

## Outgoing President

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*Kevin Blongy*

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Well it's hard to believe another year is over. It has been a pleasure to serve as the President of this great organization and I want to thank the Vermont Police Association membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. I can assure you that on January 1, 2005, I will be turning the seat of President over to the very capable hands of Mark Donka of Hartford PD.

The 2004 convention was a success at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, October 22 & 23. We enjoyed the entertainment of comedian Bob Seibel on Friday evening. On Saturday the annual meeting went well with the passage of an important bylaw change giving all trustee's present at an executive board meeting the right to vote in that meeting. We also said good by to a long time trustee and past president Steve Benard of the Rutland County Sheriff's Department who decided not to run for another term on the board of Trustees but the membership elected a great replacement and I would like to welcome Brad Vail of the Hartford Police Department to the Board of Trustees. The banquet was a lot of fun, the food was outstanding and the Rutland Area Band the Space Monkeys provided very nice music.

I have said this on many occasions but can not stress it enough. This organization is built on its membership, over

700 strong. If there is something that you would like to see the VPA accomplish or if you have an issue, legislative or otherwise you feel the VPA should act on please contact one of your trustees so it can be brought up.

The recent past has been very trying with the threat of terrorism and a Country at war overseas. The recent activation of the 2nd battalion 172nd Armored Vermont Army National Guard headquartered out of Rutland and the announcement that the 1st Battalion 172nd Armored, headquartered out of Burlington, will be activated by the first of the year. This is the largest single troop mobilization out of the State of Vermont in history. This activation has taken many of our fellow Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMS personnel to active duty. It has also taken family members, friends and neighbors from our communities across the State. I am asking that you keep our soldiers in your daily thoughts and prayers and that each and every one of you do what you can to assist their families while they are away on active duty.

I wish you all the best in the New Year and Stay Safe.

—Officer Kevin R. Blongy  
Rutland City Police Dept.  
2004 President  
Vermont Police  
Association



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