

The New York State Troopers Emerald Society: Year Two

By: Gary Lewis (Trooper, Troop L)

The second year of the New York State Troopers Emerald Society (NYSTES) has been extremely productive. In 2009, the NYSTES came together through the efforts of members of the New York State Police - Edward Gillespie and Gary Lewis - who were proud of their heritage and sought to form a fraternal organization based on unity and charity.

The two men were soon joined by other members including Kenneth Gein, Michael Franz, Michael O'Sullivan, Robert Swansen and Daniel O'Hare, who formed an Executive Board and incorporated the NYSTES as a not-for-profit organization. In 2010 the NYSTES held its first annual St. Patrick's Day Party in New York City on St. Patrick's Day, but the work had only just begun.

NYSTES has been busy over the last year raising money for charitable events and causes, focusing on the growth

and membership of the organization and networking with other groups to promote unity among similar and like-minded organizations.

The membership of the New York State Police has been overwhelmingly responsive and supportive. The membership of the Emerald Society is thriving and growing better than its founders could have expected. With active and retired members of the New York State Police - both sworn and civilian - along with their families and invited friends, the ranks are beginning to swell.

Over the past year NYSTES has held several events across the state of New York. Thanks to members such as Kevin Manion (Troop G) and Michael Connors (Troop A), NYSTES has been able to raise funds and increase membership as well as further the goals of commemorating and celebrating the Irish and Celtic culture that

so many of the New York State Police members share. Several of the Executive Board members went to and represented

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TOP: The NYSTES donated to Tour De Force, the dual mission of which is to honor the victims of 9/11 by keeping their memory alive through cycling events and raising funds to benefit the families of police officers and Troopers killed in the line of duty nationwide. In this photo is Bob Cronin, a retired Trooper from Troop B. ABOVE: Tour De Force cyclists



The NYSTES donated money toward a St. Baldrick's fundraiser in Troop L to benefit children with cancer. L to R: Tprs Daniel O'Hare, Michael Pellegrino, Richard Delucie, Frank Santini, and Michael Silke, all Troopers from Troop L.

the NYSTES at the National Troopers Coalition Picnic in Boston this past year. The NYSTES held a fundraiser in Saratoga and was able to participate in and host some of the festivities at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Buffalo.

Goals of the NYSTES are to be a force for good and to help others in need. The NYSTES has made several charitable contributions over the past year. Some of the benefactors of these contributions have included Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the Tour De Force, a cycling event in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Tour De Force's dual mission is to honor the victims of 9/11 by keeping their memory alive through cycling events and to raise funds to benefit the families of Troopers and police officers killed in the line of duty nationwide. The 2011 Tour De Force starts on Sept. 8, 2011 at Ground Zero in New York City and ends on Sept. 11, 2011 in Arlington, Va. The NYSTES has also made a donation to The St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization that enables police to support children who have cancer. The NYSTES has also helped some of our own members who, along with their families, were in need of a little help with things such as excessive medical bills.

This was the second year the NYSTES held a St. Patrick's Day Celebration on the day itself in New York City. Once again the grand event was held at PJ Clarks on 63rd Street and Broadway in Manhattan. We had an extensive list of honored guests. The guests at the party

were not only from our own New York State Police, but also from the Connecticut State Troopers Emerald Society, Boston Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department and even members of Ireland's Garda Síochána na hÉireann "Guard of the Peace of Ireland," or the "Guardians of the Peace [of Ireland]." Our fallen soldiers and law enforcement officers were remembered as well as our heroes who are fighting overseas. The New York State Police Pipes and Drums played and were later joined by the Westchester County Police Emerald Society Pipe Band. The sound of the pipes and the beat of the drums kept spirits and hearts soaring. A good time was had by all, as we celebrated our heritage on St. Patrick's Day with our brethren from across the country and across the sea. It was a fitting celebration for New York City's 250th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Overall, the NYSTES has enjoyed a prosperous year. With continued support from the membership, the PBA, the New York State Police Pipes and Drums and the momentum we are gathering, we strive to accomplish even more in the future. We are working on having our Emerald Society counted in the National Conference of Law Enforcement Emerald Societies, Inc.

The web site at www.nystes.org is always being updated, as is the New York State Troopers Emerald Society Facebook page. If you are interested in getting involved with or joining the New York State Troopers Emerald Soci-



Dan O'Hare reacts to having his hair shaved



Michael Pellegrino, Michael Silke, Dan O'Hare, Scott Larson, Frank Santini, Richard Delucie, Anthony Strollo (civilian local businessman and donor), and Kenneth Gein (NYSTES), Troopers from Troop L



NYSTES board members present a donation check to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) - L to R: Ed Gillespie (Tpr, Troop L); MADD Board Member Mary Scala, Ken Gein (Tpr, Troop L), MADD Board Member, and Gary Lewis (Tpr, Troop L)

ety, you can contact the group by e-mail at nyspemerad@gmail.com.

The New York State Troopers Emerald Society is proud of what has been accomplished thus far and is looking forward to doing more in the name of New York State Troopers of Irish and Celtic descent. Slainte! ☐