



Hector J. Grazio, Jr., Chairman

April 7, 2017

DEAR MEMBERS:

2017 DUES: Thanks to our loyal members for a great response to the 2017 dues. In addition to current members paying their dues, we have had many former members re-joining. I want to thank all those former members who have re-joined.

For those few who have not paid your 2017 dues, this will be your last newsletter. If you are having difficulty financially, contact RTA and arrangements can be made to accommodate you. **If you do not pay your dues for 2017 your Dental and Optical Insurance will lapse and not be renewable. In addition, any benefits that is offered by RTA will cease.**

NAPLES LUNCHEON: On Sunday, March 12, 2017, RTA members and spouses met for our 17th Annual Florida Luncheon at the Cypress Woods Country Club in Naples. Again, we had a room to ourselves which allowed us to visit with old friends. The ambiance was wonderful, and staff went out of their way to make us feel at home. Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

RTA SCHOLARSHIP REMINDERS: The annual Scholarship awards will take place at the September/October 2017 Choir practice. The date has not been set, but will be held at DiBurro's Function Hall, Haverhill, MA. Please do not call **now** looking for applications. Information will be announced in the September Newsletter.

RTA WEBSITE REMINDER: RTA Member Jim Tzitzon is the Website Manager and he constantly updates the site. The website is: www.msp-rta.org. Jim is currently setting up a "Blast E-mail" Group for RTA members only. This will allow RTA to reach out via email to our members immediately on issues that come up, i.e. hearings, legislations etc. Issues come up that cannot wait for the next Newsletter. With this RTA group mailing we can reach out to our members and advise them of these issues. Please send your name and email address to RTA at: GraiHall@aol.com, if you have not done so already. The goal of the Website is to have all RTA members on E-Mail so we can send out the newsletter via this method.

DENTAL AND EYE CARE PLANS: The enrollment period is for both Delta Dental and Ameritus Eye Care is the month of June 2017. This is for coverage from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The rates have not been finalized as of this date. **DO NO SEND IN MONEY NOW!!!** We will publish the rates for both the Dental and Optical plans in the **May newsletter**.

HANDGUN QUALIFICATIONS: Pursuant to Federal Law (Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004) RTA will conduct qualifications on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 and Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Lowell Gun Club in North Chelmsford. RTA will run at least two relays. We will schedule members who live the longest distance away to fire in the first relay.

If you qualified and received your national carry permit last year, you must renew every 12 months. If you wish to renew or you would like to qualify for the first time, the cost is \$40. Please contact us by phone or E-Mail (graihall@aol.com) ASAP if you are interested. An informational letter will be mailed to you containing what gear is needed and the directions to the Lowell Sportsmen's Club. Because of the expense incurred by RTA, all persons wishing to qualify must make the arrangements with RTA in advance. **This program is considered a benefit and is only for RTA members.**

MISSION: The RTA was formed to obtain benefits for the Retired Trooper. With the financial problems facing the Commonwealth, RTA has added another mission - prevent the loss of the benefits we already have. We have seen the State Pension come under attack and some changes have taken place. States, Cities, Counties and Towns throughout the United States are dissolving public employee unions and lowering benefits to its public employees. We are in trying times!!! RTA will continue to monitor any changes that might be proposed to reduce our benefits and fight them. **We must stand together.** **Get after those retired troopers who are not members and get them to join. We have proven there is strength in numbers!**

COMING EVENTS:

Troop B-C-E Get Together. Thursday, May 25, 2017. Where: The Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, 500 Easthampton Road (Rte 141). Cocktails and "10 best" from 1730-1900. Buffet Dinner at 1900. Cost : \$30.00. Contact Norm Scott 413-562-4895, Paul Malatesta 413-684-2276 or John Danehey 413-593-6282 for further information.

Massachusetts Commissioned Officers Association 2017 Charity Golf Tournament:

Thursday, June 15, 2017, Wachusett Country Club, W. Boylston, MA. For further information or questions please contact: Susan Elizabeth Bigelow, Program Coordinator, MSP. Direct Line: (508) 988-7452

Post 1992 Retirees Pension Reform Meeting : Follow-up meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 10:00AM . MSP Crime Lab, 124 Acton Street, Maynard, MA 01754.

Respectfully;

Hector Grazio, Chairman