

**Louisiana State Troopers Association
8120 Jefferson Highway
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809**

June 9, 2020

Dear Valued Members:

The LSTA Board of Directors has the responsibility for the financial management of the association including an annual determination of an operating budget and allocation of funds to member benefits and operating expenses. Your Board of Directors has completed its annual planning session and approved the 2020 operating budget. After much deliberation and scrutiny over the financial reports, the Board has had to use LSTA savings to bridge the gap between the association's expenses and income for the third year in a row. This was not an easy decision and did not come without substantial cuts to the operating budget over the last three years. Among the member benefits listed below that can be retained only by means of sustainable revenue, of chief concern is the ability to pay the premiums for our group accidental and line of duty death policy.

The Board acknowledges there is never a good time to implement a dues increase. As you are aware, the last dues increase was approved at the 2011 Convention. That dues increase was almost entirely forwarded to the local affiliates as the affiliate stipends were simultaneously increased by \$250 per month. Three years ago, one of the Board's means of cutting expenses was a vote to reduce the affiliate stipend by \$100 per month; this was one of many tough decisions made by your Board of Directors in an attempt to avoid budget shortfalls and the requirement to adjust dues. However, in the face of significantly increasing costs, we must now propose a modest increase in our dues rate.

This letter is to inform you of a dues increase request of \$7.00 per pay period for "Active" members beginning September 1, 2020. This dues request will be voted on by the 2020 Affiliate Delegates at the LSTA business meeting in July. This dues increase will only be collected from active members who are employed as State Troopers on September 1, 2020. For our members who have retired prior to September 1st, their membership dues will remain the same. The Board of Directors believes this approach gives the LSTA additional financial resources it needs to properly represent you while not putting too much of a burden on our membership. The Board will always continue to search for additional streams of revenue as well.

What value do you receive through your LSTA membership?

Our continued commitment to improved pay and benefits; assurance of a better working environment; support when and however needed; and an increased quality of life for our members. Your membership also includes access to the following:

- Accidental death insurance policy for \$25,000 which doubles for "line of duty death"
- Bi-annual subscription to our LSTA magazine

- One Vest, One Life program providing lifesaving equipment to each State Trooper
- Membership in the National Troopers Coalition
- Opportunity for scholarships
- Prescription drug discount program
- Group dental and vision insurance plan
- Cordico App, wellness support and behavioral health insurance plan for first responders
- Computer, hotel, rental car, and numerous other discount programs

These are just some of the important benefits provided to each of our members. With this modest dues increase we will be able to explore additional benefits like individual legal defense insurance coverage and programs to further assist with critical incident stress and retirement planning. We are always searching for ways, small and large, to add value and benefits to your membership.

The LSTA Board of Directors recognizes the financial commitment so many of our members have made to sustain our operations over the years. We remain resolved to be thoughtful stewards of the fiscal resources provided by our members and donors. In the coming weeks please thoughtfully consider this dues increase request and discuss it among your affiliates before the vote.

Thank you,

Jay O'Quinn

Jay O'Quinn
President - Louisiana State Troopers Association

