

**NHRSTA Dinner Meeting**  
**May 24, 2017**  
**Red Blazer Restaurant, Concord, NH**

At approximately 1730 hours, more than 50 attendees gathered for the annual NHRSTA dinner/business meeting. Everyone enjoyed social time before and during dinner.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1820 hours by First Vice-Chairman Herb Frink in the absence of Chairman David Kelley who was out of state. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ernie Loomis and a moment of silence was held in observance of our fallen colleagues and those serving in our military around the world.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter Hilchey provided a positive report on the Association's financial position. Expenses over the past year included office/printer supplies for the treasurer and the secretary, webmaster fees for the NHRSTA site and charitable donations made in memory of fallen members. Peter passed a copy of the report around to the tables for review of the details. He also explained a little history about the Vanguard investment fund that was created and advised that the account has been growing as the stock market is currently doing well. All Charitable Fund and IRS paperwork for 2016 was completed and submitted. The motion to accept the report was made by Joe Broderick; 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Ernie Loomis. All were in favor.

**Secretary's Report:** Kathy Kimball reported that since the September 2016 dinner meeting was canceled, the following numbers are since May 2016.

- NHRSTA membership invitations were sent to 6 retirees from the Division.
- Over the past year, 9 new members have joined the Association. This number includes some of the newest retirees, as well as, several who retired over the past several years but never joined. Some of these new members were encouraged to join by current members. Others found the application on the website, completed it and sent it in.
- The NHRSTA lost 4 members:
  - Trooper Steve Waal                      July 2016
  - Sgt. Bob Bruno                              7-23-16
  - Ex. Major Dick Tuck                        9-19-16
  - Capt. Roger Beaudoin                      2-09-17
- Many cards and notes have also been sent to members experiencing illness, surgery and/or loss of family members.
- Headquarters scheduled firearms qualifications for retirees under HR 218 on **June 16, 2017 at 0900, 1100 and 1300 hours**, as well as on **June 19<sup>th</sup>** at the same times. There is a maximum of 8 shooters at each session. If you are still interested in registering, contact 223-8399.

A motion to accept the Secretary's report was made by Skip Korbet and a 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Steve Ford. All were in favor.

**Sgt. James Noyes Scholarship:** Jim White advised in advance of the meeting that Kennett High School has not notified him yet of the name of this year's scholarship recipient. As soon as he is advised of the selection, he will let the Executive Board know who it is.

### ***Dinner Break***

**Legislative Report:** Ernie Loomis reported that there 27 bills entered into the Legislative docket, concerning our PENSION or Healthcare benefits, some harmful, and some not. Of those, we helped to have 8 voted Inexpedient to legislate (ITL) and essentially KILLED. 13 were voted as retained or re-referred to a committee, thus placing them in a study mode, probably throughout the summer, to determine if action could be taken in the second year of the session. 6 have been passed into law, or are still pending. The most important, that is still pending is HB 517, which is now the carrier for the former HB 2, the operating budget for the state. Because the budget formed by the House of Representatives was voted down by the full House, it was left to the Senate to begin all over again to craft an operating budget which contains an amendment to that bill which becomes what the Senate Finance Committee is recommending to the Full House containing the funding proposal for state retiree healthcare. The Senate Finance Committee voted 4-2, to recommend that the full Senate vote for it. Senator Feltes has vowed to debate it on the floor next week and seeks to amend it so that State Retiree Healthcare will be fully funded. **We ALL need to contact our own Senator, and ask them to support FULLY funding retiree healthcare.** The state law (RSA 101-A :6 unmistakably stated from 1963 "The State shall pay the single person premium for each state employee, and each retired employee and/or each retired employee's beneficiary".... This wording was in effect until 1983 when RSA 495 first placed a limitation...."within the limits of the funds appropriated at each legislative session". However, we did not know that, and it never became an issue until about 2009 because the State had always fully funded retiree healthcare.

But in the next several sessions, various Governors' budgets began to underfund by 1-3%, causing increases in co-pays from \$1 to \$10, and great increases in deductibles for ALL retirees. The cost to retirees keeps rising, while at the same time, they are on a fixed income with no cost of living increase in nearly 10 years. Particularly hard hit are widows, who are now subsisting on half of their spouse's meager pensions. **Please ask each Senator to vote to FULLY FUND retiree healthcare.**

Of importance though, is that the Legislature has never provided the necessary funding. Ernie provided some history of underfunding of costs since 2007. This session, the Governor's budget was \$25 million underfunded and indicated that state retirees should share the costs 50/50. Current revenue projections are still lower than expected.

The Senate Finance Committee recently held a public hearing and Ernie reported that the NHRSTA was represented by approximately 12 members. The Committee has completed their work on the budget and voted along party lines 4-2. It will now go to **the full Senate for a vote within the next 10 days. Ernie made a specific request of the NHRSTA membership to contact**

**your senator by phone, email or in person with a request to please work to fully fund state retiree healthcare within the next 10 days.**

Ernie suggested taking another look at the bullet points that have been shared numerous times with our membership to see how they would apply personally to each retiree and contact Senators to explain how this situation will affect you.

Jim Garvin then reported about an amendment that was put forth late in the House session when they were working on the budget that says those retirees who are currently on Medicare, but were born AFTER December 31, 1948, will be required to pay 10% (approximately \$40.00 per month) toward the premium that the State pays for the supplemental coverage. There are 9000 +/- retirees who are on Medicare, and 7000 +/- of those would be "grandfathered" and exempt from having to pay the premium. Those retirees who are not covered by Medicare will see their premium contributions go from 17.5% of the premium cost to 20% (approximately \$200.00 per month). This means that the remaining retired state employees who are not on Medicare at this time would bear the load for everyone because of the continuous underfunding for our benefits. The House budget did not pass before the Senate began their work. The Major and Jim fully understand that there is an element of confusion over all of this, but continually welcome any of our members to contact them in order to clarify the issues, so that they can be clear on them when reaching out to their legislators. **When contacting Senators, inquire why the date of December 31, 1948 was chosen.**

Jim also reported that he has recently been in contact with retired Sgt. Chris Scott, who is currently working for U.S. Senator Jean Shaheen, regarding the windfall elimination tax. There is an effort to correct this with House Resolution 1205, which has overwhelming bi-partisan support, but no vote has been taken yet.

Both Ernie and Jim fielded a number of questions. Ernie ended by encouraging members to be positive with their interactions with legislators. Don't lash out when expressing frustrations. Reach out in every way and ask Senators to please fully fund healthcare. It is only equitable. Also, don't be afraid to state it is in the statute from 1963 to 1983 for reference.

**Nominating Committee:** Joe Broderick advised that the terms of 4 members of the Executive Board are expiring. Those members are: Dave Kelley, Jim White, Herb Frink and Skip Korbet. Joe asked if anyone in attendance would like to hold a position on the Board. No one in addition to the 4 indicated they would like to serve in that capacity. Jim White was contacted in advance of the meeting about his willingness to continue and he agreed. Joe made a motion to nominate Dave, Jim, Herb and Skip to the Board for another 2-year term. Each indicated they would be willing to continue. The motion to close nominations was made by Peter Hilchey and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Craig Wiggin. Joe made a motion to accept and Peter cast 1 vote. All were in favor.

Kathy Kimball's term as secretary is also expiring. Joe nominated Kathy to serve another term as there was no one present also interested in holding the position. Kathy agreed to another term. Joe made a motion to accept the nomination and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Ernie. Accepted by all.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Kimball*

NHRSTA Secretary

Following the conclusion of the business meeting, a brief discussion was held by Executive Board Directors present (Herb Frink, Walt Morse, Skip Korbet and Kathy Kimball) to select the chairman. Prior to the meeting, Dave Kelley expressed in separate conversations with Herb and Kathy that he would agree to serve in that capacity if re-elected to the Board and if no one else wished to serve as chairman. Herb conveyed this information to the Board members. Written support was also received from Jim White by email. All were in favor of Dave serving another term as NHRSTA Chairman.