his appreciation to the members of the NHRSTA who supported his



*Wayne Brunt, Dan Golden, Paul Schwatka, Dwight Dodd, Paul MacLean, Mark Furlone, Dan Dempsey and Craig Wiggin*



*Jim Norris presented with NHRSTA clock in recognition of his service.*

*Special guests: Deb Noyes, Carol Caron, Sue Solloway and Hope MacDonald*

nomination and confirmation. Colonel Booth also touched on what has been going on within the State Police and also reported that Alumni Night will be held in July.

Nominations and elections were held for the 3 Executive Board seats for the NHRSTA. Mark Furlone and Mike Hureau were re-elected to another 2 years term and Sheldon Sullivan was also elected to the Board. "Sully" is replacing Jim Norris who did not want to be considered for another term. Jim has served on the Board for 8





*Troop B members: Bill Dodge, Roger Phelps, Guy Kimball & Walt Morse*

*The Colonel Collection: George Iverson, Fred Booth and Paul O'Leary*



years and he will be missed.

We had several Special Guests at the meeting. Those guests included: Hope MacDonald of Wolfeboro (widow of Sergeant Ken MacDonald and mother of TFC John Macdonald), accompanied by John's daughter Maggie, Sue Solloway who came all the way from Florida and was accompanied by her son Scott, Deb Noyes made the trip from Madison and Carol Caron of Webster. It was great to have them with

us for the meeting!

The minutes of the meeting will be noted elsewhere in The Bulletin. The success of the meeting was due in large part to the work of a few special people: Roland Lamy, Neal Scott, the Hureau's, Pat MacLean and Prudy Gagne. Well done!

Final note: we had some prints made up of some of the photos from the meeting and we mailed them out last week. Enjoy.

## **TROOP F ORGANIZES A "WORK DETAIL" FOR SERGEANT GERRY BERRY**

Lt. John Scarinza organized a "work detail" at the home of Sergeant Gerry Berry in Lancaster. The purpose of the detail was to complete construction of a horse barn for the Berry Family. Area Fire Departments started the original construction in June and the law enforcement group followed up on Friday July 6<sup>th</sup>. There were active and retired people from Fish & Game, State Police, DMV, DRED, firemen and police officers, dispatchers as well as local tradesman.

The work began shortly after 7:00 AM and lasted until after 7:00 PM. Lt. Scarinza estimated that at any one time there were 45 people on-site and over the course of the day an additional 10-20 people stopped by to help out. The Troopers Association picked up the lunch tab for the hard working crew.

Retirees who participated included: Butch Loven, Chuck Jellison, Mike Doucette, Jim Garvin, Paul Boucher, Ray Burke, Gerry Marcou, Kenny McCulloch and John Ellsworth.

Lt. Scarinza also helped get a benevolent fund set up at Troop F for financial support for the project. They had a goal of raising \$12,000 but raised more than \$20,000 thanks to the generous support of many organizations as well as individuals

## **INSURANCE FRAUD IS A GROWTH INDUSTRY**

Not that anyone has asked but New Hampshire is a state in which insurance fraud is growing. Fear not though, many NHSP retirees have found work as investigators for companies in the field of insurance fraud investigation.

Don Gates has been using his expertise of at Zurich, North America. Don is a frequent traveler throughout New England and NY. Over at Progressive Insurance Mike Symmonds has teamed up with a number of retired FBI agents to fight fraud in New Hampshire. Kelly McClare and Roger Allard are working the beat over at Peerless where Kelly is a supervisor for the Northeastern US.

Steve Noyes is at work at Premier Traveler's supervising the likes of Kevin Babcock and Jim Kelly. Gary Sloper is on the job for OneBeacon and Jim Garvin is getting it done for the Concord Group. Over at Amica Peter Hilchey is learning Boston is nothing like New Boston was and Kevin O'Brien has the luxury of working in Maine, NH, Vermont and Massachusetts.....

Then there are the guys who do reconstruction work for all of the fraud investigators. At the Crash Lab you have Chip Johnston with Shel Sullivan and Colon Forbes while Mark Mitchell prefers working

## LEGISLATION 2007

*cont'd from page 2*

the most part by the Governor; while members of the House and Senate appointed by its leaders. The Commission must report its findings and recommendations back to the Governor and Legislature leadership by Dec 1 2007. One of the significant designated duties of the Commission it to formulate a permanent method of providing COLA's. I mentioned this earlier with the admonishment "not to fret".

This was very contentious session with several groups at times at odds with each other. We stayed clear of their disagreements and maintained our focus on our planned strategy that proved very successful. Our brother organization, the NH Association of Retired Law Enforcement Officers joined with us and supported all our efforts. We will now concentrate our efforts to obtain one or more of the four Group II seats on the newly established Commission.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the string support from Lt. Joe Dow, (ret.) FD Portsmouth. Joe continues to be loyal, hard working and valuable teammate in our legislative efforts.

Finally, we need to —inundate Senator Peter Burling with cards or E-Mails expressing appreciation for his efforts and those of his ED & A Committee. Identify yourself as a State Police retiree. His email address is [Peter.Burling@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Peter.Burling@leg.state.nh.us) . His mail address is Room 105 State House Concord, NH 03301

## MINUTES OF 5/23/2007 MEETING

*by Prudy Gagne*

A moment of silence for departed Members was observed.

Herb Frink led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kevin O'Brien, Chairman introduced Colonel Booth and Commissioner Barthelmes.

Commissioner Barthelmes said he had only been on the job for 6 weeks. He thanked everyone for the support he received on his confirmation. The Commissioner talked of the challenges for New Hampshire's public safety in dealing with crime increases involving guns, drugs and gangs. He also noted that in 2005 there were 144 drug overdose deaths, a sharp increase from previous years.

The Commissioner also noted highway deaths continue to involve speed, driver inattention and alcohol. He added that he was proud of what State Police is doing and noted that one trooper alone made 135 DWI arrests!

The Department of Safety has a challenge with 1200 full time employees spread over the entire state. His goal is to change the culture at the Department of Safety to make it the most effective agency.

Colonel Booth spoke how he appreciated the opportunity to attend our meeting. He brought us up to date on what is going on within State Police and commented that he is fortunate to see a new Commissioner of Safety. He is looking forward to seeing everyone at Alumni Night in July.

Kevin O'Brien introduced the evening's Special Guests: Hope McDonald and her granddaughter Maggie; Sue Solloway and her son Scott; Deb Noyes; and Carol Caron.

Joe Broderick waived the reading of the minutes and treasurers report. Treasurer's report was placed on table for members to view. Bart Flanders Seconded, Passed.

There were 3 positions up for nomination to the Board. Nominations were as follows: Jim Norris; Mike Hureau; Mark Furlone. Jim Norris has asked to step

down. Sheldon Sullivan was nominated in place of Jim Norris. Vote passed.

Jim Norris was presented with a State Police Clock for his 8 years of service on the Board.

Kevin O'Brien thanked Colonel O'Leary and Joe Dow (retired firefighter from Portsmouth FD) who have been hard at work keeping track of the ups and downs, in and out (roller coaster ride) on HB653. A summary of their work is included in the Bulletin.

Joe Dow has been with us in recent years as we fought for COLA's Joe was presented with a clock from the Association in appreciation of his efforts on our behalf.

### NEW BUSINESS:

James Noyes Scholarship: Candidate Matthew McKay of Tamworth He was identified to us as a good student with character and courage. His family suffered a tragedy and is doing well now. He is attending Babson College.

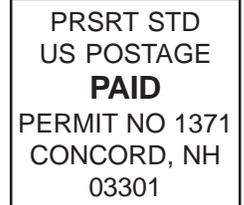
The Chairman thanked all who attended or wrote or called their legislators for the April 27, 2007 hearing on HB.

A new organization calling itself NH Retired Public Employees Association (NHRPEA) has just been formed. This is an attempt to get all retirees of the NH Retirement System unified on legislative matters. The NHRSTA has been active in getting all of these different factions together in order to have a unified strategy to preserve retirement benefits. This organization is in its infancy and we hope to have more to report at our fall meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

**SEPTEMBER**  
**MEETING DATE**  
The September meeting  
will be held on  
**Wednesday**  
**September 26, 2007.**  
More details to follow in  
August.

New Hampshire Retired State Troopers Association  
PO Box 848  
Concord, NH 03302-0848  
[www.nhrsta.org](http://www.nhrsta.org)



## **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](mailto: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.