

NHRSTA Annual Meeting
May 21, 2014
Red Blazer Restaurant, Concord, NH

Chairman Dave Kelley opened the annual business meeting at approximately 1830 hours by welcoming approximately 50 NHRSTA members and guests to the semi-annual dinner meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ernie Loomis followed by a moment of silence observed for fallen troopers, law enforcement officers and members of our military serving around the world.

Chairman Kelley also thanked all of the members of the Executive Board for their service and provided the following updates:

New display cases on the second floor at Headquarters – these five units were built by retired Sgt. Tom Moher, who is a master carpenter. The NHRSTA provided 1/3 of the funding required for the materials on this project. Photos of the installed units were sent out by HQ and the Association to our membership. If anyone has any memorabilia from their career that they would like to lend for a period of time, or contribute for display, please contact any board member.

State Police Newsletter – Headquarters has revised the practice of sending this out periodically during the year. In each edition, the NHRSTA is asked for information to include. Any retiree who would like to submit an article is also welcome to do so. Chairman Kelley talked about profiling our retirees and their careers to make our articles relevant with active NHSP members. The Executive Board will continue to work on this effort.

By-Law changes – At the Fall dinner meeting of the NHRSTA, Deb Noyes and members of the Noyes family attended and made a very generous donation to our Association. However, we were not able to accept it because we were not a tax exempt organization in the eyes of the IRS. Since that meeting, paperwork has been compiled by the Executive Board and submitted in or to continue functioning in our current capacity which allows us to lobby on health benefits and pension issues, as well as make donations as appropriate. As a part of this process, the membership was notified in April of a couple of proposed amendments to our By-Laws. Questions from those present at the dinner meeting were asked and answered. Ernie Loomis made a motion to accept the proposed amendments. Joe Broderick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Amendments:

NHRSTA By-Laws, Pg. 2, Art. 3, Para. 1

The Association is organized exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future

federal tax code. The Association seeks to promote, encourage, and assist in the enlightenment and education of the general public in matters of interest regarding State Police, and to promote health and welfare of retired members of the New Hampshire State Police.

NHRSTA By-Laws, Pg. 3, Art. 8, Paragraph 1

Upon dissolution of this Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Dinner Break

Cathy McHugh announced that the NHSP Benevolent Association was conducting their June raffle again in anticipation of the NASCAR weekend. She had tickets available for purchase for those interested.

Secretary's Report: Kathy Kimball reported that since the Fall 2013 dinner meeting:

- 5 invitations to join the NHRSTA have been sent to new retirees
- 7 completed membership applications were received and accepted (It appears that some retirees may be finding the application on the Association website or are just completing it after having been retired for a period of time.)
- 4 members were lost:
 - Lt. Leslie Menzies (6 donations to the NHRSTA were received in Lt. Menzies' memory; thank you letters were sent to the donors and donation acknowledgement letters were sent to Les' son and to his daughter)
 - Colonel Harold Knowlton
 - Anita Rossi (Executive Secretary)
 - Major Nick Halias – the NHRSTA donated 2 large flower arrangements which were displayed at his memorial service in April
- Many cards have been sent to our members and/or spouses following illness, surgery and/or treatments, as well as condolences
- **HR 218 Update:** The first two sessions for retiree firearms qualifications under HR 218 were held on Saturday, November 30, 2013 at the State

Police range in New Hampton. There were morning and afternoon sessions with a maximum of 12 shooters for each time slot. We had 28 retirees who indicated interest in those first 2 sessions and 23 slots were filled despite the date falling over the Thanksgiving holiday. A Spring qualification session was held on April 26, 2014 and 16 retirees participated. Headquarters will notify us in advance of the Fall 2014 session dates as this is an annual qualification course.

- **NH Charitable Trust Certification** was received on April 14, 2014 after the NHRSTA submitted the appropriate paperwork in our ongoing efforts to obtain tax exempt status.
- **Scholarship Committee** report on behalf of Jim White: he is waiting for Kennett High School to provide him with the name of this year's Sgt. Noyes Scholarship.

Joe Broderick made a motion to accept this report, seconded by Ernie Loomis. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Hilchey advised the following:

Checking account	\$26,840.11
CD (Citizens Bank)	\$ 7,140.66
Dues (2014)	\$ 7,513.00
Expenses	\$ 2,136.46

Peter reported that in the future, the Association's money will be calculated differently in order to be consistent with IRS paperwork.

Motion made by Mike Doucette to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Guy Kimball. All in favor.

Legislative Report: Ernie Loomis advised that no actions taken so far in this legislative session have impacted our health care benefits or our pensions. There were many bills initially entered of interest to us, some of which would have been harmful. However, none that would, and none that we opposed, successfully passed during the last year. Some of those issues have been assigned to an interim study, which means that we will have to remain attentive to meetings of the subsequent study committees throughout the summer and fall, and there are two standing committees, an ad-hoc subcommittee of the ED&A Committee on alternate Pension Plans, and a State Employee Health care plan study commission. (These two are central to our main concerns).

There will continue to be ongoing issues to be addressed, which will include the fact that the Legislature has determined in the past, that there shall be NO COLAS, unless and until

the NHRS is funded at 85%. (It is currently at about 58% funded). There remains an arguably so-called un-funded liability of about 4 Billion dollars to the NHRS. Favorable returns on investments have improved vastly over the last two years with earnings of 11.5 % and 14.7 % respectively. But this won't have an immediate impact on the unfunded liability, as the system is designed to average the income over many years, to keep from impacting the CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES in a see-saw manner.

Over the years, we have gained much support in both houses of the legislature, and our position and opinions are generally respected and appreciated. There is a growing segment of the Legislature that recognize and accept certain principles that are central to our concerns. Therefore, we cannot relax our diligence, and it is important for us to continue to help keep members of the legislature informed.

In closing, Ernie Loomis advised that Commissioner Linda Hodgdon of the NH Department of Administrative Services has agreed to appear before the NHRSTA membership to discuss State Retiree Healthcare issues. Chairman Kelley will work with Major Loomis to schedule a "special meeting" in the near future in acknowledgement of the Commissioner's scheduling request. The location of the planned meeting is yet to be determined. Chairman Kelley emphasized that it will be important for the NHRSTA to have a strong presence at the meeting.

Walt Morse acknowledged the work that Ernie has done for all of us at the State House and Dave Kelley also acknowledged his wife, Lois, for her support as well. All present were in agreement.

Nominating Committee: Three Executive Board positions are expiring on June 1, 2014. The position previously held by Dave Cargill needs to be filled due to his resignation as a result of his current position as US Marshall for NH. The other positions have been held by Walt Morse and Kathy Kimball. Chairman Kelley requested nominations from the floor and received none. Joe Broderick made a motion to close the nominations and was seconded by Roger Phelps. Chairman Kelley asked Walt Morse, Kathy Kimball and Sue Harbour individually if they were willing to serve on the Executive Board for a term of two years. Each responded, "Yes". All voted in favor.

50-50 Raffle: The winning ticket was drawn by our newest board member, Sue Harbour, and the winner was Jim Volner.

New Business

Chairman Kelley reminded those present that Officer Stephen Arkell of the Brentwood Police Department who was recently killed in the line of duty was a part-time officer and not entitled to full benefits from the State of NH. The Executive Board will be considering a donation to the fund established for his family on par with previous donations that our Association has made. Jim Volner asked if he could give his 50-50

raffle winnings back to the treasury so it could be included in our donation to the Arkell Fund and he turned over the money to Peter Hilchey. Thank you, Jim!

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Walt Morse and seconded by Mike Doucette.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kimball
NHRSTA Secretary

Update

On May 23, 2014, the members of the Executive Board were polled regarding two specific donations by the NHRSTA. The members agreed to make a \$500 donation to the Officer Stephen Arkell Fund. The members also agreed to make a \$500 donation to the NH Police Pipe & Drum Association on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of their formation, which followed the line of duty death of Sgt. James Noyes.