



THE INFORMER

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

6944 Forest Hill Avenue • Richmond, Virginia 23225
(804) 320-6272 • (804) 320-2616 (FAX)
E-Mail Address: VSPASSOCIATION@AOL.COM
Web Site: www.vspa.org

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MARCH 2003

In honor of "Midnight Roller"

Remembering Trooper Mike Blanton, Unit 971

Fifteen minutes before the altercation that took his life, Trooper Michael "Mike" Blanton was in the radio room at the Division One office, chatting with the dispatchers and looking at magazines.

Dispatcher Stephanie Dickinson worked with Mike the past 2-1/2 years.

"We were chatting about everything that night," she recalled. "I consider Mike to be my best friend. He was very personable. He always took



the time to ask us (the dispatchers) how we were doing. If he didn't come by when he was working, he would call us to check in."

Mike had one day of midnights left when he pulled over a speeding BMW on Interstate 64 in Rich-

mond shortly after 2:30 a.m. on the chilly pre-dawn hours of Jan. 29. The driver of the vehicle took off, with Mike hanging half in and half out of

the speeding vehicle. It crashed into a fence and turned over on the young trooper.

"As he headed out the door, Mike said he was going to go stir up trouble because I looked bored. I told him he didn't have to do anything on my behalf; I had plenty of magazines to look at."

She recalled that he laughed and jokingly replied, "I always have to end my day with a bang."

Within the hour, her laughter would turn to tears as the information of Mike's injuries came over the airwaves. *continued on page 3* ►

AIMS ARRIVES

Each division receives new accident reconstruction kit



Seven years after First Division began using a top of the line accident reconstruction kit called Total Station

Measurement Technology, the technology is finally spreading across the Commonwealth.

Seventh Division received its kit last year. In February, Divisions Two through Six received a Nikon Automated Investigation Measuring System (AIMS), a combination of electronic measuring and data collection equipment and two laptop computers. Troopers in each division have undergone training to learn to operate this equipment, according to Senior Troop-

er Rick Dowsett, a member of the Virginia Commonwealth University Accident Reconstruction Team.

"The troopers in Seventh Division were excited when they received their equipment, but no one knew they had it so it took them awhile to get called out to the scene *continued on page 4* ►

*Check pg. 5 for 29th Annual
Conference info —
March 21-23, Virginia Beach*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEMBERSHIP:

During the past few months, the board of the VSPA has been working on the Association's annual budget, the legislative agenda, and the 29th annual conference.

In October, prior to the first rounds of cuts, the VSPA talked with Mr. Robert M. Blue, Counselor to the Governor, and discussed the VSPA issues concerning our membership, which included pay, healthcare, and retirement. He implied he would convey these issues to the governor's office.

The VSPA 2003 budget was submitted by the executive committee at the November board meeting. During that meeting the budget was approved and accepted. If we remain within the 2003 budget, we will have a surplus, which will be transferred over into an investment account.

On the legislative front, we met with the Director of the Virginia retirement System (VRS) who has given us

authority to contract with the research firm the VRS uses to do our actuarial study. We are now in the process of having the study completed so we can provide it to the legislators for the 2003 session.

This actuarial study will show how the Virginia State Police retirement system compares with the all the other State Police Agencies in the country and what multipliers are used to calculate annual final compensation (AFC). We believe this study will show there is a need to enhance our retirement benefits.

Our own in-house survey shows the VSP ranked close to the bottom when compared with other state police retirement systems.

The VSPA is now in the process of



Ed Haith

putting together a guide/portfolio where a member can assemble all important and necessary documents needed in case of a tragic incident. The gravity and need of this has been brought to our attention as a result of the tragic deaths of Mark Cosslett and Mike Blanton.

We are making the final arrangements on the 2003 conference. We

asked Terry Stevens to work on obtaining donations for the conference and she is doing an excellent job.

Just a reminder: A limited number of first time conference attendees are eligible for free conference registration. Contact the VSPA office for details.

Looking forward to seeing you there. □

GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

Contact the VSPA and let us know how we can help.

MAIN EMAIL ADDRESS: VSPASSOCIATION@AOL.COM

VSPA BOARD MEMBERS

President, **Edward Haith, Jr.** — Edhaithjr@aol.com

Headquarters Division Representative, **David L. Batkins** — Un1t4252@aol.com

First Vice-President, **E. J. Kelly** — Kelyejk@aol.com

First Division Representative, **William "Smitty" H. Smith, IV** — Wsmith@crosslink.net

Second Vice-President, **Roy L. Kyle** — Rlkyle@naxs.com

Second Division Representative, **Sean Fregoso** — vsp1606@cs.com

Secretary, **Kenneth R. Bumgarner** — Kennethbumgarner@hotmail.com

Third Division Representative, **J. B. Watson** — jbw125@aol.com

Treasurer, **Randy D. Beeson** — randy.beeson@richmond.edu

Fourth Division Representative, **Mark W. Sutherland** — VSP1315@aol.com

Fifth Division Representative, **Warren T. Desper** — cd1954@aol.com

General Counsel, **William F. Etherington** — wetherington@bealelaw.com

Sixth Division Representative, **Michael Keen** — Keenx2@aol.com

Government Relations Director, **William P. Elwood** — Belwood@erols.com

Seventh Division Representative, **Matt Hanley** — hazmat374@cox.net

Ex-Officio, **Michael W. Berry** — Uciman@hotmail.com

VSPA EMPLOYEES

Executive Assistant, **Sandra S. Winfree** — Sandravspa@aol.com

Merchandise Coordinator, **Cheryl A. Shelley** — vspamerchandise@aol.com

Membership Coordinator, **Janice Bowry** — vspamembers@aol.com

PR Mgr & Editor of Publications, **Tammy C. Poole** — vspaeditor@aol.com

Remembering Tpr. Mike Blanton, *continued from page 1*

"I couldn't believe it. He was one of the most hard-working troopers I ever met.

Mike was a wonderful co-worker, husband and father. When he spoke of his wife, Dana, and 6-year-old son, Spenser, a broad grin would light up his face.

The fair-skinned young man also blushed easily. His cheeks were naturally a little rosy and when he would come into the office after a busy shift, his rosy cheeks often made him the subject of a little good-natured teasing.

"We'd say, 'Trooper Blanton's cheeks are all rosy. He must have been out writing tickets and catching drunk drivers.'"

Mike's reputation for catching drunk drivers was legendary in Division One.

"A couple of the Hanover officers called him 'Midnight Roller,'" she said. "It seems like every time he worked the midnight shift, he would catch at least one drunk driver. Sometimes he would arrest two or three in an eight hour shift."

Mike seemed to have a sixth sense when it came to ferreting out drunk drivers. He knew where to go to find them.

"He said there were too many innocent lives that could be taken by people out there acting stupid by drinking and driving. He devoted a good amount of his career to cleaning up the streets."

Stephanie said it could be a quiet shift on midnights and suddenly Mike's voice would come over the radio.

"971, Richmond. I'm 10-95, 10-55."

"All the dispatchers would shake their heads and laugh. We knew Mike had done it again."

One of the things she said she admired most about him was the way he critiqued his DUI arrests. He would bring the tape from his car camera up to Division headquarters and review his latest arrest.

"When I'd tell him he was already the best at what he did, he'd say, 'No, no. There's always room for improvement.'"

Mike led the Division in DUI arrests, according to his supervisor, Sgt. Scott Downs.

"In the first quarter, which ran from August 2002 through October 2002, Mike made 21 DUI arrests and received a commendation for his efforts. Counting the first six months of the enforcement period, from August 2002 through his death in January, Mike made more than 40 DUI arrests. He was exceptional when it came to locating and arresting drunk drivers."

Mike often said his goal was to make the streets safe for innocent people to drive on, according to his family and co-workers. He had won several awards from the Richmond Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his DUI enforcement.

Mike diligently reviewed his DUI arrests, Sgt. Downs said.

"He used the camera religiously. Before an arrest, he would turn the tape on and narrate what he was seeing when the offense occurred. He would make cues to himself about what he was seeing. If the suspect dropped his foot at the count of five as he was walking or if he skipped a step, Mike would softly call out that number to himself so he would write that down."

Countless lives were saved by Mike's efforts to keep intoxicated drivers off the streets, his sergeant said.

Linda K. Volovick, president of the Richmond Area Chapter of MADD, said their chapter and the entire Richmond community expressed its "deepest and most sincere sorrow for the untimely and tragic death of Trooper Blanton ... On Jan. 29, Virginia lost a hero. Trooper II Michael T. Blanton was a man who was dedicated to saving lives on Virginia's roads. Trooper Blanton arrested more than 400 drivers for DUI in his much too brief career. Unlike alcohol-related fatalities, there are no statistics to track how many people were spared from death or disability because of Trooper Blanton. Be assured, though, that some of us are here today because of the work of law enforcement officers such as Trooper

Blanton.

"Trooper Blanton took great pride in his DUI arrest and conviction record. For the past three consecutive years, Mothers Against Drunk Driving recognized him for his outstanding efforts in enforcement based on the recommendation of his superiors. We are constantly reminding the public of the dangers of drinking and driving. Most people get the message. For the others, the people who refuse to act responsibly, the efforts of dedicated law enforcement officers such as Trooper Blanton prevent highway deaths every day.

"How easy it would be to look the other way when a car is weaving down the highway and your shift is ending soon. But officers such as Trooper Blanton can't look the other way. These officers are proud of their work and believe that protecting citizens is their calling. Thank God there are Troopers like Michael Blanton who want to keep doing what they do."

Mike always seemed conscious of the dangers of being a Virginia State Trooper.

"When Gary Horner got shot last year, Mike said it was going to be a trying time for all of us," Stephanie said. "He said we've always been a family and that we'll always be a family. He said families stick together and get through the tough times. No matter what, Mike said that with the love and support of God and one's family, you can overcome anything. It's not going to be easy or a walk in the park, it will be tough. But we'll stick together and get through it."

She said Mike had commented that something was bound to happen to troopers because of the type of work they were in.

"We may sprain our ankle or get in a fight and get a bloody nose. It's bound to happen," she recalled him saying.

Everyone respected and admired Mike Blanton. From his family to his co-workers to the area Mothers Against Drunk Driving Chapter, Trooper Mike Blanton was among the best of the best.

"As a supervisor, having Mike as an employee was *continued on page 4* ▶



PORTION OF VSPA DUES IS DEDUCTIBLE IF YOU QUALIFY

The Association has elected **not to pay** the Proxy tax related to its lobbying activity. Therefore, under Internal Revenue Code Section 6033(e), the nondeductible portion of your dues paid for 2002 is 67 percent. The remaining portion of your dues may be deductible as a miscellaneous business expense. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of your dues.

Remembering Tpr. Mike Blanton, *continued from page 3*

wonderful. He never did anything wrong, so the only things I had to say to him were good things. What can you say about a guy like that? He was a very conscientious person. His drunk driving stops were by the book.”

When Mike was out on the street, he was extremely professional.

“He promoted the trooper image to its fullest,” Sgt. Downs said. “When he came into the office, his lighter side would come out. He would joke and cut up with the other guys.”

Stephanie said the funeral service for Mike was fitting for a true hero.

“There were officers from Henrico and Hanover in the crossovers, blocking off the ramp. They stood at attention and saluted until the last car went by. Fire fighters stood at attention beside fire engines on overpasses.

American flags hung from the engines.

“Mike would have been so proud. He was always proud of wearing the badge. He’ll be missed very much. I hope the next time we hear about Mike and the media is when justice is served for his killer.”

In addition to his pride in being a Virginia State Trooper, Mike was a very patriotic individual, Sgt. Downs said.

“His favorite song was ‘God Bless the USA,’ ” by Lee Greenwood. That was sung at his funeral.”

Sgt. Lambert read the poem, “Cop on the Take,” at Mike’s funeral. A copy of the poem was found in his mailbox at work the day he was killed, according to Sgt. Downs.

Stephanie said she would always be haunted by the “what-if” thoughts relating to her friend and co-worker’s death.

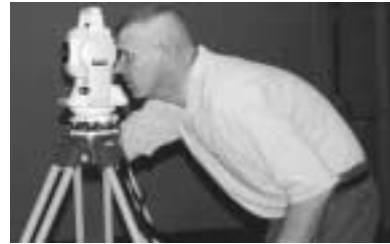
“Like what if he had stayed at the office for a few minutes longer? That thought keeps running through my mind over and over again.”

Though his death was tragic, Mike’s co-workers are trying to focus on the joy with which he lived his life.

“When he talked about his wife and son, his face lit up. A smile would appear and he’d get a twinkle in his eye. He was such a proud husband, father and trooper. Mike was always anxious to spend time with his family. Whenever a group of us would get together after working midnights, Mike would refuse to go out with us. He’d tell us he hadn’t been able to spend as much time as he liked with Spenser while he worked the midnight shift so they were going to go to the park, hang out and play ball.”

He will be missed. □

AIMS Arrives, *continued from page 1*



precision instrument, which quickly and accurately measures angles and distances to a reflective prism or any reflective surface on which the

operator focuses. One person operates the instrument while a second person positions the prism target at each point to be measured.

operator focuses. One person operates the instrument while a second person positions the prism target at each point to be measured.

“The money — approximately \$15,000 per Division — came from a Highway Safety Grant. This all started when Major Conklin was a field commander and saw the need for it. Col. Scott was in charge of seeing that the grant application went through.”

The system is designed to diagram an accident or crime scene faster and more accurately than possible using conventional measuring techniques.

Dowsett encourages troopers throughout the state to make use of the new technology whenever they have a complicated accident that needs to be reconstructed.

“When the guys in 7th Division trained to learn how to use theirs last year, they were frustrated at first because no one knew they had it.” □



of accidents,” Dowsett said. “We’re hoping that the troopers will read about this in The Informer and make use of these guys and their equipment.”

The instrument in first division has traveled the entire state when requested to do crash and crime scenes. That instru-



and trained together so all of them speak the same language and can be borrowed by other divisions if needed for large scenes or special circumstances.

Measurement at the scene is performed using a Nikon Total Station. The Total Station is a

IT’S TIME TO REGISTER

March 1 was deadline to register for VSPA’s 29th annual conference and receive discount

The Virginia State Police Association encourages new troopers and first-time conference attendees to get involved with the Association by attending the annual conference at Virginia Beach. This is your event. We want you to get involved. Plan to make a quick weekend getaway with your friends and co-workers this March 21, 22 and 23 at the 29th annual VSPA conference.

March 1 was the deadline to register with the Association to receive the discounted registration rate of \$100, a savings of \$50 per couple.

Room reservations must be made by calling the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront at (800) 365-3032. Any reservations received after Feb. 28 are honored on a space available basis at the group rate.

Conference plans are still being finalized; however, there will be a golf outing on Friday, March 21, at the Red Wing Golf Course. The fee is \$50 per player, including mulligans. For more information, contact VSPA 2nd Vice President Roy Kyle at (276) 429-2470 or by email at Rlkyle@naxs.com.

Sign-in registration for the weekend begins at 1 p.m. on Friday, followed by the Hospitality Hour from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

In keeping with the beach motif,

this year’s theme is “Cheeseburger in Paradise.” Be sure to pack your favorite Hawaiian shirt, Bermuda shorts and Birkenstocks for this fun event. Conference attendees will dance the night away to retro music provided by The Disc Junkie. A buffet dinner will be provided.

On Saturday, the General Membership Meeting is the first order of business. Members get an update on the status of the Association’s financial standing from Mitchell Wiggins & Co. A legislative wrap-up from the 2003 General Assembly will be explained by VSPA lobbyist Bill Elwood. Workers Compensation information will be provided by Michael Kernbach, followed by a presentation by Jack Jennings of Legal Resources.

The VSPA Auxiliary Meeting is held at the same time as the General Membership Meeting. On the VSPAA agenda is the Tacky Tourist competition and election of officers for 2003-2004. None of the officers on this year’s auxiliary board plan to run for office again, so the future of the auxiliary depends on members who are willing to serve on the board.

The annual awards ceremony, complete with luncheon, begins at 10:30 a.m. The VSPA Citizenship Awards will

be presented at this time.

Interested in a little shopping? There will be vendors peddling their wares on both Friday and Saturday afternoons as well as the chance to purchase VSPA merchandise both days.

Saturday’s hospitality hour begins at 3 p.m., followed by a semi-formal dinner at 7 p.m. A photographer will be on hand to take pictures of couples before the dinner dance. The entertainment for this year’s dance is provided by “Juke Box Heroes,” the band that entertained at Governor Mark Warner’s inaugural ball.

The conference wraps up on Sunday with morning worship lead by First Sgt. Steven Chumney.

If you are a regular conference attendee, we assure you that this year’s event is going to be one of the best ever. Attractions at Virginia Beach coupled with a lower fee for rooms and first-class entertainment will make this an enjoyable chance to get together with other members.

If you have never attended a VSPA conference, this one would be a great one to attend. Congratulations to the first-time attendees who won free registration for this conference. We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting annual event.

For more information, please contact the association at (804) 320-6272. □

Letters to the Editor

From Tpr. Cosslett’s parents:

Dear Friends,

There is no adequate way to express our appreciation to everyone who planned and carried out the marvelous tributes to our son, Mark Cosslett, but we will try.

The visitations, funeral service, procession to Quantico, service at Quantico, and the reception will live in our memories forever. They paid the highest honor to the person we all loved.

We can only imagine the number

of hours and the headaches that went into the preparation, but we thank everyone who was involved. The accommodations for our family were outstanding and greatly appreciated by all.

Mark had expressed to us how honored he felt to be a representative to the State Police Association and took his position very seriously. The article in The Informer made us very proud, and Mark would have been humbled by such praise.

We loved him and will miss him, and it was obvious that you feel the same. But, in our grief, we are grateful to know that he had a profession

he loved and so many wonderful friends and co-workers.

Sincerely,
Carl and Gwen Cosslett
Mark’s parents

**Letters to the Editor
Are Welcome**

The Informer *wants to hear from you.* Send letters to the editor as follows:

Attention Tammy Poole, VSPA
6944 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225
or via email
vspaeditor@aol.com

VSPA Pursues Aggressive Agenda Despite Budget Woes

The 2003 Session of the Virginia General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 12, 2003 amid the backdrop of an unparalleled budget crisis and a change of leadership in the House of Delegates. As new Speaker Bill Howell became accustomed to the reigns of power in the House, the Governor and General Assembly struggled to meet a budget shortfall that reached nearly \$6 billion dollars over the last two years.

Despite this harsh reality, the Virginia State Police Association put forth an aggressive legislative agenda for the 2003 Session, recognizing the critical needs of our active and retired members were no less pressing and no less important in the face of the state's budget crisis. Especially in this time of great need, it was the intention of the Association to take every opportunity to press the case for better pay, better retirement, better benefits and better working conditions for its members.

It was critically important that our members do their part also. Throughout the Session, VSPA key contacts were given detailed information on the major issues, with who to contact and when to contact them, along with key points to cover. Of particular importance were the periodic flash updates that conveyed critical information and calls for action in a timely manner. Below is an outline of the Association's agenda for 2003 and its status at the beginning of the Session.

[Please note: By the time you read this, many of these issues will have been decided. Please do not take action on the basis of anything you read here. Instead, check the VSPA website at www.vspa.org for the latest updates.]

Retirement Issues

VSPA POSITION: *We support the enhancement of Virginia's SPORS retirement benefits to bring them in line with comparable state police systems in other states and several local systems within the Commonwealth. We oppose any efforts that would result in a disincentive to State Police officers to retire before age 65. We oppose any attempts to resume the practice of requiring state employees contribute a portion of their salaries into the retirement system.*

We secured the introduction of legislation in both the House and Senate to raise the SPORS multiplier from 1.7 to 2.5 (with the elimination of the supplement). **HB 1807** was introduced by Delegate Bill Carrico and was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. **SB 812** was introduced by Senator Ken Stolle and was to the Senate Finance Committee.

Recommended Action: [Check www.vspa.org for latest update] House Appropriations Committee:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+com+H2>

Senate Finance Committee:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+com+S5>

Full Text of HB 1807:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+H1807>

Full Text of SB 812:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB812>

Various other pieces of legislation were introduced that affected SPORS directly or VRS in general. Several deserve mention, including legislation that would have raised the

SPORS multiplier to 2.0 (and eliminate the supplement). While we appreciated the good intentions of those who sponsored these bills and although their provisions might appear attractive to some of our older members, especially those in their sixties, it provided less of a benefit to those between the ages of 50 to 67 receiving the supplement. After a great deal of consideration and discussion, the VSPA Board could not support these proposals, viewing them as making it less affordable for our members to retire at an earlier age.

Also introduced were House and Senate versions of legislation labeled the "Retirement Incentive Program Act of 2003." **HB 2481** (Delegate Bob Tata) would allow employees, with the approval of their agency, to receive an additional one to three years of additional service credit if they chose to apply for this program by September 15, 2003 (with retirement effective January 1, 2004). **It should be noted that law enforcement officers would not be eligible for this program under HB 2481 as introduced.** However, **SB 1207** (Senator Steve Newman) provided a similar program and **did include law enforcement officers in its introduced version.** While the initial prognosis for these bills was doubtful, we followed them closely to insure that we were not left out if they became law.

HB 2481:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+HB2481>

SB 1207:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB1207>

Finally, worth noting is a measure introduced in the Senate that would give average compensation credit to state employees as if they would have received regular salary increases between December 1, 2001 and November 30, 2004. **SB 883** was introduced by Senator William Wampler and is similar to legislation he carried last year that passed the Senate, but died in the House. Senator Frank Wagner introduced a similar concept in **SB 1191**. Also, Senator Charles Colgan introduced **SB 940**, which would extend payment of the SPORS supplement for a minimum period of fifteen years following retirement date, regardless of when that retirement might be.

SB 883:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB883>

SB 1191:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB1191>

SB 940:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB940>

Compensation

VSPA POSITION: *We support the implementation of a plan that will eliminate compensation inequities within the Department of State Police and will develop a system to retain Virginia State Police officers who being recruited heavily by*



Bob Elwood

Budget Woes, continued from page 6

other federal, state and local public safety agencies. We support innovative approaches to raising the revenue necessary to enable the Department of State Police to meet its training and equipment needs, thus freeing valuable resources to be devoted to implementing its retention plans.

As a result of the budget crisis, funds that had been set aside during the 2002 General Assembly for a general salary increase on December 1, 2003 for state employees were removed as part of the Governor's proposed budget for the 2003 Session. We continued to present the Department's retention plan to legislators and key policy makers in the executive branch. While sympathetic to our needs and in many cases very supportive of the retention plan's concepts, funding appeared not to be available at the beginning of the Session. We will continue to push this concept and encourage you to do so also.

We were also intrigued by a potential funding concept that was introduced by Delegate Phil Hamilton. In **HJR 555**, he proposed a constitutional amendment that would create the Public Safety Trust Fund. This fund would use monies collected by an increase in the sales tax on alcohol, beer and wine, beginning July 1, 2005. These funds could only be used for public safety purposes and would supplement, not replace, existing expenditures in this area. It is conceivable that these funds could be used for compensation, retirement and other similar purposes. As a proposed constitutional amendment, it would have to pass the 2003 and 2004 Sessions of the General Assembly. If successful, it would then be placed on the ballot for the general public to vote in the fall of 2004. This is an exciting concept and one that we should wholeheartedly support. **HJR 555** was assigned to the House Privileges and Elections Committee.

Recommended Action: [Check www.vspa.org for latest update] House Privileges and Elections Committee:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+com+HJ18>

HJR 555:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+com+HJ555>

Health Care

VSPA POSITION: *We support all efforts to ease the burden of increased health care costs on our employees, especially our retirees. We will work closely with the Virginia Governmental Employees Association and the State Health Benefits Reform Commission to achieve this goal. We support the payment by the Commonwealth of health insurance premiums of all state police officers disabled in the line of duty.*

After a premium increase last year that was devastating for state retirees (whose increase was not picked up by the state), policy makers were once again faced with the potential of a 16% premium increase, that would have raised the cost of family coverage to \$925 per month. In response, the state employee health plan faced a restructuring that would keep premiums down (and in some cases lower them) except for single coverage. However, details still remained to be worked out that may increase out of pocket expenses and various

deductibles. Delegate Lacey Putney introduced **HB 2620** that would remove the \$120 per month cap on the health insurance credit for retirees, thus allowing credit for service in excess of thirty years. This was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee.

HB 2620: 1

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+HB2620>

In an effort to bring Line of Duty health insurance benefits to all those previously disabled in the performance of their duties, as was the original intent of this law when it was first passed, VSPA had introduced (or supported) several bills to extend health insurance coverage *from this point forward* to all disabled law enforcement officers, regardless of when the injury occurred. Senator William Wampler introduced **SB 759** which would accomplish this purpose. It was in the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Ken Stolle introduced **SB 814**, which is identical in nature to SB 759. Delegate Bill Janis introduced **HB 1415** which used a different approach to accomplish the same objective. His bill was assigned to the House General Laws Committee. All three bills will need minor technical amendments. It should also be noted that there was significant fiscal impact from these bills, which made their passage difficult.

HB 1415:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+HB1415>

SB 759:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB759>

SB 814:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+ful+SB814>

Workers Compensation

At our request, Delegate Bill Carrico introduced **HB 1964** which would require coverage of preventative medications (such as Zocor) in heart and hypertension cases where the individual is not yet partially or totally disabled. This bill was introduced at the suggestion of VSPA workers compensation attorney Michael Kernbach. **HB 1964** was assigned to the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

House Commerce and Labor Committee:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+com+H14>

HB 1964:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?031+com+HB1964>

Conclusion

This was to be a short Session of the General Assembly and, as such, operating at a pace much faster than the regular session. Bills of interest were heard and decided very quickly. If you wish to make a legislative contact on any of these issues, you should check the VSPA website at www.vspa.org for the latest update. Look for flash updates and should you have any questions, please contact VSPA Government Relations Director Bill Elwood at (804) 780-2539 or by e-mail at belwood@erols.com. Thank you for your cooperation and participation during the 2003 General Assembly! □

Colonel Massengill Pleads Case for Trooper Pay Increase to Senate Finance Committee

During a presentation to the Senate Finance Committee-Public Safety Subcommittee on Jan. 24, 2003, Colonel Massengill provided information along with the compensation study and his personal remarks as follows to the committee members:

"I make the following comments knowing that the timing for such concerns is extremely poor because of the budget situation and fully realize that money to address these concerns are difficult. I would say to you that the most critical issue we have facing the Department of State Police today is our low pay.

"If the Virginia State Police is to remain the highly respected and highly professional department Virginians have historically come to know, immediate attention must be given to the pay of our troopers and agents. I review each exit interview, which is done on those employees leaving our Department. Clearly, pay is the number one reason State Police Officers are leaving our employment. Last year our Department lost 104 State Police Officers. Nineteen of these troopers were from the basic school, so I will not include those in my discussion today. Eighty-five troopers and special agents were lost, 29 retired, 14 went to federal jobs and nine to local departments with the remainder going to various other employment.

"We are losing troopers at an unprecedented rate and in locations where we have never lost them before. We are losing troopers to small local police departments such as PD Waverly as well as local sheriffs' departments, large departments such as Fairfax and Virginia Beach as well as state agencies such as ABC Enforcement and even to local fire departments. The only reason we are keeping up with our vacancy rate is because we employed 150 troopers last year from the State Police Academy to fill our vacancies. The simple truth is, we are getting them in the front door; but they are going out the back door. I would say to you that the only reason that these problems are not worse than they are is because of off-duty employment which allows our troopers to work their days and time off, that should be spent with their families, for extra money. This is being done at the Pentagon and airports in Northern Virginia and in work zones across the state.

"It must be recognized that State Troopers — because of what they do — are different than other state employees. If you do not think so, talk to Leslie Cosslett, the widow of Trooper Mark Cosslett who was killed in Northern Virginia during the sniper investigations; and if that doesn't convince you talk to our trooper who was shot six times in the rest area at New Kent who is recovering from those wounds and even then, if you need further discussions, talk to those troopers that arrested and took off Virginia's highways nearly 10,000 drunk drivers last year. Talk to them about the difficulties associated with arresting a drunk and even then, if you are not convinced, let me introduce you to some troop-

... immediate attention must be given to the pay of our troopers and agents.

ers who have kids that qualify for free lunches because of our low pay. I don't mean to unduly alarm you, but it's time that someone recognized that something must be done and done now.

"I would be happy to discuss this in more detail with any individual member who would like additional information. There is included in your packet a compensation study that will address many of the issues associated with pay-within the Department of State Police."

Pay Issues

- Low starting salary for troopers is severely impacting hiring and retention of sworn employees.
- The Department is in competition for sworn personnel with local and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the Sky Marshall Service.
- Starting salary comparison:

Virginia State Police.....	\$29,211
Richmond Police Dept.	\$32,695
Hanover Sheriff's Office	\$32,573
	up to \$35,830 for pre-certified applicants
Henrico County Division of Police	\$32,406
Chesterfield County Police Department	\$30,141
	up to \$37,676 for pre-certified applicants
- It takes between 18 and 24 months to recruit, hire, and train new troopers.
- The cost to hire and train each trooper is \$60,000.
- Historically, sworn personnel have not left the agency to seek employment with local law enforcement agencies. However, due to higher salaries, sworn personnel are now leaving the Virginia State Police for local law enforcement agencies.
- The Department conducted a review of exit interviews and salary was indicated as the number one reason why sworn employees left the Department.
- Throughout their careers, many sworn employees have found their salaries to be substantially lower than other employees of equal rank, substantially lower than other employees of lesser rank, and substantially lower than employees two ranks below with less total seniority with the Department.
- A plan to address this critical problem has been developed by the agency. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you at any time. □

Cutting costs

State Budget Woes Force the Department to Trim 5% from its Annual Budget

Preparing for the worst — a possible 15 percent cut across the agency — the Department of State Police was again spared from the harshest of cuts in state government and ordered to trim costs by 5 percent instead.

Governor Mark Warner spared law enforcement and education from the steeper cuts that affected agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles.

On the plus side, the 5 percent results in no layoffs of any sworn personnel, according to Col. Gerald Massengill.

"We just learned on Dec. 20 what the percentage would be. We worked on the details through the Christmas holidays and, after the first of the year, everyone knew what we decided."

The cuts will affect the remainder of this fiscal year through July and the 2004 fiscal year, Massengill said.

"We still are working out the details of some of the initiatives we put forward with the Director of Public Safety and the governor's budget people. Basically, the reduction will be addressed by eliminating some positions and absorbing those duties and responsibilities into the existing organizational structure of the Department."

Some of the cuts have already taken effect. One of these was restructuring the Special Operations Division (SOD) into a unit and the elimination of some positions in the Drug Enforcement Division (DED) by shifting some of the responsibilities into the other divisions of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI).

The Fugitive Apprehension Unit has been restructured with the special agents being moved back into GID of BCI. The agents will continue hunting down fugitives, but will also do other BCI work, Massengill said.

There will be restructuring of the Public Information Office. Longtime PIO Lucy Caldwell of Northern Vir-

ginia left for a position with the Department of Health in December. Central Virginia PIO Corinne Geller transferred to the Fraud Unit in November. Two other positions at SPHQ — a full time and a part-time — are already vacant.

A decrease in funding to the DARE Unit also meant restructuring for the people in this area, he said.

Crime Prevention coordination will undergo restructuring. The executive staff is being downsized, too.

"We started several weeks ago trying to realize as much savings as we could for this fiscal year."

Other cuts include reducing out-of-state travel, which is primarily for training purposes.

"We will not only reduce travel for out-of-state training, but also modify or reduce any training that is not absolutely necessary. We're reducing some of the firearms training relays and firearms training at the academy will utilize training ammunition, which is cheaper than the ammunition we use out in the field. However, any training that is necessary or needed for officer safety or recertification or furtherance of our core mission will certainly go forward."

The purchase and replacement of equipment has already been scrutinized for some time, according to Massengill. Only essential equipment will be replaced.

"In the end, some of these cuts are going to be difficult and unpleasant, but I think we've approached this in such a manner that we'll ensure the efficiency and safety of our department."

Massengill stressed that the cuts and restructures would not effect the daily operations of the Department.

"It has been extremely important to the executive staff to ensure that the mission of the Department is not effected and that there is safety for the people doing these jobs. I'm com-

pletely comfortable that such is the case."

One of the potential targets of the budget cuts is the long-awaited STARS program, which will upgrade and replace the aging radio system.

"The STARS project is still going forward," Massengill said. "We are maintaining an optimistic view in looking at STARS. We're in the phase now of where the consultants are still doing their work. We're fairly comfortable with the fact that their work will still continue next year. From that point on, once they finish their work, the governor and the legislature will have to decide what to do with STARS. It's a lot of money, but, frankly, I feel the governor and the leadership of the General Assembly understands the need for this program. During the Secure Virginia Panel's deliberations, discussions have focused on a strong need for a statewide communications system that will have interoperability and allow agencies to talk to each other. This project is long overdue and a need for that is understood by everyone. In the interim, we will continue to upgrade our present system with computers in the patrol cars, which presently there are approximately 200 vehicles with computers installed." □



6th Division Brings In Donations for Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke at Christmas

The Sixth Division recently went all out to help the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke with much-needed Christmas donations.

Donna Butt, the Commonwealth Coordinator for the division, was responsible for the successful drive.

"We have Commonwealth Coordinators' meetings every other month. During the October meeting, one of the coordinators said the December meeting would be at the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke. They asked that every coordinator bring a donation for the house since we were holding to the meeting there."

The Division's normal holiday routine is to do something for an adopted family during the holidays. This year, Donna put the Ronald McDonald box out instead.

"I came back from the meeting and did an article on the Ronald McDonald House and asked that each area put out a box for the event. Then I put a great big box here at headquarters in the break room to take the donations in. For a couple weeks, nothing much came in. Then I came in after four days of not being here, and it was almost full. People from all over the Sixth Division sent in phone cards, grocery gift cards, 200 canned items, used books, toiletries. One of the sergeants who drives for Abbot buses part-time sent in about 200 bottles of shampoo. This is such a wonderful place to work. The people are so generous."

Ronald McDonald Houses are sanctuaries for families who have a sick family member in a nearby hospital. The one in Roanoke can house up to 18 families at once. Families have private rooms and share a kitchen and other common areas. They always are in need of household supplies including laundry detergent, soap, cereal, etc.

The volunteer staff serves guests one hot meal a day, which is dinner. They want the guests to feel they are almost at home. The house, an English Tudor, does not have a hotel look.

Every room is decorated differently. There is a playroom for younger guests. Families pay \$15 a night and are responsible for cleaning their own room. They vacuum, wash dishes and have their choice of three washing machines in which to do laundry. The pantry, which is always full, has a variety of canned goods available. They don't have to buy anything while they're here.

"Nearly every area office in our division participated. The Clifton Forge Area Office was extremely generous. They sent in boxes and bags full of items. It was so wonderful. Here we were with the state being in such a situation, and nobody knew what was going to happen to us in December. Everybody was so generous at Christmas and some part-timers who gave didn't even know if they would have a job. I was so overwhelmed. I think the rest of the Department needs to know what this division did. The people really made this work."

The areas that participated in the event were Area 38 (Clifton Forge), Area

39 (Lexington), Area 40 (Roanoke), Area 42 (Martinsville), Area 43 (Danville), Division 6 Headquarters Staff (Salem) which includes GID (also one of the most to contribute) and DED/IFD (also contributed a large amount, one lady contributed about two cases of baby formula that she could not use).

When Donna loaded the items in her truck, it filled up the bed. The donations filled up the counter space in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen and overflowed onto the floor. They also had four boxes of stuffed animals that the Marine Corp brought by to add to the stash as well.

"It was so neat. I had tears in my eyes. At the Dec. 7 Commonwealth meeting, the other ladies had me get up and tell the story."

Guests at the Ronald McDonald Houses appreciate home baked goods so Donna made some homemade suckers to add to the VSP donation.

"I had the best time doing it. We're planning on having the 2003 meeting there this December and I plan on doing it again this year." □

I Need Your Help

The Virginia State Police is Raffling a 2003 Harley Davidson Screamin Eagle Deuce For Special Olympics Virginia.

We have Rented a Slot for the
Cycle World International M/C Show - Dulles Convention Center
The Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows
Dulles Expo & Convention Center
4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA 20153

Friday, March 21st	4:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday, March 22nd	10:00am - 9:00pm
Sunday, March 23rd	10:00am - 5:00pm

I'm trying to get volunteers to come spend a couple hours at the show and help sell tickets.

Hours needed are listed above.

Come see some of the world's best motorcycles and help some of the world's best Special Olympics Athletes.

Contact Sergeant Dean Jones at 703-323-4519
(All Volunteers will receive a 2003 Special Olympics shirt and hat)

Shootings Are Leading Cause of Death Law Enforcement Fatalities Reach 147 for 2002

Washington, D.C.— In the year 2002, 147 law enforcement officers across the nation were killed in the line of duty, well below the decade-long average of 165 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when 230 officers were killed, including 72 officers in the September 11th terrorist attacks.

According to preliminary figures released jointly by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), the states that suffered most were Texas (15 fatalities), South Carolina (nine fatalities), California (eight fatalities), North Carolina (seven fatalities), Maryland (six fatalities), New York (six fatalities) Arizona (five fatalities), Florida (five fatalities), Illinois (five fatalities), and Missouri (five fatalities). The figures also include 10 federal law enforcement fatalities.

Of the 147 officers killed during 2002, 55 were shot to death; 44 died in automobile accidents; 14 were struck by automobiles while on duty outside their vehicles; eight succumbed to job-related illnesses; seven died in motorcycle accidents; seven were killed in aircraft accidents; three officers drowned; two officers were struck by a train; two officers were beaten to death; two officers were stabbed to death; one officer was killed in a bomb-related incident; one officer was killed by a falling object and one officer was killed in an accident involving a horse. Fourteen of the fallen were women, which tied the record high total set in 1998 for female officer deaths.

"Law enforcement remains the most dangerous occupation in America today, and those who serve and make the ultimate sacrifice are true portraits in courage," said Craig W. Floyd, chairman of the NLEOMF.

"While fatality numbers are thankfully lower this year, our nation's law enforcement officers are facing new and increasing risks and responsibilities," he said. "The good news is that better and

more advanced technology, training and equipment, along with tougher criminal justice and developments in emergency medical care, have helped save the lives of more officers."

"As we look back on a successful year in terms of the positive attention law enforcement has received, we must realize that the family and friends left behind are heroes as well," said Linda Hintergardt Soubirous, President of the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS). "Remembering and paying tribute to the fallen officers is vitally important, and COPS is here to help their surviving families cope with that devastating loss." □

National Troopers Coalition Line of Duty Deaths 2002

- Tpr. Kelly Poynter, MO: M/V
- Tpr. Lawrence P. Gleason, NY: Gunshot
- Tpr. Brian Keith Nichols, AL: M/V
- TFC Jimmie White, AR: M/V
- Officer John Pedro, CA: M/V
- Tpr. Michael Rao, SC: M/V
- Cpl. Kenneth Johnson, SC: Gunshot
- **Trooper Charles "Mark" Cosslett, VA: M/V**
- Tpr. Joseph J. Sepp, PA: Gunshot
- Tpr. Christopher Van Krevelen, OK, M/V
- Tpr. I Christopher S. Scales, NJ, M/V
- Tpr. Robert Ambrose, NY, M/V □



Virginia Masons
Grand Lodge of
Virginia
A.F.A.M.

Trooper Mark Cosslett Benefit Dinner



Virginia State Police

When: April 19, 2003
6P.M. - 9 P.M.

Where: Fairfax County Police Association
5625 Revercomb Ct., Fairfax, Va.

Cost: \$10.00 per ticket

Make checks payable to: Mark Cosslett Benefit Fund

To purchase tickets, contact Sergeant Dean Jones
703-323-4519 or Special Agent E. J. Kelly 703-
216-1525 or Any VSP Motor Unit

100% of ticket sale proceeds will go to the Cosslett family

Editor's note: Virginia State Police Sergeant Les Tyler, from Area 5, is an organizer for the "Shop with a Cop" program. He and his wife, Teresa, raised a lot of money through hosting fund raisers, bingo games, etc., on their own time. Second Division representative Sean Fregoso said that Les gets involved every year with the FOP and local merchants to make sure every child has a good Christmas.

Fredericksburg-Area Police Agencies Give Children Some Yuletide Cheer

By EDIE GROSS, *The Free Lance-Star*

Michael Axtman was very clear about his priorities.

"Where," said the 9-year-old, scanning the aisles at Target, "is the toy section?"

Before anyone could answer, he was moving toward the south side of the store, using a child's inner compass to guide him toward remote-control cars, robotic Legos and action figures.

"Dad, I'm gonna get you something real good," he said to his father, also named Michael, who was stuck pushing the cart. "You're gonna be playing with it all day."

Michael, a fourth-grader at Wide-water Elementary in Stafford County, joined 149 other local youngsters for Saturday's Shop-With-A-Cop program at the Central Park store. Each child, nominated by counselors from their school, received a \$100 gift certificate from Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 15.

Members of the lodge—which includes officers from Fredericksburg, Caroline, King George, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, the state police and numerous federal agencies—escorted the kids around the store, keeping track of their expenses.

Many children brought along parents and siblings. Michael Axtman and his 7-year-old sister, Hailey, each used parts of their gift certificates to buy gifts for younger sister Cheyenne, 5, who patiently tagged along.

"I'd like to get stuff for all the people I know," said Hailey, grabbing a Santa hat for her sister.

The FOP raises the money for the event throughout the year, hoping to sponsor shopping trips for at least 150 underprivileged kids during the holidays, said Dennis Estep, chairman of the program and a special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

"This is 100 percent funded by the

community," said Estep, a Spotsylvania County resident.

Lisa Hernandez of Fredericksburg was picking out shirts for her three boys when son Jose Reyes, 10, rounded the corner with his arms wrapped around seven packages of Bionicles, Lego robots with movable parts.

"All those pieces are going to be all over the house," she said to Jose. "You can get two."

He grinned and headed back to the toy section to replace the extras, but he was distracted in the sporting-goods department.

"Over here," he shouted to brothers Paul Carrillo, 12, and Peter Smith, 7. "Skateboards!"

He picked out a splendid specimen with an X Games logo painted on it, explaining to a spectator that not all skateboards are created equal.

"Some go faster and you catch better air," he said.

"OK," corrected older brother Paul, "a board cannot 'catch air.' Only the person riding the board can catch air."

But Jose was already on his way back to the toy department.

"I wonder how much money our mom's spending on clothes?" he said with a roll of his eyes.

Most of the kids and the law

enforcement officers arrived at the store before sunup. They were allowed to begin shopping at 7 a.m., an hour before the general public.

Hernandez's kids were up at 5:30 a.m.

"I had no problem waking them up this morning," she said.

By 9 a.m., Jhaiem Engles, 1, was fast asleep in the shopping cart. His brother, Jhamiek, 5, was trying to decide just how many Fisher-Price Rescue Heroes he should bring home.

"Jhamiek, you're kind of taking your time and your brother's knocked out," said mom Latisha Engles, hoping to light a fire under the Hartwood Elementary kindergartner.

This is the first time the Central Park Target has participated in Shop-With-A-Cop, said manager Fred Galzerano.

"It's a first for us, and we hope to do it for many years to come," he said. "It's a real nice feeling."

Anyone wishing to donate to the Shop-With-A-Cop program can contact Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 15 at Box 7393, Fredericksburg, Va. 22404, or call 540/891-0491. Donations are tax-deductible. □

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VSP Personnel Make Airports Safer

First Sergeant Rick Keevill and Trooper Jason Johannes participated in a Nov. 18 celebratory event held by the new Transportation Security Administration at National Airport.

According to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta, the agencies were gathered together that day announcing that they were proud to have achieved their primary goal of making sure that airports across the country were staffed with TSA agents and increased security presence within one year of the creation of the agency.

With 44,000 new employees, the

TSA met their deadlines and, according to Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, even exceeded all expectations from officials.

"We proved them wrong," he said.

According to Ridge, U.S. airports greet more than 600 million passengers annually and making sure they all get to their destinations safely is of vast importance. He said that 99 percent of all of these travelers are screened in less than 10 minutes.

The State Police has been staffing both Reagan National and Dulles International Airports since November

2001. According to Division VII Lieutenant Tom Martin, troopers and agents are enthusiastic about providing their services and enjoy the opportunity to assist the Metropolitan Airport Authority Police with their security force.

"Especially here in our region, we are living in an era that is more security-conscious than ever before. While traffic duties are still consuming the majority of our time, I would say that in many ways the role of a trooper has been greatly expanded. Our people are meeting and handling those increased challenges on a daily basis."

— Lucy Caldwell

Banker/Broker Can Help VSPA Members Secure Financing for a New Home

It's no secret, the mortgage rates are the lowest they have been in 40 years. Purchasing a home is advantageous, as your mortgage payments are frequently lower than rent, and it is a tax deduction. By re-financing, you may be able to save some significant money monthly, or take cash out to pay off debt or do home repairs.

My sister is a Sergeant with the Virginia State Police, so I see first hand the hard work and dedication that go hand in hand with your profession. In recognition, our Branch of American Residential Funding Inc. has designed a program in order to give back to those that give so much to us.

American Residential Funding is a banker/broker that helps individuals secure financing for home mortgages—purchases and refinances. We provide not only standard financing options, such as conventional, VA and FHA loans, but also a large variety of niche programs to help buyers secure financing. We have down payment assistance programs, 100% financing, as well as the Officer Next Door Program. Our program is comprised of several different services to help you.

We offer free pre-approvals and consultation on the home buying/financing process. You are also eligible for discount closing costs, and we will

offer competitive rates. We work with a trusted network of Realtors and Title Companies to help take the guesswork out of finding honest, reliable companies. All in all, we offer a one-stop shop to give you the best deal to minimize the time spent in the process, and simply make things easier for you.

All you have to do is let me know that you are a member of the Virginia

State Police. I know your schedules are hectic, so please feel free to call me on the weekend or during the evening. I look forward to it.

Christine Forker
Loan Officer
American Residential Funding, Inc.
(703) 728-0099 Mobile
(301) 262-2500 Office

VSPA Auxiliary News

Elections

This is an election year for the auxiliary. We need people to run for an office. If you are interested please let Cheryl Baker know. You may contact her at jbak31@comcast.net or (804) 595-0207. It doesn't appear that any of the current board is going to run again, so we need to fill all the positions.

Do You Know How to be a Tacky Tourist?

VSPAA will have a Tacky Tourist Party during their Saturday meeting at the conference. Prizes will be awarded to the top three tackiest tourists — so start planning now!!! Last year's contest was lots of fun so come on out and check out this year's contest!

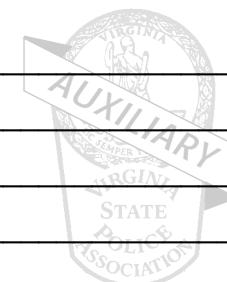
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION AUXILLIARY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Fund raisers for Special Olympics Held

The third annual "Uniting for a Cause" Virginia State Police Law Enforcement Torch Run softball tournament to benefit Special Olympics Virginia was held in Ironbridge Park on Oct. 5.

Six teams participated in the tournament, including Chesterfield's Sheriff's Office, Hanover Sheriff's Office, Norfolk's Sheriff's Office, VSP/BFO 1st Division, BCI 1st Division and VSP Moorefield BCI.

Everyone had a great time, whether it was playing on a team, cheering on a

favorite team or helping behind the scenes. The participating teams were all very eager and excited about playing and all felt the camaraderie among the teams and spectators.

The tournament and raffle combined brought in approximately \$3,000 for Special Olympics Virginia.

Without the support of law enforcement throughout the state, various vendors, restaurants and organizations for their donations for the raffle, this tournament would not have been such a success. We commend them for their efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those directly involved with the organization of the tournament. They are: Lin Spears, Taylor Blanton, J.C. Lewis, J.C. Miers, Sandra Antoine and Kelly Graham. A special thanks to Chesterfield Parks and Recreation for working with us to coordinate the days and times we wanted to occupy the fields and rearranging the make-up date. Also, thanks to all the participants who gave their time for such a worthwhile cause.

Next spring, hopefully some time in April, we will sponsor our fourth annual softball tournament and hope to increase our teams and the amount raised for Special Olympics Virginia. Please plan to attend and help support Virginia State Police efforts to raise funds to benefit Special Olympics Virginia — and have fun doing it.

Anyone interested in entering a law enforcement team, volunteering or

needs more information may contact Gail Moore, Special Olympics softball coordinator, at (804) 323-2022, BCI/CID.

In other Special Olympics news, the Virginia State Police sponsored two dances last year to benefit Special Olympics Virginia. The dances, in April and November, were held at the Overhill Lake Recreation Center in Hanover County. Music was by DJ LA.

Pete Britton, who now operates Overhill Lake, donated the use of the recreation center. DJ LA, who did a fantastic job for the events, donated his services.

A big thank you goes out to these men and also to Leslie MacAfee, Sandra Antoine, Kelly Graham and some personal friends who helped make the events a success by volunteering their time for this worthwhile event. Volunteers sold raffle tickets and dance tickets at the door, bartending and helping make the event run smoothly.

Turnout for the first dance was small but enjoyable. People said they had a good time and that they would attend another dance. We increased our crowd and doubled our money for Special Olympics at the second dance in November. Everyone enjoyed the dancing, karaoke and socializing.

The next dance, a Halloween costume party, is scheduled for Oct. 25, 2003. A beach party may be held this summer.

For more information about the dances or to volunteer, call Gail Moore at (804) 323-2022. □

Torch Run Cookbooks Available

Thanks to Donna Sheaves the 2002 Va. Law Enforcement Torch Run Cookbooks are now available! This book contains over 150 recipes donated by Friends of the Va. LETR and Special Olympics Virginia.

These will make great gifts for the holidays, while helping the over 14,000 athletes of Special Olympics Virginia. The cookbook can be purchased by clicking on:

id.45543/searchFor.torch+run/searchBy.0/searchFrom.0/display.htm

The cookbooks are \$7.25 each, plus \$2.00 for S&H. For more information call Donna at 276-783-5463.

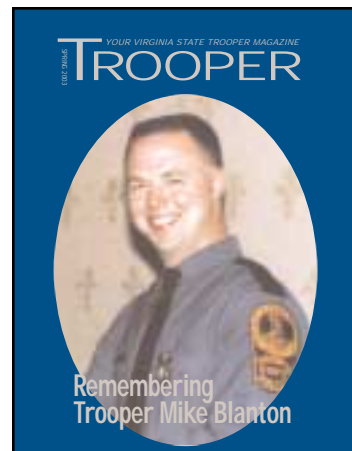
Area 18 Christmas Party



Your Virginia State Trooper Magazine honored in Best in Virginia Awards

"Your Virginia State Trooper" magazine, edited by Tammy Poole, received an honorable mention in the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Richmond 2002 Best in Virginia Awards.

IABC is an educational, non-profit professional association of more than 13,000 members dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in business communications. Members range from public relations and marketing to advertising, printing and graphic design. They include Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, health care institutions, universities, not-for-profit groups and independent contractors.



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VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

2003 MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRE FORM. THIS FORM HELPS US KEEP YOUR RECORD UP TO DATE.

{Please Print} **Last Name** _____ **MI** _____ **First Name** _____

Social Security No.: _____ - _____ - _____ **Sex:** Male Female **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: Home { } _____ **Work** { } _____ **E-Mail:** _____


Marital Status: Married Single **No. Of Dependents:** _____ **Birthday:** _____

Division No.: _____ {where you work} **Area No.:** _____ {where you work} **Rank:** _____

Status of Employment: **Full-Time** (Must be a full-time VSP employee to join the Association)

Date you estimate for retirement: _____ or **Retirement Status:** Regular Retirement Retired on Disability

I. MEMBERSHIP STATUS (Please check one):

- Annual Membership Dues: \$120.00
- New Membership Dues: **\$10.00 Enrollment Fee** +  see prorated schedule at the bottom of the form.
- Retired Membership Dues: \$120.00 {This amount is paid **until** the member receives his/her *Severance Grant*}
- Retired Membership Dues: \$60.00 {This amount is paid **after** the member has received his/her *Severance Grant*}

II. METHOD OF PAYMENT (Please check one):

- Enclosed is my check, payable to VSPA in the amount of \$ _____ Check No. _____
- MasterCard** or **Visa** charge \$ _____ ; Account No. _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____
- My dues are currently being deducted from my paycheck. (Effective 01-01-02 payroll will increase dues from **\$2.50 a pay period to \$5.00**)
- I would like my dues deducted in equal amounts of \$10.00 per month from my paycheck. *Should I decide to stop my payroll deduction; I will contact the Virginia State Police payroll department, and the VSPA to note the change.*
Signature _____
- Please check here if you do **NOT** want your dues to be utilized by the Political Action Committee.

 **Prorated dues:** ~ Available **ONLY** to those joining for the first time:

January	\$120.00	April	\$90.00	July	\$60.00	October	\$30.00
February	\$110.00	May	\$80.00	August	\$50.00	November	\$20.00
March	\$100.00	June	\$70.00	September	\$40.00	December	\$10.00

Dues for subsequent years are \$120.00, regardless of when paid. In addition to the prorated dues listed above, first - time members must pay a one-time enrollment fee of \$10.00.

For Office Use Only

Membership Coordinator **Annual Renewal** **Retired Renewal** **New Member**
Payment: **Check** **Cash** **Charge** **Life Time Member**