

April 18TH 2024
Board of Directors Meeting
P.B.A. - Headquarters
Albany, New York

The following minutes were recorded at the April Board of Directors Meeting. Also in attendance was NYSTPBA General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel from Lippes Mathias LLP, Legislative Retiree Jack Morretti and Mrs. M. Crisafulli (Dir. Operations & Communications).

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS (MURPHY)

- Moment of silence for NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller, Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga Sheriff’s Lieutenant Michael Hoosock who were all recently shot and killed in the line of duty.
- Welcomed back Anthony Nigro, who resumed his role as the Thruway delegate after being acquitted on all charges stemming from a pursuit. Thanked alternate delegate Adam Dolce for stepping in for Anthony and assuming the role of Thruway delegate.
- President Murphy and Superintendent Steven James continue to have weekly conversations to discuss all matters involving the membership. Superintendent James is researching an increase in Geographic Pay to aid in recruitment and retention.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding NYSP members being deployed to patrol NY State Parks and the increased workload and responsibilities therein.
- VSF - Law Firm Jackson Lewis is drafting documents to establish a trust which is essential to distribution of the fund.
- NYSTPBA received the VSF annual funds from NY State per the collective bargaining agreement. The Troopers Unit received \$1,364,119 and the Supervisors Unit received \$365,888.
- Discussions are ongoing with Division on bringing back the Mounted Unit in some capacity.
- Horse and retirement statues previously on back order are back in stock at the NYSTPBA office.
- NYSTPBA owned building at 48 Howard St is now actively listed as for sale on the MLS.

MOTION ***President (Murphy) – Motion to provide retiree with a new shield.***
2ND ***NCO – East Terraferma***
 Carried

Presentation – Micah Smith

- Micah Smith presented on her credit repair service company “Micah Abigail.” She explained how credit scores work and the misconceptions on how to improve them. Additionally, she demonstrated the proper ways to maintain and improve credit scores. Micah’s services can help restore members with low credit scores due to collection debt or high credit card balances. Micah Smith has a vested interest in the NYSTPBA membership as she is married to Troop K Zone 3 Commander Daniel Smith. Micah’s information and services will be posted to the membership.

1st VP REPORT (DAVIS)

- The parking lot gate arm was intentionally broken off, again, by unknown vandals. Looking into different options at a new rolling gate rather than an arm that can be easily broken.

2nd VP REPORT (SHERIDAN)

MOTION **2nd VP (Sheridan) – Motion to endorse
Greg McCaffrey – Livingston County DA
Paula Kay – NYS Assembly
John P. Morretti – NYS Senate**

2ND **Troop A (Catanzaro)
Carried**

- NYSTPBA has aggressively pushed for Tier 6 fixes with our legislative partners. In this budget there were two positive changes. Final Average Salary calculation has decreased from 5 years to 3 and OT earned will not be subjected to pension contribution.
- NY State Corrections “Death Gamble” Bill was defeated. NYSTPBA members have this benefit which allows family members to receive the total value of the member’s pension if retirement eligible upon death.
- D.R.O.P. bill received a fiscal note from the Comptrollers Office of approximately \$400 million. This is an extremely high cost which the NYSTPBA disagrees with. This cost will most likely prevent the Bill from moving forward. We will continue to find ways to reduce the fiscal note.
- The NYSTPBA continues to push 4th year military buy back option bill.
- National guard bill allowing members buy back their guard time is still on the docket.

TREASURER REPORT (MCCLLELAN)

- \$2,545,505 is currently in a money market account earning 5% in interest.
- Changes to NYSTPBA vehicle leasing has created \$115,000 in cost savings from previous year.
- Upcoming expired lease will not be renewed. PBA store vehicle will be utilized instead due to the downsizing of the store. There is no longer a need to have a store trailer or vehicle to tow same.
- Treasurer McClellan negotiated real estate agent commission from 7% to 4.5% on the sale of 48 Howard St.
- Discussion about creating a Line of Duty Death committee to create a policy for funerals and NYSTPBA’s involvement.
- Discussion on upcoming lease transition and pros vs cons of purchasing the vehicles outright.

MOTION **2nd VP (Sheridan) – Motion to waive Ronald Ensminger \$285 who was run over
at a protest.**

2ND **Troop T (Nigro)
Carried**

NYSTPBA STORE UPDATE – VIRGINIA KOLNER & EMILY WHITNEY

- Update on items ordered or discontinued.
- PBA store will be present at the upcoming academy graduation on May 15th.
- Discussion on moving store items to office on top level to be closer to staff and potential to rent office space.

MOTION *President (Murphy) – Enter Executive session.*
2ND *Secretary (Brody)*
 Carried

MOTION *President (Murphy) – Exit Executive session.*
2ND *Secretary (Brody)*
 Carried

LEGAL REPORT – GENERAL COUNSEL LIPPES MATHIAS LLP

- Mounted Unit IP resulted in members being reimbursed for transportation of the horses and trailers for tolls and mileage at the commercial rate.
- The previous NYSTPBA leadership neglected to maintain a sufficient panel of arbitrators to oversee grievances. Currently there is only one arbitrator left on the panel when there should be upwards of ten to pick from. Having only one arbitrator on the panel to choose from does not provide many options. The NYSTPBA has decided to rebuild the arbitrator panel. The NYSTPBA believes this is the best course to take.
- Detailed critical incident in Troop C and NYSTPBA's response.
- Discussed Attorney General's investigation into a previous critical incident.

ELECTION COMMITTEE – SECRETARY (BRODY)

- NCO East election count will be on May 9th, 2024.

Troop A (Catanzaro)

- Trooper Pleakis article 78 hearing denied.
- Issues with supervisors arbitrarily looking at members body worn camera videos.
- Troop A and T-4 will be holding a meeting at the end of May with official date pending.
- Trooper Ryan Hadsall is going forward with an article 78 hearing against Division for denying him his retirement credentials. Trooper Hadsall was offered punishment for an on-duty incident that he believed was unacceptable and decided to retire as a result.
- **MOTION** *Troop A (Catanzaro) – Reimburse Ryan Hadsall \$4,000 for legal representation if Article 78 is successful.*
2ND *T-Way (Nigro)*
 Carried
- Sikh member with beard was put through scenarios while wearing an alternative gas mask that worked with a beard.

Troop B (Scott)

- Contraband found in a patrol vehicle secreted by a suspect.
- Issues with overtime administrative arbitrary rules.

Troop C (Delmar)

- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop C.

Troop D (Lodge)

- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop D.

Troop E (Cunningham)

- Members being denied overtime for travel to K9 tryouts the previous day of tryouts which are a few hours away.
- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop E.

Troop G \ H (Matthew Bowers)

- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop G\H.

Troop K (Brody)

- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop K.

Troop NYC (Alternate Delegate Shawn Kaplan)

- Requested update on EZ-pass issue with no new update at this time.
- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop NYC.

Troop T (Dolce)

- Discussion over Division's current policy which only provides up to three days off for critical incident shootings. There is a need to overhaul this policy as three days is not enough time to allow members to decompress from a shooting.
- Request information on any PTSD disability cases.
- Discussed ongoing personnel complaints, adjudications, and other incidents within Troop T.

NCO East – (Terraferma)

- Discussed a retirement ID for Sgt Brian Williams.
- Discussed an ongoing personnel complaint with a PSU member.
- Ongoing issue with member who was removed from duty via Rule 13 for being overweight. Member was instructed to lose weight and has since lost over forty pounds. Member is being told it is not enough weight loss, although no specific number was ever provided.

Commissioned Officers – (Hollands)

- Lt Timothy Sikorski had emergency heart surgery. Thanked NYC Delegate Joshua Kaye for assisting Lt Sikorski in his time of need.

- Discussed background on NYSTPBA retirement policy for associate members.

MOTION **Commissioned Officers (Hollands) Include Management Confidential in retirement check of \$400 if four years active association member or combination of four years active and association member.**

2ND Troop NYC (Kaye)
Carried

Retiree Liaison – Fred Scheidt

- Effective January 1st, 2024, Fred was elected President of the Association of Retired NY State Troopers.
- Issues with members being subpoenaed to court for cases that occurred during their employment with NY State Police and Division not covering the cost.
- Working with hearing Doctor for a discount on hearing aids.

President's Closing (Murphy)

- Request was made to Signal 30 for financial health and transparency. To this date nothing has been provided to the NYSTPBA but is to be forthcoming.
- May board meeting has been canceled due to academy graduation on same date.
- Next board meeting will be held on June 27th.

MOTION **President (Murphy) – Motion to adjourn meeting.**
2ND 2nd 1st VP (Davis)
Carried