

## **ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES**

### **Annual Meeting and Banquet**

The Association endeavors to foster good relationships and comradely among all retirees by offering many opportunities for all retirees to associate with one another. Quarterly luncheon meetings are held to foster association and handle the business of The Association.

Each year in the Fall, following the lead of the founders of The Association, the annual meeting and banquet is held. This meeting provides a time for carrying out the business of The Association, socializing with retirees and spouses from all areas of the state, and enjoying a fine meal together. It is customary for the current Patrol Superintendent and spouse, or a designated representative, to be the guests of The Association at the banquet.

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### **"Ham & Bean Day"**

In addition to the quarterly meetings, many other retiree activities occur throughout the year. Ham and Bean Days will be scheduled and announced in conjunction with quarterly meetings and Patrol Special Events. Ham and beans were a tradition established at the old Hartman Farms Academy. All retirees are invited to lunch at the academy on those days. The group is provided a special place in the cafeteria to lunch together and socialize. All retirees cannot attend every month and the size of the group varies, however, those who attend enjoy themselves.

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### **Florida Snowbird Reunion**

In 1987, a group of OSHP retirees who lived or spent their winters in Florida planned a get-together in the Venice, Florida area. Earl Reich, Frank Blackstone and Cliff Reich were instrumental in planning this event. Since there are numerous retirees who are in Florida during the winter, the turnout was surprisingly good.

The following year, the event was aptly named the "Snowbird" and information was distributed to all retirees. The response was outstanding, with retirees and active personnel attending from Florida, Ohio, the Carolinas and other areas. As a result of this success, the annual "Florida Snowbird Reunion" has been held each year since, with attendance growing to well over 100 retirees, spouses and friends.

Each year, the Snowbird is hosted by different retirees in Florida and has moved around to different locations in the state. It has been held in Venice, Ft. Myers, Lehigh Acres Lakeland and Cocoa Beach. The hosts plan the event and organize the event with the

support of The Association. The formal Snowbird event generally begins on Thursday evening with an optional meal together. On Friday, golf, shopping, tours, fishing trips, and other activities are planned and made available to the group. A Friday evening "poolside party" has become a tradition and is a highlight of each reunion. On Saturday, a luncheon and program is held. Most attendees stay the weekend or longer and spend a great deal of time relaxing poolside socializing, reminiscing and exchanging "war stories."

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### **Late Lunch Get-Together**

The first Late Lunch Get-Together was held October 11, 2007 at the Brown Jug Restaurant in Delaware OH. It was the consensus of everyone in attendance that this function should continue on a quarterly basis. All who are associated with the Ohio State Highway Patrol including active and retired troopers, professional staff i.e. (DX, Civilians, Motor Carrier, MVI) former Troopers, auxiliary officers, widows, and any other friends and spouses are invited to attend. Each attendee orders and pays for his/her own meal. Special thanks are in order to Retired Sergeant Ted Wurm for organizing this affair.

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### **North Coast Sunbird Reunion**

In 1998, a group of retirees who spend summers or summer weekends on the Lake Erie coast planned a picnic in the Port Clinton, Ohio area, inviting retirees whom they knew to be in the area. Ray & Phyl Yingling and Wendell & Irene Webb planned and spearheaded the first event. Approximately 40 attended and a great time was had by all.

The following year, all retirees were invited to the 1999 North Coast Sunbird Reunion in August. An island cruise to Kelly's Island and Put-In-Bay was held on Friday, and a picnic at the Ohio Veteran's Home in Sandusky was held on Saturday. The turnout for both events was large. In August of each year since, the association has sponsored and supported the annual North Coast Sunbird Reunion along the shores of Lake Erie. Attendance at the Saturday picnic exceeds 200 each year.

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### **District 3 Gabfest**

District 3 Retiree Gabfest was started by Harold Wheeler and has become a tradition. The Gabfest is held in the Hartville area and is attended by retirees from all over the state. It is extremely popular because of its relaxed informal atmosphere, great food and "entertainment." Our Retirees' do a great job of planning and organizing this outstanding event with the support and assistance of The Association.

