

THE REPORT



Vincit Omnia Veritas

Maryland Troopers Association, Inc.

March 2011



President's Message

Greetings:

Midway through the 2011 session of the Maryland Legislature there are a myriad of issues being considered by the General Assembly to address the funding status of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System and the sustainability of current and future benefits for retirees. Over the past month, we have heard from a number of our retired members concerning this issue. We want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to mitigate the impact the proposed measures will have on our active and retired members. While we understand that some change is inevitable, we have been working with legislators in Annapolis to ensure they understand the subtle differences in the systems. The major issues under consideration are Retiree Healthcare, Prescription Drug Coverage, Cost of Living Adjustments, Deferred Retirement Options, and Future Retirement Benefits for Current Employees and New Hires. Our Lobbyist, Bernie Shaw, has testified in numerous hearings and submitted several position papers to legislative committees on behalf of our membership. We have had very positive feedback from the committees on Bernie's input. As the session progresses, you can remain up-to-date on bill progress and amendments on the General Assembly website.

As always, I ask our younger members to consider becoming more involved in the association. Today, more than ever, we need your help and support to address these very important issues. As time goes on, budgets will continue to challenge Maryland State Government and our legislative successes or failures will rest on the organization's ability to respond effectively to proposed legislation. There is no substitute for experience. Until next time, I remain...

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kirk Daugherty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Kirk Daugherty
President

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The Maryland Troopers Association's March 2011 Executive Board Meeting was called to order on March 15, 2011 at 1700 hours by President Kirk Daugherty. Vice-President Chris Sasse, and Executive Director Bob Devers were present. Roll call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Vicki Patterson and the following Lodge Presidents were present:

Tri-County - C. Horner; Lodge 1 - D. Cameron; Lodge 13 - D. Morris; Lodge 14 - Excused; Lodge 15 - A. Michael, Lodge 17 - B. Gill; Lodge 19 - S. Murphy; Lodge 20 - E. Bredenburg; Lodge 40 - O. Artfitch; Lodge 51 - P. Grotte; Lodge 76 - J. McLeary; Lodge 88 - B. Kloos; Lodge 96 - C. Creswell. With a quorum present, the President declared the meeting in order.

The minutes from the February 2011 Executive Board meeting are before you. A motion was made by Tri-County Lodge to adopt the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Lodge 76 and the motion passed.

President

M. Kirk Daugherty

On March 4, 2011, Charles Horner and I attended the graduation of the 136th Trooper Candidate Class in Sykesville, Maryland. They had Frank Abignale as their keynote speaker and it was one of the best graduations I have attended.

I also attended the retirement celebration for Sheriff Chuck Martin in Ocean City, Maryland. Chuck never received a trooper statue when he retired from the MSP so we were pleased to make that presentation.

Vice-President

Christopher Sasse

On March 1, 2011, Bob Devers and I attended the Employee Group Orientation for class 136. Twenty-four members of the class joined the MTA out of 46. I also attended the Lodge 51 monthly meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Vicki Patterson

I attended the Lodge 13 monthly meeting in Anne Arundel County.

Executive Director's Report

Robert Devers

Nothing to Report

National Troopers Coalition Liaison

Charles Horner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws: S. Murphy - Nothing to Report

Finance: R. Devers for J. Diggs -On March 8, 2011 the Finance Committee held its monthly meeting at the MTA Office. In attendance were Finance Chairperson Jay Diggs, Bill Bernard, Earl Bredenburg, Pete Edge, Marvin Hollinger, Bob Kirk, Walt Mills, Ricky Norman, Mike Smith and Executive Director Bob Devers.

The normal order of business was suspended to allow Mike Wright, Vice President of Blue Line/Fidelity Mortgage to make a presentation. Mike offers mortgage loan services exclusively to law enforcement professionals at "competitive rates." This information will be posted on the MTA web page for its members to peruse and use as they see fit.

MEETING DATES: April 5, 2011, 10am @ the MTA Office; May 5, 2011, 10am @ the MTA office

STATE OF THE MTA:

1. UBS Account – \$539,289

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Board approved February's
2. The 2011 Convention. – Remember it's September 29 – October 1, 2011. Flyer is forthcoming
3. Viridian Power – A motion was made, seconded and passed to present this affiliate program, which offers MTA members 10 to 20% discounts on electricity supply and a fundraising opportunity to the MTA. Information will be placed on the MTA web page.

NEW BUSINESS:

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1. Requests for Donations: - Maryland Public Television – No motion on their \$25,000, \$15,000 or \$5,000 donation requests.

2. FORM 106 REVIEWS:

A. Lobbyist Bernard Shaw's Form 106 for February 2011 in the amount of \$827.14 was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept this report.

B. Executive Director Bob Dever's Form 106 for February 2011 in the amount of \$26.00 was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept this report.

C. NTC Rep. Charlie Horner's Form 106 for February 2011 in the amount of \$955.50 was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept this report.

3. The Treasurer's Report for February 2011 was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept this report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Time Start: 1000 hours -
Time Ended: 1230 hours

The President called for a motion to accept the Finance Committee report as presented. The motion was made Lodge 1, seconded by Tri-County Lodge and passed.

Legislative/Political Action: Bernie Shaw - I attended Lodge 76's meeting on March 8, 2010 and addressed legislative issues with their members.

I testified in opposition to certain sections of House Bill 72 and Senate Bill 87. We opposed the sections on Medicare Part D and the separation of active and retired benefit plans. The response to our testimony has been good. We are currently waiting for the amendments to come out so that we can address those.

February 16, 2011 – March 15, 2011

House Bills

House Bill 1170 – State Retirement and Health Benefits Reporting Transparency Act, Delegate Serafini - Requiring the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension

System to prepare quarterly reports that include information concerning the investments and the total fund balance of the several systems of the State Retirement and Pension System; requiring the Board of Trustees to prepare quarterly reports that include the market value of the assets of the several systems, compared to the market value of the assets of the several systems reported on June 30 of the previous fiscal year; etc.

House Bill 1172 – Vehicle Laws – Red Light and Speed Monitoring Systems – Emergency Vehicles, Delegate Conaway - Providing that specified images of an emergency vehicle recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system, a speed monitoring system, or a work zone speed control system may not be the basis for a civil penalty or the issuance of a citation under specified provisions of law; etc.

House Bill 1173 – Motor Vehicles – Seatbelts – Exception for Law Enforcement Officers, Delegate Conaway - Providing that specified provisions of law requiring seat belt use do not apply to a law enforcement officer under specified circumstances.

House Bill 1185/Senate Bill 361 – Vehicle Laws – Provisional Driver's Licenses – Driver Education Requirements, Delegate Glenn, et. al./Senators Raskin & Ramirez - Reducing the period of time that specified individuals at least 18 years old who hold a learner's instructional permit are required to wait before taking an examination for a provisional driver's license; establishing that specified driving practice requirements and a requirement to complete a driver skills log book before taking examinations for a provisional driver's license do not apply to an individual at least 18 years old; etc.

House Bill 1211 – Employees' Pension System and Teachers' Pension System – Benefits – Eligible Rollover Distributions, Delegates F. Turner & Serafini - Providing that members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System who have at least 15 years of eligibility service may terminate their membership in the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System and elect to receive an eligible rollover distribution to be paid to an eligible retirement plan; etc.

House Bill 1229/Senate Bill 883 – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, The Speaker/The President, Administration Bill - Establishing the Prescription Drug

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Monitoring Program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; establishing the mission of the Program; requiring the Program to carry out its mission by monitoring the prescribing and dispensing of specified substances by specified prescribers and dispensers; establishing the Advisory Board on Prescription Drug Monitoring to assist in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Program; etc.

House Bill 1221 –Maryland Safe Roads for Teens Act, Delegate Bronrott - Altering the hours during which a minor holder of a provisional driver's license may drive unsupervised; modifying a license restriction that prohibits a minor holder of a provisional driver's license from driving a motor vehicle carrying specified passengers under specified circumstances; and repealing specified provisions requiring that restrictions on a minor holder of a provisional driver's license related to passengers and the use of wireless communication devices be enforced as a secondary action.

House Bill 1236 – Law Enforcement Officers – Racial Profiling – Prohibited, Delegate Gutierrez, et. al. - Prohibiting a law enforcement officer from engaging in racial profiling; establishing specified penalties for a law enforcement officer who engages in racial profiling; requiring each law enforcement agency to establish specified administrative complaint procedures; requiring the Division of Consumer Protection of the Office of the Attorney General to establish procedures for receiving and maintaining a record of complaints alleging racial profiling by a law enforcement officer; etc.

House Bill 1251 – State Police Retirement System – Special Disability Retirement Allowance – Forfeiture, Chair Appropriations, Departmental, State Police - Prohibiting members or former members of the State Police Retirement System who are charged with committing specified criminal offenses from applying for a special disability retirement allowance; requiring the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System to temporarily suspend the application process for a special disability retirement allowance under specified circumstances; requiring the Board of Trustees to terminate a special disability application process under specified circumstances; etc.

House Bill 1255 – Police and Court Records – Felony Theft – Expungement, Delegates Anderson & Glenn - Authorizing a person convicted of a single felony theft of property or of

services with a value of \$300 or more who completed the sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, to petition for the expungement of records pertaining to the conviction that are maintained by the State or a political subdivision of the State; prohibiting the petition from being filed until 10 years after the conviction, provided that the 10-year period includes satisfactory completion of the sentence and any probation; etc.

House Bill 1288 –Vehicle Laws – Distracted Driving – Prohibition, Delegate Malone - Prohibiting a person from driving a motor vehicle in an inattentive manner resulting in the unsafe operation of the motor vehicle when the inattention is caused by the driver engaging in specified preoccupying activities; providing that a violation of the Act is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points; authorizing a police officer to enforce the Act only as a secondary offense; etc.

House Bill 1289 – State Retirement and Pension System – State Employees and Teachers – Benefits, Delegate Serafini - Establishing a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System and a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System Savings Plan for individuals who are members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1, 2011; providing for the member contribution rate and benefits for members of the Employees' Pension System and the Teachers' Pension System under the State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System; etc.

House Bill 1290 – State Employees' and Teachers' Retirement Savings Plan, Delegate Serafini - Requiring that members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System on June 30, 2011, become members of the State Employees' and Teachers' Retirement Savings Plan on July 1, 2011; requiring that individuals who are employed by participating employers on or after July 1, 2011, become members of the State Employees' and Teachers' Retirement Savings Plan; etc.

House Bill 1307 –Public Employees' and Retirees' Benefit Sustainability Commission – Advance Directives, Delegate Morhaim - Requiring the Public Employees' and Retirees' Benefit Sustainability Commission to study and make recommendations relating to the completion of advance directives used to plan for future health care decisions by retirees of the State Retirement and Pension System;

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requiring the Commission to submit reports to a specified commission, specified committees, and the Office of the Attorney General on or before December 15, 2011; etc.

House Bill 1312/Senate Bill 947 – State Retirement and Pension System – Vested Retirement Allowance – Members and Former Members, Delegate Griffith/ Senator Jones-Rodwell - Requiring that members or former members of the State Retirement and Pension System complete and submit an application to the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System stating the date when a vested retirement allowance will commence; prohibiting members or former members of the State Retirement and Pension System from receiving a specified vested retirement allowance for a specified period of time; etc.

House Bill 1317 – State Employees and Teachers – Cash Balance Plan, Delegate Serafini. - Establishing a cash balance plan under the State Retirement and Pension System; requiring that individuals who on June 30, 2011, are members of specified pension systems become members of the cash balance plan on July 1, 2011; requiring that individuals who are employed on or after July 1, 2011, by participating employers become members of the cash balance plan; requiring the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System to administer the cash balance plan; etc.

House Bill 1318 – State Retirement and Pension System – Board of Trustees and Investment Committee – Membership, Delegate Serafini.- Altering the membership of the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System; altering the membership of the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees; specifying the terms of the new appointed members of the Board of Trustees; etc.

House Bill 1326 – State Retirement and Pension System – Investments – Independent Investment Advisory Firms – Delegate Serafini - Eliminating the Investment Division of the State Retirement Agency and the position of the Chief Investment Officer; requiring the Board of Trustees to hire independent investment advisory firms to invest the assets of the several systems of the State Retirement and Pension System; requiring the State Retirement Agency to submit a quarterly report to the Board of Trustees; altering a requirement relating to the management of specified real estate investments of the State Retirement and Pension System; etc.

House Bill 1342 – Police and Court Records – Nonviolent Crimes – Expungement, Delegate Stukes - Authorizing a person convicted of a nonviolent crime, with specified exceptions, who completed the sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, to petition for the expungement of specified records maintained by the State or a political subdivision pertaining to the conviction after a specified period of time; prohibiting a person convicted of a specified nonviolent crime of a sexual nature from petitioning for the expungement of specified records; etc.

House Bill 1344 – State Retirement and Pension System – Guaranteed Retirement Income Plan and Retirement Savings Plan, Delegate Serafini, et. al. - Establishing a guaranteed retirement income plan and a retirement savings plan under the State Retirement and Pension System; requiring that members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System elect to become members of the guaranteed retirement income plan or the retirement savings plan by June 15, 2011; requiring that individuals who become employed by a participating employer on or after June 1, 2011, become members of the guaranteed retirement income plan or the retirement savings plan; etc.

Senate Bills

Senate Bill 929/House Bill 519 – Firearms – Knowing Violation of Specified Prohibitions – Penalty, Senator Raskin/Delegate Arora, et. al. - Specifying that it is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 5 years or a fine of up to \$10,000 or both to knowingly violate the prohibition against the possession of a regulated firearm or ammunition solely designed for a regulated firearm by a person who is under the age of 21, or to knowingly violate the prohibition against obliterating, removing, changing, or altering the manufacturer's identification mark or number on a firearm.

Senate Bill 937 – Natural Resources Police Force – Number of Officers, Senator Dyson - Stating the intent of the General Assembly that the Natural Resources Police Force employ at least 435 Natural Resources police officers by fiscal year 2021; and requiring the Governor to include sufficient amounts in the annual budget bills for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 to make incremental progress toward achieving the employment goal stated in the Act.

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NOTE: Bill listed together are crossfiled in the House and Senate

We also have raffle tickets for a TV, X-Box and Blu-Ray Player.

Mo Krome made a presentation to the Board of Directors concerning legislative issues being addressed at the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. Mo passed out a letter from Mr. Dean Kenderdine, Executive Director of the MSRPS, to Senator Miller concerning the System's issues with Senate Bill 628.

Lodge 19 - S. Murphy - The Southern Maryland Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the FOP Lodge in LaPlata. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Menu will include Fried Chicken, Pork Loin, Parsley Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Macaroni Salad, Green Beans, Applesauce and much more. Spouses and Guests are welcome. Call Walt Mills at 301-934-4429 for reservations.

Mo also addressed a memo from Mr. Kenderdine to the Board of Trustees which outlined factors affecting the systems funding ratio and it's decline from 2000 to 2010. Mo has also requested a similar report specifically addressing the State Police Retirement System.

Lodge 76 - J. McLeary - Joe thanked Bernie Shaw for making a presentation to the Lodge 76 membership. I believe he answered all the questions of our members.

Copies of the letter and memo can be reviewed at <http://www.mdtroopers.org/newsletters/valuation.pdf> & <http://www.mdtroopers.org/newsletters/msrps%20ltr%20sb628.pdf>

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Legal Advisory -G. Tracey - Gary introduced James Nichols from the Warnken firm to update the Board on Amicus Brief. James noted that an additional case was argued before the court in Montgomery County late last month also attempting to gain access to internal affairs records. The courts position in that case was that the requestor could conduct their own investigation to establish the information they were requesting.

Earl Bredenburg indicated that members of Lodge 20 are still concerned about the malfunctions that are occurring with the Department issued sidearms. Earl made a motion that the MTA write a letter to the Superintendent concerning the problems being experienced to find out what measures are being taken to alleviate the problem. The motion was seconded by Lodge 76 and passed.

Minority Affairs - Ron Ruff - Excused

Scholarship: Brian Kloos - As a reminder, MTA scholarship applications must be returned to the office no later than March 31, 2011.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Charlie Horner noted that he would like the MTA to look into acquiring organizational license plates using the MTA trooper silhouette logo. Bob indicated that Lodge 14 currently has an organizational plate which uses the letters MTA. We would have to use a different letter combination.

Retirees: Dave Cameron - Jack Howard asked that I let everyone know that the MSPAA Luncheon Meeting at the Cozy Inn will be held on April 16, 2011.

At 5:45 P.M. a motion to adjourn was made by Lodge 96, seconded by Lodge 76 and passed. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 19, 2011 @ 1700 hours at the MTA Office in Pikesville, Maryland.

SLEOLA - B. Gill - SLEOLA held their Legislative Reception in Annapolis. Turn-out was a little disappointing because they were in session late on date of the reception.

LODGE REPORTS

Lodge 17 - B. Gill - Lodge 17 will be holding it's Bull & Shrimp Roast on April 30, 2011. Cost is \$25 per person.

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For all your cruise and land based vacation needs contact Dale and Donna Petty, your ACC Certified cruise specialist. We are an independently owned and operated full service travel agency and are here to help you plan your next vacation! We give all MTA members an on board credit to be used in any way you like in addition to all credits and amenities offered by the cruise lines! Sign up for email alerts at www.ChangesInLatitudeCruises.com for an additional credit on your first sailing! Have a question? Email us at Latitudecruises@aol.com or call us at 386-668-9562.

Chesapeake Investment Advisors
Martin Knight

If you have questions concerning the DROP (or any other investment issues), give Marty a call (410-810-0735). The best time to do the research is before your exit-date so very little time is lost reinvesting your assets. Marty can help your transition from active State Trooper to retired investor. And rest assured, he will always put your financial interests first.

Martin Knight
Chesapeake Investment Advisors
106 Spring Ave., Chestertown MD 21620
410-810-0735
Mknight@chesadvisors.com