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# Vol 39 | Spring 2025 Edition ARKANSAS STATE POLICE FOUNDATION

Be a Trooper. Support the Arkansas State Police.



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Dear ASP Personnel, ASPF Donors, and Fellow Arkansans,

As we move forward into 2025, I am thrilled to share that the Arkansas State Police Foundation (ASPF) has had an exciting and impactful start to the year. Through your generosity and support, we have been able to further our mission of strengthening and supporting the Arkansas State Police and their families.

January kicked off with an incredible ASPF Spouses' Auxiliary Retreat in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This year, we welcomed a record-breaking number of over 70 spouses who joined us for a weekend of camaraderie, relaxation, and shared support. It was inspiring to see the strong bonds formed among those who stand behind our troopers every day.

We also launched the first annual NEA Pregame Bowl Bash in Jonesboro, an exciting new fundraiser benefiting our ASPF Scholarship Program. Thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, this event raised an astounding \$50,000, ensuring that more children of ASP personnel have the opportunity to pursue higher education.

February brought another momentous occasion as we hosted the ASP Legislative Meet and Greet at Camp Robinson. Attendees enjoyed great food and meaningful conversations, while also getting an up-close look at the impressive tools and resources ASP utilizes in its mission to protect our state. From the robotic dog and helicopters to the BearCat armored vehicles and antique patrol cars, it was a thrilling showcase of the skill and technology behind our law enforcement professionals. Guests even had the unique opportunity to experience some high-speed action on the driving track, making the event both informative and unforgettable.

March continued the momentum with Troop B's First Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade Gala in Pangburn, AR, at the beautifully decorated Wedding Barn. The evening was filled with delicious Cajun cuisine, exciting auctions, and incredible live music by one of ASP's own, Coty Williams, and his band, Whiskey Halo. This spectacular event raised \$50,000 for our scholarship program, marking another huge success for ASPF.

April brings more exciting opportunities to connect and give back. We will be hosting the ASP Retirees Association Meeting and Luncheon on April 15th at Camp Robinson. This gathering is always a highlight, as we hear incredible stories from our retirees and express our gratitude for their dedicated service to Arkansas.

Another highly anticipated event is the Farmers Bank Foundation's Golf Tournament in El Dorado, AR, at Mystic Creek. This tournament is always a great time for a great cause, and we are eager to see the community come together once again in support of ASPF.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank all of our troopers, troopers' spouses, board members, and donors who have supported us this year. We have been blown away by your generosity.

This year marks ASPF's 25th anniversary, and we couldn't be more pleased with how the year has started. With your continued support, we look forward to making 2024 our most impactful year yet!



Warm regards, Elizabeth Burns Anderson

Elizabeth Burns Anderson, President of the Board Arkansas State Police Foundation (501) 580-5717 | <u>elizabeth.anderson@myfarmers.bank</u>



### **Meet the ASP Retirees Association Executive Officers!**

The Arkansas State Police Retiree Association (ASPRA) Executive Board is dedicated to representing and supporting retired members of the Arkansas State Police. Composed of former law enforcement professionals, the board advocates for the rights, benefits, and well-being of retirees while preserving the rich legacy of the department. The Executive Board works to maintain strong connections among retired troopers, offering assistance, fellowship, and opportunities to stay engaged with the law enforcement community.

# Dale Safford

#### PRESIDENT

After serving over 34 years with the ASP, I retired in 2019 as Commander of Troop J, Clarksville. I have the honor of serving my second term as President of the ASP Retirees Association. We strive to keep retirees connected with the current ASP Administration, as well as other retirees. It is important to let our retirees know their dedicated service is not forgotten.

## Olen Craig

#### VICE PRESIDENT

I started in Troop G in 1980. It was a little too flat for my liking, so I asked to go to Troop H. I retired from Crawford County in 2015. The retiree's association has helped me remain in touch with those who are still family. Perhaps better than that it has put me in position to know of those who also are just as much family. When I worked the highway, I always believed there were those who cared. I did not know there were those who cared so much. Figuratively, I feel as though I still wear the big hat, but it is off to the Arkansas State Police Foundation.

## Cora Gentry

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

I was with ASP for a little over 25 years. In that time, I worked within many departments. I retired in August of 2020 from the AFIS/ID Bureau Section as a Lieutenant. I volunteer with the ASPRA to stay connected to those with whom I served and the ones that went before me.

If you would like to support the Arkansas State Police Retirees Association, please make checks payable to *Arkansas State Police Retirees Association* and mail them to:

5702 Dreher Lane, Little Rock, AR 72209

Your support is greatly appreciated!



# **Auxiliary Spotlight**



#### Troop A Spouses' Auxiliary ADELIA ROBINSON

Adelia joined the Auxiliary one year ago and has already experienced the deep fulfillment it brings. Adelia is a cosmetologist who balances her career with a love for cooking and spending time outdoors. She and her husband are raising their beautiful daughter, Kennedy, and when she's not helping with auxiliary events, you'll likely find her with family, hunting, or enjoying the lake. "I joined because I wanted to support our troopers and give back to the community while building friendships," she says. One highlight so far has been experiencing a TVI (Tactical Vehicle Intervention) firsthand during the Legislative Meet and Greet—an exciting and unforgettable moment! For Adelia, the Auxiliary plays a crucial role not only in responding during times of illness or disaster, but also in day-to-day outreach and connection. "It's easier to get involved than you think-just come to a meeting and see how you can make a difference."

#### **Troop B Spouses' Auxiliary TONYA EASLEY**

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

SPOUSES' AUXILIARY

Tonya is the newly elected Vice President for Troop B and has been part of the Arkansas State Police family since 2007. She and her husband, Lt. Aaron Easley, have moved with the job through several troops. The Easleys call Strawberry, Arkansas home and share it with their beloved fur and feather family: Tucker the Boxer, horses Wyatt and Justice, and a flock of chickens. "We love spoiling our nieces, nephews, and our friends' kids—it's one of our favorite things!" Tonya is a PRN nurse and also volunteers with Zion Therapy's pediatric hippotherapy program. "Being part of the ASP isn't just a job-it's a *lifestyle for the whole family,"* she says. Tonya has always believed in the value of connection and encourages others to build a support system through the Auxiliary. "The relationships we create now support us through life's busiest and most stressful moments. And we can all be mentors to the next generation of families."





### Troop C Spouses' Auxiliary CAMILLE MCLAUGHLIN

Camille has been an active member of the Auxiliary for three years and currently serves as Troop C's President. She's passionate about the sense of connection the group provides. "Having friends who understand this lifestyle means the world," she shares. Camille is a Territory Manager who travels across Arkansas, balancing work and family life with her husband Scott and their four daughters. From a pharmacy student to a cheerleader, her girls keep her on her toes! One of her favorite memories is helping at the Halloween Trunk or Treat event and seeing how much admiration the kids had for the troopers. "The Auxiliary shows up-during the good times and especially during the hard ones," she says. Her advice to others? "Jump in. Come to one event. You'll be glad you did."



# **Foundation News**

### Strengthening Bonds & Building Support ARKANSAS STATE POLICE SPOUSES' AUXILIARY RETREAT

In January, the ASP Spouses' Auxiliary gathered for a special retreat in the picturesque Hot Springs, Arkansas. The event offered a refreshing break for spouses, providing both relaxation and an opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary's mission and services. Spouses were also treated to time to unwind and enjoy each other's company with a range of fun activities. Colonel Mike Hager was the guest speaker during dinner concluding with a question and answer session. As the retreat came to a close, participants left feeling more connected to one another and empowered with new tools to support both their families and the broader Arkansas State Police community.





# **Foundation News**

## **ASP Legislative Meet and Greet**

#### FEBRUARY 19TH, 2025

The Arkansas State Police Foundation had the honor of hosting the Arkansas State Police Legislative Reception at Camp Robinson. A huge thank you to Randy Lann for providing delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, and to the Arkansas State Police for an incredible precision driving track experience, along with a showcase of vehicles and equipment, both vintage and current. Great food, great company, and a great time!









## **Trooper News**

## Arkansas State Police Celebrates 90th Anniversary

March 19 marked a historic milestone as the Arkansas State Police proudly celebrates 90 years of dedicated service! On this day in 1935, Governor J.M. Futrell and the Arkansas General Assembly signed Act 120 into law, officially establishing the Arkansas State Police. Since then, generations of brave men and women have worn the badge and the iconic Big Hat with honor, selflessly protecting and serving the people of our great state. We take a moment to honor and thank all those—past and present—who have been part of this incredible legacy. Your dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to justice have shaped Arkansas for the better.



CELEBRATING





## Arkansas State Police Class 2024-B Graduation



Thirty-seven recruits officially became Arkansas State Troopers following their graduation ceremony in the State Capitol rotunda. Selected from a competitive pool of 420 applicants, these recruits began their journey on October 13, 2024, at the State Police Training Academy in Little Rock. Over 24 weeks, they completed approximately 1,200 hours of intensive training, gaining expertise in criminal and traffic law, accident

investigation, firearms proficiency, and defensive tactics. This rigorous curriculum prepared them for the demands of serving and protecting the citizens of Arkansas as they embark on their careers as state troopers.



# **Auxiliary News**

## **Auxiliary President's Note**

#### VANESSA RYLES HARRIS

On behalf of the ASPF Spouses Auxiliary, I would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to the ASP Foundation and all the donors for your generous contributions. Because of your generosity, the Foundation is able to provide the Auxiliary the opportunity to come together from all over the state for a weekend of fellowship and fun with the other Spouses. The Retreat gives us the opportunity to build friendships and provide support to each other that continues to grow from year to year. This is a gift that would not be possible without you and your support of the Arkansas State Police Foundation.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Harris

Vanessa Harris Statewide ASPF Spouses' Auxiliary President



### ASPF 2025 Vehicle Decal 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition



Help our Auxiliary members by contacting them today to make a \$100 donation and receive your 2025 vehicle decal! The Auxiliary Decal Selling Contest **ends July 1<sup>st</sup>!** Our Auxiliary Directory can be found on the ASPF website!



Actual decals picture right.



# **Auxiliary News**

## **NEA Pre Superbowl Fundraiser**

#### TROOP C SPOUSES' AUXILIARY

Troop C Spouses' Auxiliary hosted a Pre Superbowl Bash at the Red Wolf Convention Center in Jonesboro February 8th.

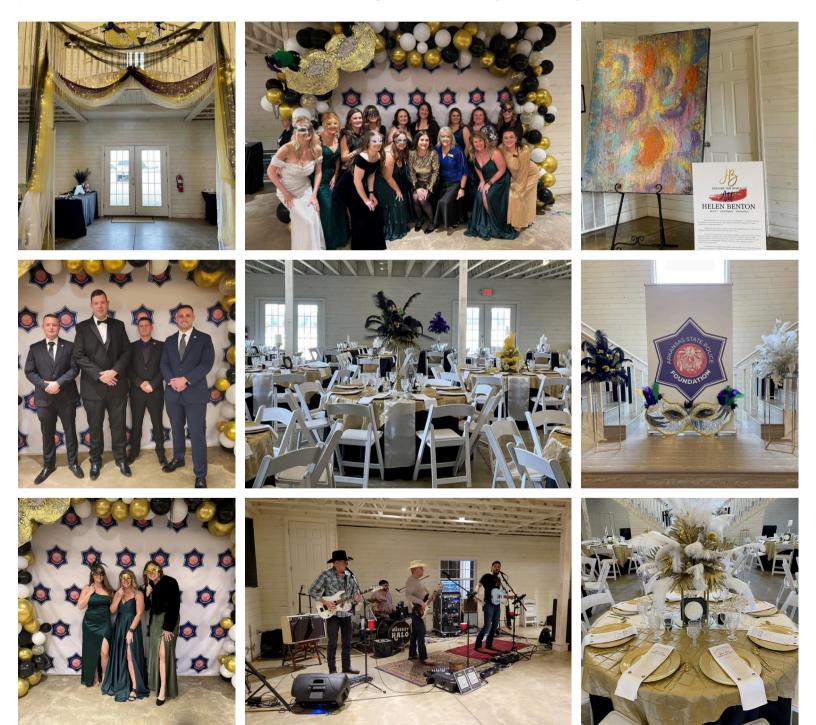






## Mardi Gras Masquerade

Troop B Spouses' Auxiliary's first annual gala was a huge success! The event took place on Friday, March 14th at The Wedding Barn & Event Center in Pangburn which was intricately decorated by The Garden Party. John 3:17 Catering provided a delicious meal and live music by Whiskey Halo kept everyone entertained. Guests also participated in a drawdown and silent action throughout the evening. What a night to remember!





#### ARKANSAS STATE POLICE **Fundraising Opportunities** FOUNDATION





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for Arkansas State Police Foundation



sponsorships, please visit <u>www.myfarmers.bank/ASPFgolf</u> or call Candace Rankin at (870) 235-7003.

# **Upcoming Events**

#### APRIL 15, 2025 - RETIREE MEETING/LUNCH HOSTED BY ASPF

Precision Driving Training Complex/Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR

APRIL 25, 2025 - FARMERS BANK GOLF TOURNAMENT Mystic Creek Country Club, El Dorado, AR

MAY 17, 2025 - 2ND ANNUAL DUELING PIANOS FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY TROOP G

Texarkana Convention Center, Texarkana, AR

# MAY 21, 2025 - ASP ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON

Benton Event Center, Benton, AR

JUNE 2, 2025 - CENTENNIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Conway Country Club, Conway, AR









