



## **PENSION REFORM      COLLEGE INCENTIVE      HEALTH INSURANCE**

As we all know, state elections have come and gone. The Governor was re-elected, and he has announced that this will be his last term. With that in mind; Standby. He doesn't have to worry about anyone or anything. We all know how he feels about the State Police. No contract since the last one expired on 1/8/09 and there has been no bargaining in almost 2 years. The bill that was passed keeping those who retired before 7/1/92 is based on the Active State police salaries. There has not been a State Police Class during his first term(**4 years**). The State Police are currently undermanned by 425 troopers as of February 2011.

**PENSION REFORM** Pension abuse has been all over the news. Numerous times during our attempt to include those who retired after 7/1/92, we were close to having it changed, only to have another headline on pension abuse. The Governor made several changes to "Pension Reform", that were minor and directed towards one person. Now the Election is over and he has been re-elected. Standby. He now will go full speed ahead to make severe changes to the retirement system. If you think for one minute he's not going to try to go after our pensions, then I have a bridge to sell. The bill we had passed in 2000 is one area he could attempt to change. All he has to do is have it overturned and we will be frozen at the current pension and we would only get the COLA raises, that is assuming for money for COLA is approved by the legislature. Usually, it is 3% on the first \$12,000 of your pension. Do the math. He also wants to cap pensions. No where have we seen a bill passed that says "**grandfathered**". We would have to take them to court.

**COLLEGE INCENTIVE** - Bargaining on the new contract has been at a standstill for almost 2 years. The only thing the Governor's office has attempted, was to have the side letter to the contract (the college incentive program) removed from the contract. By doing this, they then can eliminate the "College Incentive" from the Trooper's salaries. The next step would be to go after the Retired Troopers College incentive. Again, never have we seen any wording in the contract that says "Grandfathered". We will have to be vigilant and keep a close watch to stop any attempt to change or abolish college incentive for retirees.

**HEALTH CARE** - Several attempts have already been made by past Governors to lower the state contribution to health insurance. During these economic hard times, there are no guarantees that they won't try again. Do the math and see how much the difference there is between 85% and 90%. We have no lock on the cost of Health Insurance. We must continually monitor to make sure they don't try to sneak a change in.

The RTA is the only group with the desire and ability to monitor those issues mentioned above. There is strength in numbers. Our membership should not have to pay for your benefits. We have a lobbyist watching out for our interests. He is not free. The attitude if they get it, so do we ***"has worn thin"***. It's time to step up to the plate and help!! You were members of the RTA. For whatever reason you chose not to renew your membership. We are not asking for you to rejoin, (though if you do, there is no penalty only current dues) We are asking you to contribute to help defray the costs incurred to protect our Benefits. If we do not have enough money to cover these costs, you will lose if they attack our benefits and win.