



Virginia State Police Association

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VSPA Membership,

This is probably the most difficult President's Message I have ever attempted to write. I really do not know where to start. Last year at this time I was hoping that everyone had enjoyed a great summer and you and your family were looking forward to the upcoming new school year and the holiday season. As we all know, things have changed drastically since then.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors had to make the decision to not only cancel the 47th Annual Conference in Williamsburg but also the 2020 Family Picnic scheduled for Lynchburg on July 25th as well as the 4th and 7th Division Golf Tournaments. These decisions did not come easily, but I felt we had to help mitigate the spread of the virus within our entire membership and their families, our Department and the communities we serve. It is the first time in our history that we have had to cancel these events.

To complicate things even more, as you know March 2020 was a VSPA election year. As a result of the conference cancellation, it prevented us from installing our new incoming board of directors who would serve in their positions for the next two years. This was also important because as a result of the election, we had six new board members scheduled to take office. That is the largest turnover of board members we have experienced in recent history. After consulting with our General Counsel, I made the decision that the newly elected Board of Directors would take office on March 29, 2020. As a result, your VSPA has continued to operate via the Internet, emails and by phone. We recently conducted our first in person board meeting since December 7, 2019 on July 25, 2020.

Over the past few months we have attempted to make you aware of our new VSPA website (www.VSPA.org). It is extremely important that you obtain your password for the VSPA website if you have not done so. Effective with the 2022 statewide VSPA election, voting will be conducted on-line through our website. If you are unable to submit your vote on-line, you will need to contact the VSPA office and request that you be forwarded a hard copy ballot to be able to register your vote during the 2022 statewide election.

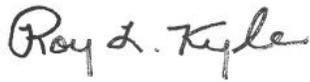
We are now being confronted with the unnecessary death of George Floyd, Jr. on May 25, 2020 and the "Defund the Police" issue gripping America. We have watched the horrific scenes of violence and mayhem over the last several weeks and months throughout our country and our Commonwealth. To our Troopers, Special Agents and support staff, we are well aware that hundreds of you have been on the front lines of this mayhem working countless hours of overtime. We just wanted to take a few minutes to remind ourselves that the vast majority of law-abiding Americans support you and appreciate the sacrifices you make every day to protect them, their homes and businesses while at the same time being away from your families and homes. Our jobs are thankless and while, at times, it seems there is little appreciation for what we do, again most law abiding Americans do appreciate it. Please know we also sincerely appreciate each and every one of you and are praying for you and your families during these extremely difficult and unprecedented times. We've got your "six". Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is any thing we can do to assist you.

"To Be Mutually Helpful to One Another"

I will not go into a lot of detail concerning the actions of the 2020 General Assembly because Wayne has kept you informed with what has transpired with his legislative updates. Bottom line is that we did not get everything we were hoping for, but we were at least happy with the final results of pay raises for the next two years and a partial attempt to address our pay compression issue. That was until we were confronted with the COVID-19 virus that has brought our country and State to our knees. As of this writing, we are in the middle of a special session of the General Assembly called for by our Governor who has already eliminated our previously approved pay raises for budgetary reasons with no “end” date in sight. I will assure you that Wayne will continue to keep you informed through the legislative updates. If you are not receiving the all member emails, please email the office at vspa@vspa.org and let us know so we can keep you notified.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not extend a sincere thank you to Wayne, your board of directors and Sandra and the office staff for putting in countless hours to keep your Association operating at near peak performance during these trying times. As your representatives, I promise you that we will always join together to adhere to our common motto of always being mutually helpful to one another. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, your Board of Directors or the office staff if we can be of assistance to you or your family. May God bless and keep you safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy D. Kyle".

Roy Kyle
President