

Sample articles from Fall 2001 issue of the Kansas Trooper Magazine

The Boys in Blue Hit the Greens

KSTA Summer Golf Tournament Draws 32 Challengers

The 2001 KSTA Golf Tournament was held June 12 at the Rolling Meadows Golf Course in Junction City, Kansas. It was an absolutely beautiful day, and more than a score of current and retired troopers made the effort to participate in this fun annual event. Organizer Earl Stackhouse enlisted the support of both the KSTA and of Junction City Distributing for the event. Rolling Meadows ownership were wonderful host/hostesses, traversing the course time and again to keep all players supplied with cool refreshments. Four teams tied for the lowest score of 68. The tie was broken when the team of Lonnie Whitten, Bob McGee, Lee Booher and (wouldn't you know it) Earl Stackhouse birdied the third handicap hole; these contestants walked away with the first prize money.

The highest finishing score was 79. Team names were withheld to protect the embarrassed.

Other awards for the day included:

Longest Drive Charlie Pankratz

Closest to the Pin Mike Androse

Longest Putt Fred Waller

All participants received souvenir golf hats, golf balls or golf towels with the KHP/KSTA logo. There were so many give away prizes, nearly everyone went home with two!

The Kansas Trooper magazine editor Patti Van Slyke attended, as did assistant editor Jamie Lane. It was a great event.

Executive Director Steve Kearney's Report – Fall 2001

Proactive Leadership Undertakes Strategic Planning

Early this past summer your Association leadership authorized a survey of the membership on specific topics of interest to assess how the membership prioritized Association efforts. A response of almost one hundred members was received and tabulated by the Association office, a remarkable response rate of better than 30%. (Most survey responses of this type in other organizations normally run in the 10% range.) Would it surprise you to know that the top issues of concern were pay, retirement and benefits while the vehicles to achieve those goals like political involvement and collective bargaining ranked the lowest. The survey pointed out the obvious disconnect between achieving success on pay, retirement and benefits issues and the only means available to achieve them -- collective bargaining and political involvement. Your quick attention to the survey gave the Board of Troop Directors the baseline information it needed to begin a long-range strategic planning session at the summer meeting in Wichita.

To aid in the planning process, the Board sought out a facilitator with Kansas law enforcement experience from outside the Association, to guide them through a strategic planning process using the survey results as a guide of member opinion. They selected Ken Gorman, a retired Topeka Police Officer, who has served in many Fraternal Order of Police roles including President of FOP Lodge #3 in Topeka, as National Trustee for the Kansas State Lodge to the Grand Lodge, has chaired the National Legislative efforts for the FOP and currently serves on the FOP Endorsement Committee for National Candidates. That committee most recently interviewed Al Gore and George W. Bush during their Presidential bid last year. His broad national perspective, with a local flavor, proved to be a real benefit to our planning process.

Following the strategic planning session in Wichita that developed the key areas for the Executive committee and Board of Troop Directors to pursue, President Haskin, Vice President Dreiling, Ken Gorman and I met to set time lines for completion and participation in the goals developed. Key areas addressed include:

- ◆ Improving communication with the membership through the newsletter, e-mail and fax on emerging issues, including collective bargaining and legislative efforts.

- ◆ Pursue training for the Executive Committee and Board of Troop Directors on Association due diligence and member obligations.
- ◆ Obtain training for those involved in collective bargaining in the specifics of PEERA and its nuances.
- ◆ Begin a member/legislator program to become more of a resource for legislators on issues impacting our membership as state employees and law enforcement officers.

By the time you read this column you will have the detail of the strategic plan and elements of the refined plan will be underway in their implementation. Take time to assist your Troop Director in implementing this effort which is sure to help define the success of your Association. The hours your volunteer leadership dedicates on your behalf makes it incumbent upon you to assist them in the implementation phase. Only together, with everyone participating in the effort, will the issues most important to you gain momentum and achieve success.