



Virginia State Police Association

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Dear Members:

Greetings, I hope everyone enjoyed a great summer and you and your family are looking forward to the upcoming new school year and holiday season. Your board of directors and office staff have been very busy over the last year improving our communications between you, the membership, and exactly what actions the board is taking in representing your interests. One of my main goals as your President was to make sure this board was completely transparent in any action we might take. As most of you have been aware, we have provided the minutes of every VSPA board meeting via an “all members” emails to those who have provided us with their e-mail address. These board minutes are now posted on the new VSPA website.

Last year we announced updates to the new VSPA website. Each member was provided their user name and password to access the “members only” page on the website. If you do not have or can’t remember your sign-in information, please contact office via e-mail or by phone and she will provide it to you.

Once logged in, review/update your personal records, verify/update your mailing address, title and rank. If you are a sworn member (active or retired), please provide us with the Basic Session that you attended. If you are a retired member, your division will be the Division you retired from. As a member benefit to you, the new VSPA website will provide resources that assists you in staying up to date with your membership. You will also be able to access the VSPA Store and purchase discounted merchandise with your credit card. Another important reason to obtain a user name and password is because your current Board of Directors is considering the possibility of allowing future electronic voting in upcoming statewide and divisional elections.

Legislatively, the 2019 General Assembly approved a 2.75% across the board salary increase for all state employees. Additionally, they approved a 2.25% merit increase for all state employees with at least 3 years of continuous service. These enhancements will result in a 5% salary increase for most. The enhancements took affect on June 10, 2019.

In the wake of the 2017 murder of VSP Special Agent Mike Walter, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed a Bill requiring a mandatory minimum sentence of life without parole or death for any person convicted of murdering a police officer. The Bill disallows any reduction in sentence. Our own Senator Bill Carrico sponsored this legislation. Also instrumental in the passage of this Bill was the testimony of five VSP widows all of whom have lost their husbands in the line of duty.

Unfortunately, there were no enhancements to the health care credits for retirees, but we have been receiving positive feedback from the Governor’s office assuring us that one of his priorities is to improve this benefit for our retirees.

“To Be Mutually Helpful to One Another”

In 2008 the VSPA board adopted a formula for monthly dues. That formula provided for a slight annual dues increase until the dues reach the monthly equivalent of the starting hourly wage of a new Trooper (current new Trooper hourly wage is \$21.29.) Since 2000 member dues have only been increased four times, which has forced your VSPA Board of Director to cut the budget in all areas to meet the financial operating obligations of the association while at the same time not sacrificing any member benefits. After much deliberation at the July board meeting, the board unanimously approved a modest dues increase. Effective January 1, 2020 dues for active members will be increased by one dollar (\$1.00) per paycheck, or from the current level of \$10 per pay period to \$11 per pay period and monthly from \$20 to \$22. The decision by the VSPA Board to increase membership dues was not an easy one but a necessary one for the continued health of your association.

2020 is an election year for the VSPA Board of Directors. Enclosed you will find the Election Procedures, Election Paperwork Schedule as well as a Declaration of Candidacy. For those you who are interested in serving the membership I encourage you to get involved and run for a position.

On a much more somber note, on December 17, 2018, the VSP and VSPA lost one of our true "shining stars", Lieutenant E. J. Kelly. E. J. was a true friend and served as President of the VSPA from 2010 to 2014. His untimely and sudden death shocked our entire VSP family. His accomplishments and contributions both within the Department and on behalf of the VSPA are far too many to mention. EJ is survived by his wife Katie (who was also a Trooper) his son Patrick and his daughter McKenna. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Over 2,000 people, including representatives from many local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, attended his funeral. EJ's passing has left an enormous void in our organization. He will never be forgotten and will always be remembered. He was truly one of our heroes!

As we head into the holiday season and cooler weather, be careful, be safe and please feel free to call me or any member of the Board at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Kyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roy Kyle
President

/RLK

Enclosures