

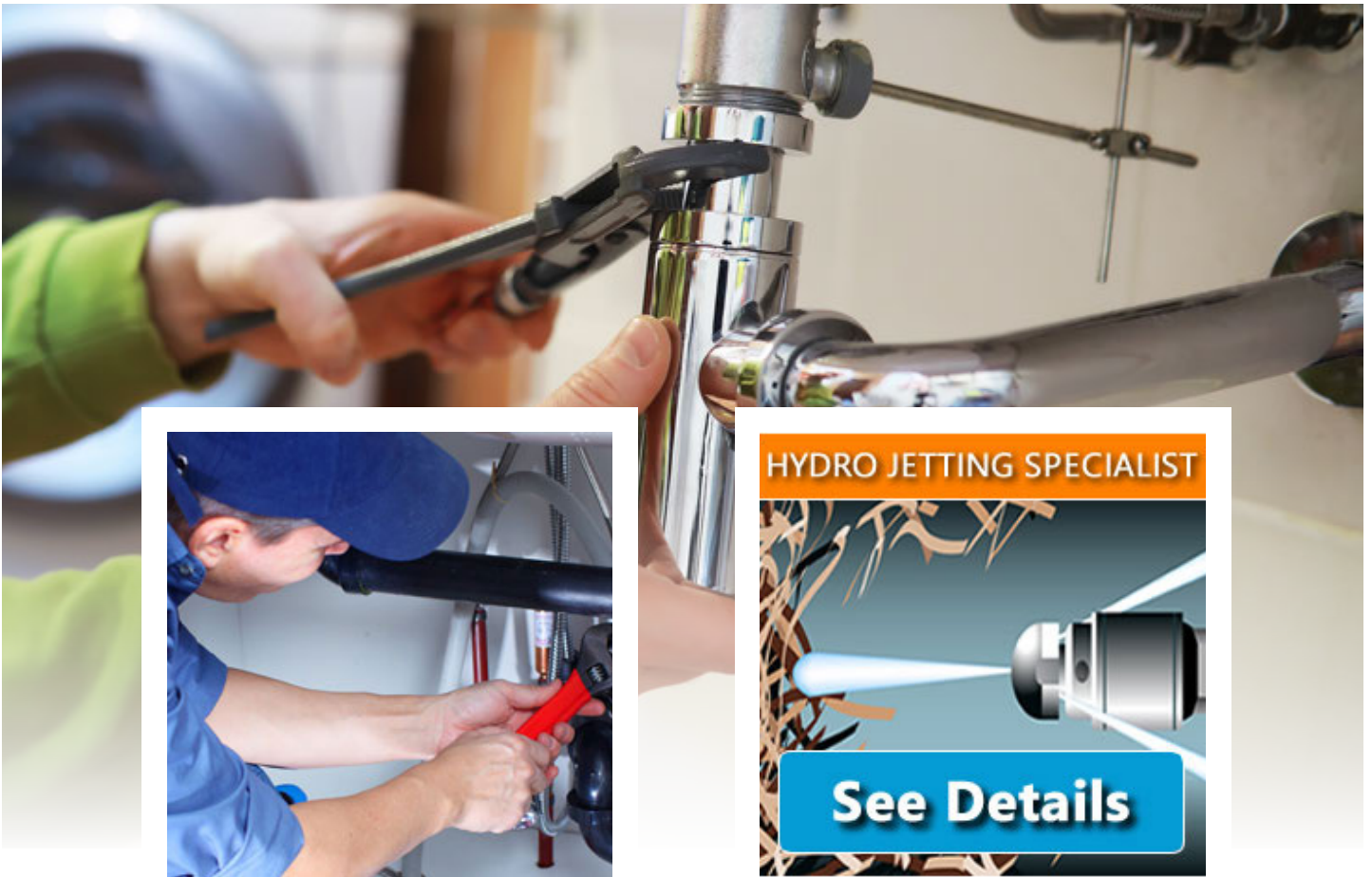
MINNESOTA TROOPER

Volume 41 • Number 1 • February 2025

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REMEMBERING THOSE WE'VE LOST IN 2024 | PG 12



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MINNESOTA TROOPER

Minnesota Trooper is published three times annually by the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association.

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Mike LeDoux • MSPTA President

President's Report



A HISTORIC ELECTION CYCLE: NAVIGATING THE UNCERTAINTIES AHEAD

The 2024 election cycle will undoubtedly be remembered for its unexpected twists and surprises, leaving even the most experienced political analysts scrambling to process the results. Across both state and federal levels, the outcomes have introduced challenges and dynamics that will shape the political landscape for years to come. As the dust settles from November's electoral battles, one thing is evident: Many politicians are belting out a new tune, but the lyrics haven't changed. As always, the true measure of their performance lies in their actions, not their melodies.

As of late December, the Minnesota Legislature is in flux, shaped by developments in the fall elections. A recent court ruling declared a Democratic candidate ineligible due to residency issues, prompting his resignation and a temporary shift in the balance of power. Currently, Republicans hold a narrow 67-66 majority in the House of Representatives. However, with Governor Walz scheduling a special election for late January, this temporary advantage may quickly evaporate, potentially restoring a split in the House once more.

This echoes a pivotal moment in Minnesota's political history, drawing comparisons to the 1979-1980 biennium, when each party held 67 seats. At that time, the necessity of cooperation between parties led to a power-sharing arrangement, with each side dividing leadership roles and committee chairmanships. Passing meaningful legislation required extensive negotiation, collaboration, and perhaps a few more cups of coffee in the committee rooms as both parties navigated the complexities of joint governance.

In the Senate, the landscape is similarly uncertain. The recent passing of Senator Kari Dzedzic has resulted in an evenly split Senate, with 33 Democrats and 33 Republicans each holding a seat. A special election will determine control of the Senate.

As the legislative session begins, the MSPTA will once again head to the Capitol to advocate for our members' interests. This year, we face a significant change with the redesign of the state seal, which will require updates to our badges to reflect the new logo. To honor the personal and historical significance of these badges, we will introduce legislation that allows members to purchase their current chest and hat badges.

On the pension front, we remain committed to securing an increase in the State Patrol Retirement Plan's Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). The 1% COLA cap, in place since 2014, has limited retirees' ability to keep pace with inflation. Over the past decade, inflation has substantially eroded pension benefits for our retired members, while Social Security benefits have risen by approximately 30%. A modest increase of 0.5% would provide crucial support. All other Minnesota State Retirement System plans currently have a COLA of 1.5%.

"The best armor is to keep out of range"

LEONARDO DA VINCI

In 2025, we eagerly anticipate welcoming back our first members under the new reemployment program established for those who have reached full retirement age, in accordance with Minnesota Statute 352B.115. Their return to our ranks is not only a testament to their dedication but also a valuable opportunity to continue benefiting from their experience and leadership. We extend our gratitude in advance for their ongoing commitment to the communities they so faithfully serve.

Federal Developments: Repealing the WEP and GPO

On the federal front, HR 82, known as the Social Security Fairness Act, represents a groundbreaking achievement for millions of public-sector workers. This historic legislation repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), two provisions of the Social Security Act that have long reduced benefits for public employees.



What Were the WEP and GPO?

The WEP, introduced in 1983, reduced Social Security benefits for retirees who also earned pensions from non-Social Security-taxed jobs, including law enforcement and other public services. Enacted in 1977, the GPO reduced or even eliminated spousal and survivor benefits for recipients of government pensions. Both provisions were designed to prevent "double-dipping" but often penalized public employees who had faithfully contributed to both systems.

A Personal Perspective on the Impact

For nearly a decade, I have shouldered the responsibility of educating our members and their spouses about the devastating consequences of these provisions. Many were stunned to learn that their Social Security benefits would be drastically reduced—or even eliminated entirely—due to their public service pensions. Unfortunately, many discovered these reductions too late to adjust their financial planning, leaving them ill-prepared for retirement. Beyond these personal struggles, the provisions discouraged potential recruits, as individuals with significant Social Security-covered work histories were often deterred from public service careers by the prospect of severe benefit cuts.

A Broad Coalition for Change

The Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA) proudly joined national organizations like the National Troopers Coalition (NTC), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and the International Association of Fire Fighters

(IAFF) to advocate for repeal. Persistent lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., brought this issue to the forefront, culminating in the passage of HR 82.

What This Means for Public-Sector Workers

With the repeal of these provisions, nearly three million public-sector employees will now receive the full Social Security benefits they deserve. Surviving spouses who were previously denied critical survivor benefits will also see justice restored. This monumental change ensures that individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service will no longer face unwarranted reductions in their earned benefits. According to the legislation, the amendments apply to Social Security benefits payable for months after December 2023, meaning affected individuals will see retroactive benefits for 2024.

On behalf of the MSPTA, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the legislators, advocacy groups, and public employees whose unwavering dedication and perseverance made this historic achievement possible. The passage of HR 82 not only restores long-overdue justice but also reaffirms the value of those who have dedicated their lives to public service. Our heroes and their families can now look forward to the secure future they deserve. ♦

Thank you for your service and sacrifice on behalf of all Minnesotans. May the new year bless you with good health and happiness.

Mike #88



Colonel Christina Bogojevic

Colonel's Message



RENEWING COMMITMENT TO TRAFFIC SAFETY IN 2025

There is definitely something about a new year: a renewed commitment to self and to others. I encourage each of you to remember why you chose the profession of law enforcement, and more importantly, why you decided to join the Minnesota State Patrol.

As 2024 comes to an end, we have seen an increase in fatal crashes that we haven't seen for many years. As of December 30, 61 more people died on Minnesota roadways in 2024 than in 2023. That number should be viewed as unacceptable. It is unacceptable to those who work hard every day to ensure safety, unacceptable to those who use our roads, and unacceptable to the families who grieve the loss.

I encourage you to renew your commitment to traffic safety. The Minnesota State Patrol saw an increase in traffic enforcement contacts throughout 2024. I applaud you and the work that

has been done. My challenge to you is encourage those around you to change the traffic safety culture. This will take more than the Minnesota State Patrol. It will require drivers, road users, and passengers to significantly change their behavior. It will take collaborative work with our allied partners, and we will need support from the communities we serve. We need to educate new drivers and those experienced drivers that have built poor habits. All of these efforts together can decrease the number of serious and fatal crashes.

This past year brought many challenges throughout the Agency; however, resiliency has always been a benchmark of a trooper. As we look ahead to 2025, I am confident that we will continue to rise to the challenge, making Minnesota's roadways safer for everyone. Together, we will build on our successes and create a future where every trip can be a safe one. ♦



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REFLECTING ON 2024 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As I write this column for the magazine, it is late December and as I look out my office window, the weather is gloomy. It is raining with the winter snow disappearing in dense fog and the upper 30-degree temperatures.

This time of year is one for reflection and gratitude for the year that includes overcoming challenges and achieving successes in 2024.

In addition to the everyday heroics that often seem commonplace, my thoughts for our State Patrol went to a few highlights including welcoming Col. Christina Bogojevic to lead our troopers, one of your own using his squad car to help to halt a runaway car with a teen behind the wheel unable to stop it on his own or the number of times our air rescue teams have responded to rescues which could otherwise have been much more challenging.

Now that 2024 is in the rear view mirror, this is more than ever a time of excitement to look ahead to a bright future for the Department of Public Safety.

As I finish up my second year as your Commissioner, I am more committed than ever to serve you and the members of the Department of Public Safety to the best of my ability. I continue to be honored to be in this position, and I do not take it for granted.

On Christmas day, my wife, Diane, and I were honored to be able to visit the Metro Area Communications Center and spent some time with our staff working the holiday shift. That team does such difficult work and yet not a complaint was

heard on this holiday about filling this need on a day many were required to be at work. Instead, they were surrounded by food and good cheer.

We dropped off some of Diane's cookies and her special Chex mix along with our thanks for their dedication. My parting comment was not only thanks for their work today, but that I hoped that they knew we supported them, we cared about them, and that we wanted them to be part of the DPS family long into the future.

That message will carry on into 2025. We support you; we care about you and we hope you will be part of the DPS family for many years to come.

I also reflected this week on the work of our Troopers. There is a saying from the Stoic philosophers that "Good people will do what they find honorable to do, even if it causes them injury, they do it even if it will bring danger."

Those words reflect better than I can describe the daily work of a Trooper and others in law enforcement. It is not easy. If it was, there would be a long line of applicants wanting to do this work. Only the best with the heart of a servant coupled with the courage to face the dangers and trauma of life today are called upon to be part of this honorable profession. ♦

**MY BEST TO YOU ALL IN 2025.
IT WILL BE MY PRIVILEGE TO
CONTINUE TO SERVE BESIDE YOU.**

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DAYS ★ GONE ★ BY

Letters

You stopped me

Editor's note: The following letter was sent our way by Lieutenant Roger Anhorn from District 2600. We reprinted without using the writer's name.

June 25, 1993
Trooper Anthony Snyder
Minnesota State Patrol

Dear Sir,

I've meant to write this letter long before this. In February 1991, you stopped and arrested me for drunken driving in Elk River. You probably don't remember me, but after I refused the test and you asked me why, I replied, "I didn't need to." I didn't say that in a smart-ass voice or an arrogant tone, but when I read it in the complaint I thought it could be taken that way. I was feeling pretty low about myself at the time and my feeling was: I didn't need to—you got me—I'm guilty. I had absolutely no intentions of denying anything which I thought was the original purpose of the sobriety test anyway—for proof. I know I still should have taken it because I was just breaking another law by not. Since that time it has bothered me that you might have taken my remark in a way I did not mean. But please don't—even though I was driving drunk I respect people otherwise.

You seemed disgusted when you found out that I had three previous DWI convictions. I can only imagine that when you run into those cases that it is frustrating or aggravating that people are allowed to continue that behavior when you are trying to stop it. At least I believe it would be for me. But I think people can change their bad behavior and you *do* make a difference. It seemed ironic to me that as I sat in the Legion in Elk River that day, I was telling my "drinking buddy" that I didn't like drinking and that I wanted to quit. But I kept pouring the booze down and got in my car. Alcohol did have very much control over me. When your red lights woke me from my stupor (while driving), I was mad at myself, and before you got to my car I decided that I was done drinking. I shouted at myself, "That's it—I'm not fighting it anymore!" *You* made the difference.

I read in the Elk River paper that a day or two later a drunk driver crashed his car at high speed and his wife did not survive, but he did. I was really

humbled thinking that I could have done something equally stupid but before I harmed anyone or myself, you stopped me. I also felt grateful that you did, and I sincerely want to say thank you. I'm sure you know that driving is a serious matter that demands a person's full attention and can still be dangerous under the best conditions. I think I have finally realized that to increase that danger with alcohol is pure stupidity, and I am ashamed and apologize that I even once increased that risk for other people. Maybe my mind is growing up a little bit. Too bad it wasn't sooner.

Since that night you stopped me I have drank no alcohol. It hasn't been hard and maybe because of that I am much happier with my life. I continue to participate in Alcoholics Anonymous though I am done with the court's requirements. I look forward to having AA in my life as long as I live because it is the best safeguard for me to stay away from alcohol and its control on me. I am hopeful and sometimes confident that I can get through the rest of my life without alcohol, but that will only happen by the Grace of God.

Again, I wish to thank you and also your fellow officers for doing your job. You may pass this along if you wish.

Sincerely,

Thankful

Congratulations

Dear Trooper Staff,

I merely wish to say "Thank You" for keeping me on your mailing list. It means a lot to a retiree to be kept abreast of happenings and changes on the patrol. I should also like to congratulate your entire staff for keeping the content of the magazine at such a high level of quality. I can appreciate what a huge task it must be.

Thanks again, and hopefully sometime in the future, we can "have a cup" together.

Sincerely,

Bill Burkhardt
Bemidji

NOVEMBER 1993/21

BEARS THAT CARE

On October 22nd, troopers, dispatchers, and staff from CHQ went to M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital for our annual fall visit. This time dispatchers dressed up as characters from the movie INSIDE OUT 2. Dispatchers dressed up as Joy, Anxiety, Disgust, Anger, and Sadness. The kids always enjoy seeing the characters. We delivered goodie bags to the kids and spent time talking with them. The next visit will be in April 2025. Hope to see you there!

Currently, we are selling challenge coins to raise money to get a new stuffed animal to give to children when we visit the hospital. The proceeds will be donated to the Bears That Care account. If you would like to purchase any please email lisamarie.lorenzen@state.mn.us. There is a small cost for shipping. Each coin is \$15.

Lisa Lorenzen



CONGRATULATIONS!

MSPTA Mike LeDoux congratulates Trooper Eric Bormann on his upcoming retirement after 28 years with the State Patrol.

Eric was elected to the MSPTA Executive Council from the Rochester District to represent troopers since 2022. Congratulations Eric on a job well done.



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MSP 1969-2000
SP 281



**JIM DEAN
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Age 94
MSP 1954-1984
SP 35



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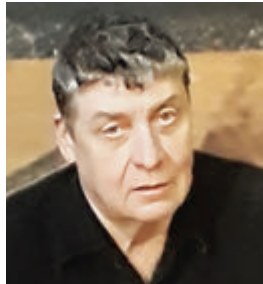
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RAHKOLA**

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MSP 1984-2010
SP 123



**RICHARD HENRY
KRUGER**

July 19 2024
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DNR 1960-1992
K 410



**DOUGLAS
PETERSON**

October 13 2024
Age 87
MSP 1961-1992
SP 323



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TRAUTNER**

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MSP 1967-1995
SP 365



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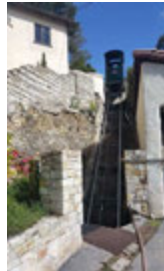
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4460 PATROL STATION

1969

Dave Stout and I were in the 1969 Highway Patrol class together. After graduation 10 of us Rookies were assigned to District 2400, St. Paul. 8 Rookies would eventually transfer to outstate Stations, and two at were to remain in St. Paul. Dave and I drew the short straws, but found out later that Captain Rotegard had picked the two of us to stay. I grew up in a small town and had hoped to be assigned to outstate Minnesota. We had moved to Brooklyn Park from Moorhead. I was first assigned to 4450 Station in Bloomington. Dennis Forester, Wes Budke and Butch Kramer were my partners. Butch resigned when he got a Federal job in Washington D.C. and Wes went with the Secret Service. I rode with Dennis during my break in period. On Sundays I would drive around Lakeville while Dennis would go to church, if we got a call I would go in and get him. The 2400 District Office was located on the second floor of the DOT Garage in Fort Snelling. The DOT Truck Maintenance was on the first floor and the Patrol office was on a catwalk that overlooked the mechanics working on vehicles down below. I was finally assigned to the 4460 Station in St. Paul.

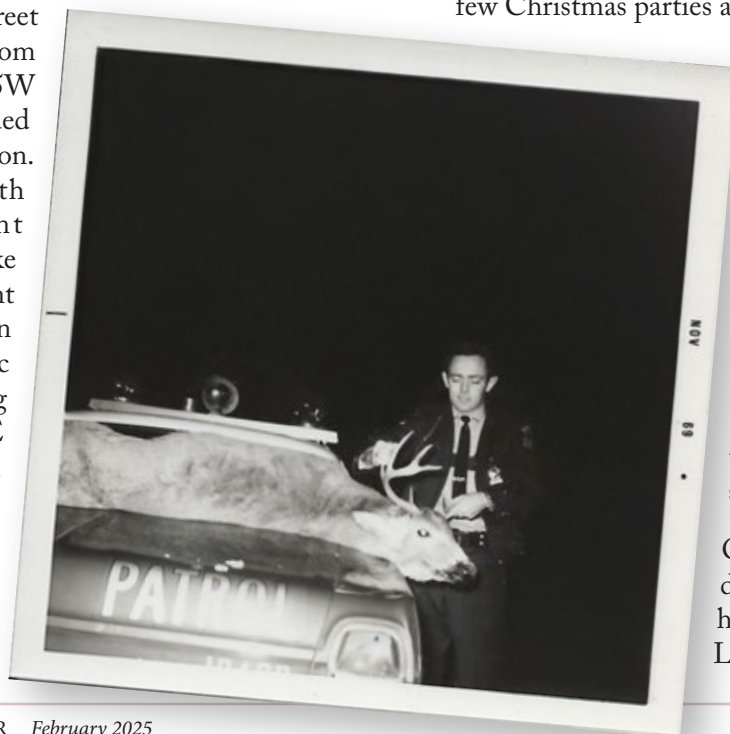
My new partners in the 4460 Station were Bob Crace, Dick (Spike) Blegen and Dave Stout. We worked the afternoon shift, and the day shift crew was Jim Andert and Roger Crawford, Roger Hess and Kenny Schlender. Interstate 694 going east from Rice Street and 35E going North from Little Canada Road to 35W by Forest Lake were graded and was under construction. Everything going North towards Duluth went through White Bear Lake on Highway 61. We spent a lot of time up there on Fridays when the traffic would back up by going through town. The 35E Parkway from downtown going south across the Mississippi river was not completed. We would meet what we call Spaghetti junction under

the 35-mph curve over I94. We would sit there sometimes during rush hour waiting for Dispatch to tell us our problems were east, west or Northbound. Bob could take the 35-mph curve over 100 mph in his Plymouth squad. Bob was a gutsy guy.

The radio room was in the basement of the DOT building on Rice Street by the State Capitol. On quiet nights I would park in the basement and visit the dispatch center. I remember it as a small noisy room. Some of the dispatchers were Mike Fangel, Bruce Ness, Don Eickhoff and Tom Riley. Our Central Office for the Patrol was on the first floor. It was staffed with a Patrol desk Officer until Midnight. I remember Austin Clancy and Gunner Johnson as two of the Patrolmen that that staffed the desk. Austin was an old Irishman, and he had a different story every time I visited with him. Jerry Sweet was our Sargent, I think every time he came up to visit us, we kept him out past Midnight! He had a picture of himself taken with the Beatles and one of them was holding Jerry's pistol!

BOB CRACE: Bob was in the Nineteenth Training school in 1968 at Arden Hills. Bobs badge was 304. He had been a White Bear Lake Police Officer for a few years before joining the Patrol. There were times when Spike would tell Bob to go back to white Bear PD where he belonged. We had a few Christmas parties at Bobs place on Centerville Road in White Bear Township. My wife Vivian couldn't figure out why the bottles on Bobs bar had white tape on them! Bob told me the story of one night he woke up to hear someone walking around downstairs. He grabbed his service pistol and sat at the top of the stairs waiting for the intruder to come up the stairs where his family was sleeping. The person never came upstairs and eventually exited the house and drove off. Bob was so relieved that he didn't have to shoot the guy.

One night we had a call of a car kill deer on Hwy 96 in North Oaks. We had Dispatcher Mike Fangel call the Local Game Warden and asked if we





could keep the deer. We made arraignments to send him a report and I think there was a \$10.00.fee. Bob and I headed for North Oaks. There were 2 Deputy's squads parked on the shoulder by where the deer was located. As I walked up to the County Squads to thank them for standing by, bob was down in the ditch gutting out the deer. Just as I got by the door of their squad, I could see the deputy holding a hunting knife. He turned and saw bob by the deer. He yelled they were stealing our XOXOXOX deer. They both sped off and went back to the Sheriff's Station on Rice Street and complained to their Sergeant. He (later to become the Sheriff for Ramsey County) called Captain Rotergard at his home and complained of our actions. Later Fangel called us to say that the captain told us to quit playing with the deputies and get back to work. The next night we all had deer steaks at Harry Southwards Pizza joint in Upper Afton.

Bob later transferred to the 2810 Station and settled in Isle. He was a good fisherman and hunter. I fished Mille Lacs with him in the Summer and Winter. He met Judy who had a gift shop in Isle, and they were married August 16th, 1985. Judy was the best thing to ever happen to bob!! They spent 21 years wintering in Texas and Arizona after they retired. Bob took his jeep to Arizona, and they drove in the Desert and Hills together. Bob was active in the Isle City Council, Fire Department and Food Shelf. He had an electric scooter that he drove around Isle picking up trash on the streets keeping the neighborhood



clean. Bob Contacted Covid and passed away on November 28th, 2020.

DICK (SPIKE) BLEGEN: Dick was in the Eighteenth Training school in 1967 at Arden Hills. He held badge 361. Dick was born and raised in the Lake Benton area. His brother was a farmer, and every Fall Dick would go down for 2 weeks and help him take the crop off. Dick went to Mankato State for a few years and then moved to St. Paul where he got a job with the Railroad. Dicks passion was to hunt and fish. On days off he was doing one or the other. I went spearing with him one winter on a small lake north of Duluth and

he speared a big Northern. On the way home we stopped for a beer and Dick brought the fish into the bar and the Bartender bought a round of drinks. He had a little Dune Buggy that he drove all over St. Paul. Dick was a character!

The last one arriving at an accident scene got stuck directing traffic. It was raining one night when we had an accident in the curve at Hwy 280 on 94. I was putting out flares and directing traffic when a Bobtailing Tractor came around the curve. He saw all the lights and panicked, he hit the brakes and started sliding towards us. He hit me and threw me over my squad, as I lay on the payment in the rain waiting for the Ambulance. I could hear Dick yelling at the driver and telling him he was going to get a ticket for careless driving. He wrote the most tickets for Careless Driving then all his partners combined. He wasn't much about first aid!

Dick and Patty were married in October 1970. He transferred to the 2730 Station in 1971. They lived in an apartment in Duluth for a year and then bought a place on Hwy 2. Patty was an RN and worked in a Duluth Hospital. She put up with all his hobbies and took good care of him all those years. She was a Jewell! On October 14th, 2012, Dick had a Massive Heart Attack and passed away. Dicks old canoe lays by my cabin on Lake Winnibigoshish as a constant reminder of our Friendship and Dicks love for the outdoors!

DAVID STOUT: It's hard for me to think and write about David without getting emotional. He was not only my

classmate, but he was my roommate and a great friend. We were in the Twentieth Training School together at Arden Hills in 1969. He was issued badge 202 and assigned to the 4460 Station in St. Paul.

We spent the first part of our shift dealing with the evening rush hour traffic. After dinner together we all went in different directions checking the beat out. As the evening wore on DWIs were on our radar. The City Jail was next to City Hall, and you had to walk your prisoner up a flight of stairs in an alley to get into the jail. Ramsey County Sgt. Tommy Red Lyons ran the jail. On quiet nights we would take turns leaving the City Scale and go North on 35E. The one

David was Awarded Trooper of the Year in 1977 and 1999! Dave was not a Hunter or Fishermen, but an evening with him we would be watching a play at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Vivian and I took our Granddaughter Elizabeth to the Musical Hair Spray one night in Minneapolis. There was David and His family standing in line. He gave me an old Highway Patrol fender STOP light years ago for the Patrol Collection. Most guys would have sprayed painted the metal



frame, but David Chromed it. He grew up in Bayport and attended Stillwater High School. He did a hitch in the Army and served in Greece. David had a daughter named Wendy that is in Law Enforcement and lives in Florida or Colorado. Dave met Jerri on a blind date. She was a Tour Guide with DOT working in the Fort Snelling area. They were married and they moved onto the North Shore by Two Harbors on Lake Superior. Dave had been promoted to Lieutenant and he was assigned to the Duluth District. I have heard stories that when the wind blew small rocks onto his lawn from the Lake, he

would vacuum them up. I would expect nothing less from him! He had an old Tugboat that he loved to Pilot on the Lake. He also had two ship horns under his deck that he blew when the Freighters sailed by, and they would return his signal.

David spread his father and Mothers ashes on Lake Superior along the shore by his house. He loved living on the North Shore. David lost his battle with Depression on March 3rd, 2007. Now his ashes are spread on his beloved Lake Superior!

These 3 guys were my partners during the time I worked at the 4460 Station in St. Paul

They were good partners and great friends. I think of them often.

**Richard C. Smith - Retired
State Patrol Archives Curator**



38th Annual MSPTA Trooper/Guest



Golf Tournament

LOCATION: The Wilderness at Fortune Bay; 1450 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN

DATES: Wednesday July 16th & Thursday July 17th

TIME: July 16th – 9:00 AM tee time (2 person best ball)

July 17th – 9:00 AM tee time (4 person scramble)

COST: \$300/person – Includes 2 rounds of golf, cart, use of range, 2 course lunches, banquet dinner on the 16th, hospitality room 15th & 16th.

Trooper: _____ **Active:** ___ **Retired:** ___

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Trooper/Guest: _____ **Active:** ___ **Retried:** ___ **Guest:** ___

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Twosome you want to be paired with on day one: _____

- Please mail registration form in by June 1st.
- Make checks payable to MSPTA Golf and mail to Kenny Dellwo, 1704 Riggs Road, St. Peter, MN 56058.
- After June 1st registration will be opened to any allied agencies that wish to participate.
- Maximum of 144 golfers.

Tournament is open to all active or retired troopers, supervisors, RCOs, CVIs, and their guests. All skill levels welcome. Don't miss your chance to play at this course which has earned both statewide and national recognition. While the registration fee is a cost increase from the past few years, I am confident those who attend will not be disappointed in this venue.

A block of rooms is being held at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Rooms are under Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association Golf Tournament. Call 218-753-6400 to make a reservation. Reservations can also be made at the RV Park at Fortune Bay for anyone wishing to bring their camper or RV.

Practice rounds will be available on Tuesday, July 15th for a discounted rate. Call The Wilderness at Fortune Bay clubhouse at 507-479-2739 and ask for the Play & Stay rate.

If you would like to purchase an additional banquet dinner for any guests that will be non-golfers, the cost will be \$52. Please either indicate on registration form or call/text/email me (952-220-7103 / Kenneth.dellwo@gmail.com) if you will be bringing a non-golfing guest so that I can get an accurate head count.

For those who wish to participate it would be to your benefit to register as early as possible. I am expecting this tournament to fill up quickly as this is an incredible course to play and a very enjoyable place to stay. There is no travel required after arrival since the golf course, lodging, and casino are all located in the same area.



1930 Harley-Davidson MHP Replica



RETIRED TROOPER DAY 2025

TUESDAY
AUGUST 5, 2025

COYOTE MOON GRILLE
480 55th Ave SE,
St Cloud, MN 56304

COFFEE AT 9:30 • LUNCH AT 11:30

HELP THE MINNESOTA STATE PATROL FIND ITS NEXT LETO CANDIDATES

Do you know anyone without prior law enforcement experience you think might make a great Minnesota State Patrol trooper? If so, the Agency would love to hear from you – and from them – as it launches a statewide marketing campaign to attract applicants to become part of the next Law Enforcement Training Opportunity (LETO) program.

Get Paid to Train

LETO enables civilians from any prior profession to potentially become troopers by successfully completing paid classroom and field training. LETO participants must have at least a two-year (associate's) or four-year (bachelor's) degree in any discipline from a regionally accredited college or university. The Agency will be accepting LETO applications from March 3-30, 2025, at www.mntrooper.com.

All LETO participants earn 80% of a trooper's starting annual salary (\$79,469*) for their first 22 weeks of training, then 100% of base pay for the remainder of training. It's a great way for those who've been employed elsewhere to continue earning income as they are trained to become troopers!

2025 Marketing Campaign

The Minnesota State Patrol will be running multimedia advertising about the LETO program around the state beginning in February and continuing through March. To

help those with no prior law enforcement experience begin to understand the job of troopers and potentially “see themselves” fulfilling that role, the Agency is profiling a series of troopers on video, including those who joined via LETO.

Point your phone's camera to the QR codes below (or visit www.mntrooper.com) to see how these troopers are helping keep Minnesota's roadways safe, and inspiring others to serve.

How You Can Help

Now is the time for each of us to think hard about who we know who could make for a quality trooper candidate. Maintaining our high quality of troopers who serve Minnesota and uphold our core values is important to keep our strong reputation as Minnesota's leading traffic enforcement agency.

The best voices to promote becoming a trooper are current troopers and those who have previously served as troopers. If you'd like to assist with the Agency's LETO recruitment efforts, including receiving materials to help get word out to potential LETO candidates, please contact Sgt. Mary Miller at patrol.recruiter@state.mn.us or 651-757-1921.

*Valid through June 17, 2025

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MN 100 CLUB BLACKOUT PLATES: SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS!

State Troopers have no doubt seen the new State of Minnesota blackout license plates. These plates are eye-catching and appealing to many people who do not want the standard Minnesota license plates.



What the blackout plates are not is unique. Since September of 2022, the MN 100 Club has been promoting and selling black license plates. This specialty plate features the Club's shield logo on a grayscale background of the American Flag with plate numbers and letters in white. Red, white and blue stripes that represent First Responders cross the bottom of the plate.

The most unique feature of the license plate, however, can't be seen. Proceeds from the sale of these plates do not go back to the State coffers—every dime of the \$40 contribution from the sale of these plates goes to the MN 100 Club to support families of First Responders.

The MN 100 Club is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1972 with the goal of providing immediate financial assistance to families of First Responders who are killed or critically injured in the line of duty. Since it was founded, the Club has supported over 500 families when they've needed it the most. In 2023 alone, fourteen families received over \$220,000

in financial support from the MN Club. That amount is already over \$175,000 for 2024. This support means that surviving family members don't have to worry about going to work or paying for a funeral while they are experiencing some of the most difficult days of their lives.

Over the years, the maximum benefit payment that the MN 100 Club has made has risen from \$1000 to \$50,000.

This is made possible because of the support from thousands of Minnesotans who stand behind First Responders and show it through making annual membership contributions, participating in special events, and now, buying and renewing license plates. They have made the MN 100 Club license plate one of the best-selling specialty license plates in the State.

So the next time you see someone who asks what they can do to help First Responders, please consider telling them to get a MN 100 Club license plate. It's the easiest thing they can do to show their support every day and to make sure the MN 100 Club can all be there for the next family who needs us.

More information about getting a MN 100 Club license plate can be found at www.mn100club.org. ♦



MN100 CLUB LICENSE PLATE

Now Available for Purchase



Visit any DMV location to purchase the MN100 Club License Plate or request an online application by emailing: info@MN100Club.org.

For more information, call Julie Gotham at 612-859-4576



Please encourage your departments to display these license plates on their squad cars to help promote the MN100 Club. The cost is \$3.00 per plate. If you would also like to personally support the MN100 Club, you can purchase these plates for your personal vehicles at a cost of \$40.00. All proceeds go to the MN100 Club to assist First Responders who are critically injured or killed in the line of duty.

2025 ANNUAL FLORIDA LE CONNECTION!!

GREETINGS TO ALL FROM WARM AND SUNNY FLORIDA!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL FLORIDA LE CONNECTION!!

Retired and Active Law Enforcement Officers from all jurisdictions (primarily Minnesota) will gather to discuss issues related to retirement: state and federal legislation impacting us, pension, taxes, medical insurance, and other topics of joint interest. Join us to chat about issues of the day or reminisce of the days gone by. Past gatherings have been enjoyable for all.

WHEN:

March 06, 2025; 1130-1400 hrs.

COST:

\$19.75/person

(Service gratuities are additional)

WHERE:

The Hotel Jacaranda
19 East Main Street
Avon Park, FL 33825
www.hoteljac.com
863-453-2211

The Hotel Jacaranda all-you-can-eat lunch buffet features Southern-fried chicken and other regional cuisine along with daily favorites, a salad bar, a dessert bar, and beverage. Guests are frequently invited to sample specialty dishes created by South Florida State College's Culinary Arts students.

AGENDA:

1130-1200	Meet & Greet
1200-1300	Buffet Lunch
1300-1400	Discussion

Please RSVP by February 26th, 2025 so we have an accurate head count.

BRENT RICHTER

Retired MSP Trooper
612-384-7263
brc196@gmail.com

MARTY EARLEY

Retired Bloomington Officer
952-292-0713
mearley154@gmail.com

TIM SHANLEY

Retired BCA Agent
612-655-1358
ferty09tim@gmail.com

SEAN GORMLEY

Retired Corcoran PD Chief & Director LELS
763-242-9153
gorm110@hotmail.com

MIKE HAMM

Retired Conservation Officer
612-306-1102
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MINNESOTA RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

GREETINGS EVERYONE,

I am writing this article to give you a little more information on an association many of you may join after retirement from the State Patrol. This association is called the Minnesota Retired Peace Officers Association. Our membership includes retired officers that paid into and are eligible for benefits through the MSRS State Patrol Plan. Here is a list of departments that make up our membership. Sworn retirees from the: Minnesota State Patrol, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Gambling Enforcement Agency, Department of Commerce Fraud Investigators, DOC Fugitive Apprehension Unit and DNR Conservation Officers. Your first year of membership is free! Depending on when you retire it could be close to 12 months or only one month. But the important thing to remember is to contact the Secretary/Treasurer before you retire or soon

after you retire. Departmental HR staff will not give us your name or contact information once you retire. It really is up to you to contact us and request membership information. We have a website that explains our Association a little more and it has a downloadable membership application. For membership after your first year, it is only \$10 per year! Really!! We have associate memberships for spouses as well, they are free while the member is alive. Then an Associate may continue to be a member for only \$4 per year. Check out our website for benefits including our annual \$2,000 scholarship for law enforcement schooling.

www.mrpoa.net

As always, be safe and take care of your partners.

Scott Fredell (ret. SP553)

Secretary/Treasurer of MRPOA

MRPOA Bios

President Mike Hamm



Retired MN Conservation Officer, 1977 to 2008. Retired as Chief., Past MCOA President, V-President, Past MLEA

President, V-President, Board Member, Past MPPOA President, V-President, Board Member, MRPOA mem.

Vice President Joe Dellwo



Retired Stated Trooper, 1999-2021, Served as District 2500 delegate from 2013 to 2016, Served as President of the

MSPTA from 2016 to 2021, Served on MLEA Board 2016-2021, MRPOA member since 2021, Elected VP of MRP.

Secretary/Treasurer Scott Fredell



Retired State Trooper, 1999 to 2019, Served as District delegate to the MSPTA 2016-2019, MRPOA member since

2019, MRPOA webmaster, Elected as Secretary/Treasurer of MRPOA fall 2024.



The MRPOA would like to thank **Mary Schrader** (Retired MSP) for her unwavering dedication to the MRPOA as Secretary Treasurer. Mary served as our Secretary/Treasurer since 01-2013. Mary was instrumental in establishing the "Remember and Honor Section, Gone but not Forgotten Memorial Page" of retired members who have passed away and then coordinating that with retired Trooper Mark Baker in getting it published in the Trooper Magazine. Mary was involved with getting notification about the MRPOA to new retirees, updating our lapel pin, a part of organizing our Facebook page and internet page, keeping all informed of various agencies updates, 10-55 notices, and other important information. Mary was also instrumental in starting the MRPOA Scholarship Program. We wish Mary well in her future endeavors.

The MRPOA would also like to thank Bob Bushman (Retired BCA/MSP) for his dedication to the MRPOA as Vice-President, a position he has held since 01-2017. Bob was instrumental in securing a place for MRPOA to do their HR218 shoot, and was also on top of current retirement and health insurance concerns for members. We wish Bob well in his new role as the Sheriff of Lincoln County.



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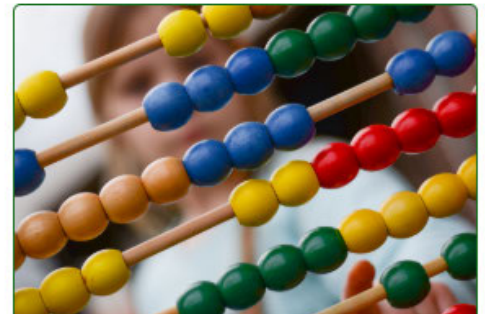
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WHEN AND SHOULD I REPORT CONDUCT TO THE POST BOARD



Mark Schneider
LELS General Counsel

Several POST Board rules were amended and became effective to address conduct that occurs on or after June 1, 2023. One of the new rules shortened the time period for a licensee to report any situation that would trigger disciplinary action by the POST Board. Prior to the change to the rule, a licensee had ninety (90) days to report to the board and chief law enforcement officer (CLEO) any incident which “the licensee reasonably believes would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under any of the board’s regulatory provisions.” Minn. R. 6700.1610, Subp. 2. A licensee is now required to report such incidents or conduct to the board and CLEO within **ten (10) days** “after learning of the reportable event.” Minn. R. 6710.1600, Subp. 3. Prior to the rule change, the POST Board/Complaint Investigation Committee interpreted the rule that an officer must self-report the conduct when their agency sustains an internal affairs complaint or when an officer is arrested or charged with a criminal act contrary to the standards of conduct. *See*, Minn. R. 6700.1600.

To further complicate matters, the POST Board rule concerning standards of conduct was amended to apply to conduct when a licensee “engages in” conduct rather than being convicted of a crime arising from that conduct. As a result, a licensee

has 10 days to report conduct that they “engaged in” and that they “reasonably believe” may violate a standard(s) of conduct or one of the 19 model policies of the POST Board. This expansion of the application of the rules likewise affected the timing or requirement to self-report conduct by the licensee to their CLEO and the POST Board. *See Summary—New Standards of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers, provided by the Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training.*

The ambiguity of “engaged in” and “reasonably believes” has not been further defined or limited by the POST Board. In fact, the board is including perceived failures to self-report in complaints issued by the board against licensees. As a result, licensed peace officers are put in a difficult position in deciding what to report, when to report or if they must report conduct or an incident to the POST Board. There are many legal and other implications in self-reporting to the board, including self-incrimination, due process and related issues. If an IA complaint regarding a violation of a policy that mirrors the board’s standards of conduct rules or model policies is sustained or a licensed peace officer is arrested or charged with a criminal act, the licensee should report the conduct to the CLEO and POST Board within ten (10) days. But what about

those allegations of misconduct that do not clearly fit within those parameters, or a genuine dispute exists as to whether a policy was violated. The reporting obligation is specifically triggered when the conduct occurs or when the allegation is made depending on whether the officer reasonably believed he or she engaged in such prohibited conduct.

Given the circumstances, it is important for you to contact your union representative or attorney to discuss any incidents you have been involved in to determine whether you must self-report the conduct or incident to the POST Board and how the notice will be provided to the POST Board. We are happy to assist you in any way to answer any questions regarding this process. Thank you and stay safe.

MSPTA D-2700 DONATION

Troopers Jonathon Carlson and Jamie Gilchrist handed Shaye Moris President/CEO of the Second Harvest Northland, a \$500 donation from the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association D2700.



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WHAT'S NEW AT THE INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT SECTION (ISS)?

There have been some new additions into District 2000 recently! The K-9 program added two new dogs and handlers after completing all their required training. Please welcome Trooper Kyle Koeberl and K9 Bolo (D2400), along with Trooper Noah Buhr and K9 Alex (D3100) to the program.

There are new additions to the reconstruction program as well. Captain Bartell recently added two full-time positions

to outstate Minnesota with the promotions of Sgt. Shawn Mathews and Sgt. Shaun Stang. Sgt. Mathews will assist in covering Districts 2100, 2200, and 2300, while Sgt. Stang will focus on the northern half the state outside the metro area. This is just the beginning in hopes of adding more full-time crash reconstructionists outside of the metro area. Both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, and we are excited to bring them to ISS!



Trooper Koeberl and Sgt. Chad Mills



Trooper Buhr and Sgt. Mills



Captain Bartell, Trooper Butler, Trooper Buhr, Trooper Koeberl, Sgt. Mills, Captain Frankfurth, and Lt. Stricker



Captain Bartell, Sgt. Mathews, Sgt. Stang, and Lt. Stricker

MSPTA MANKATO D-2200 DONATION

District 2200 proudly continued its tradition of giving this Christmas season. Since 2010 the district has held an event in order to contribute to the Toys for Tots toy drive. Thanks to the generosity of the district's troopers, retired troopers, supervisors, support staff, Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association, as well as our partners in the neighboring MNDOT and DVS offices, the district collected 90 toys and \$280 in cash. A big thank you to all who helped make a child's holiday season a little brighter!



What's New... continued from page 30



Trooper Buhr And Alex



Trooper Koeberl and Bolo



Sgt. Mathews and Sgt. Stang



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