Vice-Chairman Wood called the March 14th, 2013, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., introduced Dr. Bob Hoffman of the Calhoun First Methodist Church who gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brian Rickman presented a Resolution to former Board member, Mr. Jon Canada. Mr. Canada thanked the BPS for the Resolution and stated he enjoyed his time on the BPS and hoped he served the Board well and the agencies that are involved and it was certainly his pleasure and honor to serve for the state of Georgia and Governor Deal. Mr. Canada stated he had a great time serving on the BPS and got to learn a lot of new things that he had no idea about. Mr. Canada stated one of the goals in his personal and professional life was to learn something new every day, which can be very big or sometimes very small. Mr. Canada shared that on the BPS, meeting the people that he got to meet and to serve with the caliber of people that he got to serve with, was a truly distinct honor.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked those in attendance to stand and introduce their selves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the February Board minutes. Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and voted approval by the Board members.

**DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety took a minute to state that Mr. Jon Canada is extremely humble in his words, but noted that no Fire Chief has come to this Board and has been so active and pro-active, usually the Chief would sit at the end of the table, he came just a few minutes before the meeting would start and then the Chief’s representative would leave after the meeting. Commissioner McDonough stated Mr. Canada came to the Board with an atmosphere of what can be done to make things better and when one gets police officers, troopers, GBI agents and DNR agents to go to the fire house and eat lunch, one has accomplished a lot. Commissioner McDonough shared that when Chief Canada worked with its’ city and its bureaucracy to help a state agency get a new hangar, a lot has been accomplished. Commissioner McDonough noted when Chief Canada got law enforcement involved with GEMA to go to an emergency disaster to help out the firefighters and rescuers; he has helped out a lot. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged as a Rabun county resident, the chief came with his team when the tornado hit Rabun County and in one of their darkest hours, Chief Canada helped get the roads cleared and help the folks. Commissioner McDonough stated in his brief time with the Board, Chief Canada has done more to represent the fire service and in particular fire service on the BPS than anyone he has known. Commissioner McDonough personally thanked Chief Canada for everything he has done.

Commissioner McDonough advised GSP SCRT will be assimilated back within field services which will be in line with the budget for fiscal year 2014. Commissioner McDonough stated the reorganization is just about complete and instead of teams 1-5, there will be a team specific to each troop and the detached MCCD person that is with the SCRT will go back to MCCD and perform their jobs at MCCD as motor vehicle inspectors, but in the event of a commercial motor vehicle accident, the officers that have been trained will be asked to help. Commissioner McDonough emphasized the
team members have been given new equipment, specifically single man GPS mapping systems where it just takes one person to actually map a scene through the use of GPS technology. Commissioner McDonough affirmed the SCRT reorganization is being communicated with the Prosecuting Attorneys Council and with the District Attorneys and noted if one talks with a DA in the state, one will know the product that the SCRT members put forth; you will understand why they have a 98% conviction rate when it comes to the accidents. Commissioner McDonough reiterated the SCRT reorganization is just about complete and should be done well in time for the fiscal year 2014 transition.

Commissioner McDonough shared the PEER Support Team just finished seven levels of PEER Support Training with 43 active members on the support team of which 39 of them have completed all seven levels. Commissioner McDonough declared the PEER Support Team will be applying for national certification under the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation and anticipates by the middle of the summer, the team will be nationally accredited. Expounding upon this, Commissioner McDonough stated at the end of this month, the PEER Support Team is participating and hosting a Post Critical Incident Seminar in Augusta, GA, with people from the school shooting in Connecticut, and people from Aurora, Colorado attending which shows the PEER Support Team has not only had their impact seen statewide, but now they are starting to participate and have an impact nationally. Commissioner McDonough added it is exciting to see what the team is doing and Lt. Andy Carrier is doing a fine job, and in addition to this duty, Lt. Carrier also serves as the Health and Welfare Officer and starting today, Lt. Carrier and 20 other officers are starting the Below 100 training who will in turn be the train the trainers and once training is complete, will start the training statewide.

Commissioner McDonough advised Mr. Lee O’Brien would be presenting a Resolution for the support of the reorganization of MCCD. Commissioner McDonough stated that code section 35-2-38, the provision under the State Patrol for the DPS talks about the authority of the Commissioner to be able to divide the state into divisions or districts and that applies to the organization of the State Patrol. Commissioner McDonough added with House Bill 502 there was no stipulation as far as that authority, but thinks the spirit is there, now that MCCD is under the DPS, that he has the authority to do this and also asked for the support of the Board in such reorganization. Commissioner McDonough stressed this is something that has been done very carefully over the last few months; Major Gene Davis and his staff have looked at how MCCD is structured in the state and have divided the state into 10 regions and within those regions they are establishing stations and this will help them effectively assign the MCCD personnel to whatever weigh station they are in or whatever their duties are and with the required supervision. Commissioner McDonough stated in the handout, the first document shows the way the MCCD regions are organized at the present time and then looking at the second diagram, it shows the reorganized regions. Commissioner McDonough stated the MCCD staff looked at the reorganization county by county to see how they could better serve their regions and their stations in its structure.

Commissioner McDonough advised there are two letters, one from Hart County and a second letter from Paulding County involving two new posts. Commissioner McDonough advised that Hart County is offering to establish a new post in Hart County which would cover some of the counties that are on I-85. Commissioner McDonough noted when looking at the GSP structure, one can see that the only place in the state that does not have a post presence on the interstate system is the northeast corner,
which essentially goes from Gwinnett County all the way to the SC line. Commissioner McDonough added when someone comes into the state in any other place on the interstate system, they will see there is a post located over that area. Commissioner McDonough stated that this welcome is an important thing; it would be a welcomed addition to Troop B and northeast GA. Commissioner McDonough stated the second offer for a new patrol post is by Paulding County and reminded the BPS members that Post 29 was closed as Polk County asked for their facility back and put their county people in the facility and stated GSP did not close the post structure down, they just moved out of the facility. Commissioner McDonough shared that Paulding County has come forward and has proposed to build GSP a new post facility to reestablish Post 29 out of the new post facility. Commissioner McDonough asked for the BPS members support to move forward to negotiate with Hart County and Paulding County to establish a new post in Hart County for northeast Georgia and to reestablish Post 29 in Paulding County.

Mr. Steve Cronic made the motion for Commissioner McDonough to negotiate with Hart County to establish a new GSP post in Hart County for northeast Georgia and to negotiate with Paulding County to reestablish Post 29 in Paulding County. This motion was seconded by Chief Irene Pennington and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Commissioner McDonough how many counties the Hart County post would cover. Commissioner McDonough responded there would probably be 3-4 counties covered by the Hart County post and advised this would allow the GSP to restructure Troop B to better align the existing posts to serve a smaller county area, in particularly right now, Post 7 Toccoa carries from the Rabun County/Towns County line to the Hart County/Elbert County line; five counties. Commissioner McDonough stressed this is a large territory that needs to be broken up with additional manpower with the growth that has been seen in the area. Commissioner McDonough advised one of the proposals for Hart County; the GSP would suggest bringing Elbert County out of Troop E into Troop B and then extending Franklin County down to Banks County. Commissioner McDonough added there are certain scenarios and will look at all of them and see what GSP feels is best, but noted the whole point of this is to put additional presence in the northeast Georgia corridor specifically along the interstate system of the counties that have traditionally been the outlying counties.

Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., asked Commissioner McDonough how the Dallas post in Paulding County would be done and Commissioner McDonough responded that the Paulding County letter is very broad, but the post plans that have been done for Hart County have been done for a reason; to have a standardized post structure that if this is done statewide that we pretty much do the same facility. Commissioner McDonough stated the facility plans are about 6500-7000 square feet, a traditional ranch style with a gable roof, and center hallway with a sally port at the back. Commissioner McDonough added this is a very functional building that will give GSP the space with some rooms for people to stay there. Commissioner McDonough noted the plans have been downsized compared to what has been built in other places and Paulding County is suggesting GSP establish us in an existing structure while the post is being built. Commissioner McDonough advised during the reorganization, Paulding County will go with Haralson County and Polk County will go with Cartersville.
Commissioner McDonough invited everyone to the DPS Awards Ceremony which will be Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 2:00 pm in the Capitol Police auditorium. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members the 91st Trooper School graduation will be at the Capitol, Friday, March 22, 2013, starting at 0845 hours with the inspection at the bottom of the north steps inside the capitol, then a photo with the three constitutional elected officers of the executive branch and then graduation ceremonies start at 1000 hours in the auditorium of Post 50 Capitol Police. Commissioner McDonough advised they are trying to make the graduation as special as they can for the smallest class that has ever graduated with 16 cadets. Commissioner McDonough stated the troopers have worked very hard and made it through a difficult class, very good people and wants to celebrate small.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation welcomed and recognized Mr. John Bankhead to the BPS meeting and advised that Mr. Bankhead would be retiring after 25 years of service. Mr. Kirk stated that Mr. Bankhead has been a great mentor and friend to him and always let him come into his office, shut the door, and ask stupid questions; has been a great resource and will truly miss Mr. Bankhead as he leaves for retirement.

Mr. Bankhead began by thanking Mr. Kirk for the comments which says more about the agency than him. Mr. Bankhead stated the reputation of the GBI is beyond reproach and when one ties there name to the GBI; it is more about the GBI than John Bankhead. Mr. Bankhead stated for the professionalism of the organization, working with Director Keenan, Assistant Director Kirk and many others has been outstanding, they have worked with him very closely and they understand the way the media operates so that has been a plus on Mr. Bankhead’s side. Mr. Bankhead shared his time, 25 years at the GBI has been a great experience and will miss everyone, but it is time to move on.

Mr. Bankhead updated the BPS on legislative issues that the GBI is interested in; three bills posed before the legislature and other issues that the GBI is following. Mr. Bankhead stated one bill had to do with the duplication of effort concerning abandoned vessels, the law requires that whoever recovers the vessel, report it to both DNR and to the GBI and GCIC. Mr. Bankhead added GCIC does not have any role in this as it is handled strictly by DNR; the GBI is working on a bill to do away with taking the GBI out of the picture as this causes confusion by those involved in the issue and will delete GCIC out of the law. Mr. Bankhead advised that Ms. Sherry Lang, who will be taking his place, is doing an excellent job, has been handling most of the legislation as he has been sitting back and watching. Mr. Bankhead advised the bill did not get out of the rules in the House, but Ms. Lang has been able to find a bill that has passed the House, that is in the Senate and she has worked with the sponsor of the bill and DNR on getting the language of abandoned vessels attached to that bill over at the Senate and it should not be an issue.

Mr. Bankhead shared the GBI’s main bill has to do with an undercover type of operation, part of the Internet Crimes Against Children effort which will allow the agents to pose at 14 year old girls to try and capture pedophiles trolling the internet for this type of sex. Mr. Bankhead advised the law at this time does not allow that same type of operation when there is a parent trolling or a predator trolling for a parent that offers their child for sexual purposes. Mr. Bankhead added there have been a couple of cases from out of state, Alabama in particular, where they detected that the suspect was in GA trying to
troll the internet looking for a parent willing to give their child up for sex, we told them after researching the law there is nothing that will allow us to pose it undercover in that aspect so that we could arrest the guy. Mr. Bankhead stated the GBI is trying to change this and the bill has been on smooth sail, passed the House and is in the Senate to allow the GBI to do this and reiterated this is the GBI’s most critical legislation, which does not seem to have any issues.

Mr. Bankhead stated there is an issue with another piece of legislation that was posed concerning morphing where a person running for Congress in middle Georgia, someone had taken her face and put it on a nude body, porn was involved and there was no law that addressed this particular issue. Mr. Bankhead stated this happened to another politician and the GBI tried to address this with the legislature and the code section that the GBI went in had to do with unsolicited porn which deals with receiving porn in the mail. Mr. Bankhead advised electronic submissions was added to the legislation to try and cover this particular issue, which pretty much opened up a can of worms for the old statue that no one had looked at for years. Mr. Bankhead noted when they got to looking at it; a prosecutor had an issue with it so they are asking the GBI to hold off until next session so that they can go in and look at the statue since it needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Bankhead advised an issue that the GBI is following concerns providing DNA submission for all felony arrestees in Georgia which has passed the Senate, but when the bill got over to the House there were issues. Mr. Bankhead stated another bill that is being looked at is the elder abuse bill where they are trying to take all the penalties dealing with elder abuse and put in Title 16 of the criminal code to try and help law enforcement to go to that one section that they normally go to as this is a growing problem in Georgia and there have been a lot issues recently with elder abuse and they are trying to strengthen the law this year.

Mr. Bankhead noted another issue is a bill that requires the notification in business establishments dealing with sex trafficking, a national volunteer group that wants businesses to post the notification in restrooms if one is a victim of sex trafficking, the victim can call a certain toll free number. Mr. Bankhead stated the GBI had worked with the State Patrol as initially it was the State Patrol that had to put out the notice, but since the GBI has a child sex trafficking unit, the GBI recommended that their unit be responsible for putting out this notice to the businesses.

In regards to the growing synthetic marijuana issue, Mr. Bankhead stated the updated Controlled Substances Act passed both the House and the Senate, and was signed by Governor Deal; the formulas that the GBI came up with are now illegal, but Mr. Bankhead stated the dealers will try and manipulate the molecules and skirt under the law, but the GBI Lab will stay on top of this.

Mr. Bankhead shared there is a big bill that will help law enforcement address the coin operated amusement machine issue which is referred to as the video poker bill, which will be moved under the Lottery Commission. Mr. Bankhead stated all class b operated coin machines will have to tie into the Lottery Commission and will receive a percentage; they will be monitored and if the machine is not tied into the Lottery Commission it will be illegal. Mr. Bankhead advised this bill has passed the House and the Senate committee and is on smooth sail and is a big push by Governor Deal.
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Mr. Bankhead shared there is a bill that is moving in the Senate that allows sex offender investigators access to Pardons and Parole information and is on smooth sailing. This is a repetitive issue and it would make it quicker for the investigators to label the sex offenders once they have access to the information.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Mr. Bankhead if the Lottery Commission would certify a machine in a business establishment and Mr. Bankhead advised that it would tie into what the Dept. of Revenue does now, the Dept. of Revenue now licenses each machine. Mr. Bankhead added this is a very lengthy bill and most of it has to do with turning over the responsibility from the Dep. of Revenue to the Lottery Commission, but the machines will be tied into machines like the computers are when putting the lottery ticket in and will know how much money is going through each machine. Mr. Bankhead stated taxes will be collected, a certain amount will go to HOPE and all around it is an excellent idea; Director Keenan spoke in favor of it at the hearings.

Commissioner Owens commented the GBI does have a sterling reputation and it is because of its people that make that reputation. Commissioner Owens shared he has watched Mr. Bankhead at the capitol for many years and Mr. Bankhead has set the standard in the category of doing things the right way, all the time, not only from the legislative perspective, but from a public affairs perspective, so he has absolutely set the standard and he will be drastically missed at the GBI.

Mr. Brian Rickman commented that when he was a young prosecutor he had several controversial situations, one of his first, a law enforcement shooting and someone said to stand at ease, as John Bankhead is coming and that made Mr. Rickman feel better.

Dr. George Herrin, GBI Crime Lab had some good news on the lab and shared over the last three years the staff has been built up using federal grants and all of these people have been trained. Dr. Herrin advised most of those people, but not all have been moved into state positions and the GBI is beginning to see a reduction in the backlog for the first time in several years. After checking this morning, Dr. Herrin advised the backlog was down around the 4500-4700 range which is lower than it has been since 2007. Dr. Herrin stated the turnaround time in 45 days, 60% of the reports are going out in 45 days right now and will stay low until the backlog is at a lower stage and then will start going up. Dr. Herrin stated 8 new DNA analysts just completed training, one of whom is in the Moultrie Lab and the Moultrie Lab will be undergoing its accreditation process for DNA toward the end of April and should be finalize sometime later in the summer. After accreditation, Dr. Herrin advised the analysts will be doing DNA in the Moultrie Lab for the first time ever, which will serve Southwest Georgia. Dr. Herrin stated eight drug chemists that were hired last year after changes in the criminal justice reform legislation should complete their training in the middle of next month, and three of the chemists will be going to the Macon Lab, which will become a regional hub to handle overflow from Savannah, Moultrie, Columbus, or wherever, when there are more cases coming into a particular lab than can be handled in that specific lab. Dr. Herrin advised there are two more firearms examiners that will finish training at the end of this month, which will bring the total of firearms examiners to 16, which is the most the state has ever had. Dr. Herrin noted the firearms backlog is dropping by about 20 cases a
month at this time. Dr. Herrin stated the Intox project that was approved last fall by the BPS, the final version of the instrument should be received tomorrow and the transition training classes will be scheduled in mid-April or early May and after they work with the GPSTC; the state agencies will begin to implement the new Intox that everyone is looking forward to.

Mr. Brian Rickman shared what the crime lab does for the ability to seek justice. Mr. Rickman advised he had a three co-defendant murder case where three co-defendants did a home invasion; two co-defendants had weapons and killed someone. Because of the crime lab, he was able to match a projectile that was in one of the deceased from a particular gun, then the crime lab through swabbing the gun was able to get DNA from one of the suspects tied to that gun, that bullet went into the deceased, not only that, but because of the CODIS program, there was an immediate CODIS hit because one of the defendants had been in prison for armed robbery before. Mr. Rickman stated in what the Crime Lab does, he cannot stress enough the fact that especially one of the fears that he has with co-defendants, people lie, just make stories up and we want to get the right people and in this particular case the crime lab services helped us all feel good that the right people were charged with the right thing and to him those services are so important and thanked Dr. Herrin. Mr. Rickman stated this was a case where there was one defendant and we made the decision to seek the death penalty and had one defendant giving a version of events and if he is asking for someone’s life to be taken, he really wants to be sure that he knows that it is the correct version of events and because of the crime lab’s work, he has complete confidence that he has the appropriate people charged. Mr. Rickman thanked Dr. Herrin for what the crime lab does and for the firearms examiners.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, thanked former Board member Jon Canada for all of the help he has given to him in regards to fire services and appreciates his friendship.

Director Bearden introduced Deputy Director of Training, Keith Howard. Mr. Howard stated he is very grateful for the opportunity given to him by Director Bearden. Mr. Howard shared that he has been in state government for 25 years, starting at the University of Georgia, then employed by the GBI, where he became the ASAC for the Crime Analysis Unit, overseeing the coordination of the child abuse specialists, the crime scene specialists and the behavioral science unit throughout the state. Mr. Howard shared that he put together a training program that is still being used by the crime scene specialists working with the University of Tennessee and their National Forensic Academy. Mr. Howard said he was fortunate to be selected to train in a criminal profiling behavioral fellowship with the FBI. Mr. Howard stated the before mentioned services are offered at the GPSTC as well as behavioral science and will be meeting with GBI agents next week to look at a cold case. Mr. Howard advised that he is currently serving as President of a behavioral organization that oversees international training of criminal profilers around the world. Mr. Howard shared he graduated from Columbus College before there was a Command College and has worked for Archie Rainey since 1995. Since 2000, Mr. Howard has taught the Deviant Behavior class for the DOC and also teaches an on-line criminal justice course for Thomas University. Mr. Howard advised that he was in his second term as an elected member of the Board of Education in Morgan County whose high schools are in the top 7% of the nation in high schools. Mr. Howard advised he shared all this background of himself as when Director Bearden tells him this is what he needs to do, this is the experience that he draws from. Mr.
Howard stressed some of the things and initiatives that the GPSTC is trying to do is a balance between police training, law enforcement, firefighter training, and the public safety element and with the collaboration of some colleges and universities. Mr. Howard advised the GPSTC has put together some curriculums in criminal investigation, traffic investigation, have a crime scene certification, and are working on a latent print examiner certification, the arson program as there are 18 different adjunct instructors throughout the state that help the GPSTC with the arson program. Mr. Howard reiterated there are a number of initiatives going forward with regard trying to harness some of the things that GPSTC does and make a curriculum that looks appealing to the college educators. Mr. Howard stated there are a number of on line programs that the GPSTC has moved to and have 30 on line programs that are running with 8,000 students a month, and GPSTC has only been in the on line business for the last three years. Mr. Howard advised there have been some new initiatives in regards to driver training under the leadership of Director Bearden. Mr. Howard stated they have made some specialized and advanced things with the governor’s initiatives and with the GSP assistance with the vehicles, training, and radios and invited everyone to go to the GPSTC website as on the web site there is a crash test that was done by the GPSTC, GSP, MCCD and was told that this is the only crash test that has been done by an academy in the nation. Mr. Howard stressed that students get to come to the GPSTC and get to see how to work investigations using all the new technology and techniques and GPSTC is trying to be innovative as possible in that regard. With regard to night driving, PIT training, Mr. Howard advised the GPSTC is putting some high speed driving out there, some new things out there that GPSTC has never had before in regard to the driving training initiative program. Mr. Howard stated the GPSTC works on and expresses rigorous coursework; also ask that we have lot writing as we know that is a critical issue. Mr. Howard said they talked with Director Keenan a few years ago and talked about how the police chiefs in the nation complain that officers do not know how to write reports so the GPSTC has an online lesson for public safety report writing.

Mr. Howard stated the GPSTC is beginning an initiative with the Republic of Georgia in the next couple of weeks to train their instructors how to train their officers. Mr. Howard expressed it is an exciting time at GPSTC, thanks to the leadership of Director Bearden, it is very exciting to go into a new direction in regards to innovation and certainly try to be in the 21st century of what the officers are looking for, for the next 20 years and not so much for what we have been doing for the last 20-30 years.

Director Bearden shared that the Firefighter Memorial celebration is this weekend at GPSTC, which is the first time in over two decades that there has not been a line in duty death in fire services, but unfortunately just last week a Marietta firefighter died in the line of duty which will overshadow the celebration for this past year.

Director Bearden advised Police Chief Day at the capitol was last week with a good turnout.

Director Bearden advised the Public Safety Memorial Committee met on March 8th, 2013 and submitted a list of 12 names for approval to the BPS members to be placed on the Public Safety Memorial wall in May:

Gail Denise Thomas, Atlanta PD,
Robert Warren “Bobby” Crapse, Sr., Bryan County Sheriff’s Dept.
Larry Lee Stell, GA Department of Corrections-Telfair State Prison
Richard Joseph Halford, Atlanta Police Dept.
Shawn A. Smiley, Atlanta Police Dept.
Elgin LeVarn Daniel, Henry County Police Dept.
Sean Louis Callahan, Clayton County Police Dept.
Robert Shane Wilson (approved 6/7/12) Doraville Police Dept.
Historical submissions
William A. Hyers, Adel Police Dept.
Franklin Leland Williams, Bibb County Sheriff’s Dept.
Walter Brakes, Waycross Police Dept.
Donald Moon, Athens-Clarke County Police Dept.

Chief Danny D. Bowman made the motion to accept the 2012 Georgia Public Safety Memorial submissions. This motion was seconded by Mr. C. Murray Kight and voted approval by the BPS members.

Director Bearden presented a list of 56 names, names that are on the National Memorial Wall and will bring the list back before the BPS at the May meeting, for review and approval with the names being placed on the Georgia Public Safety Memorial Wall in 2014.

DONATIONS

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Temporary Office Space $ 44,974.52 R2B2 Motors, Duluth, GA
(4) Kustom Pro Laser III $ 12,200.00 Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Dept.
(2) Kustom Pro Laser III $ 6,100.00 Braselton Police Dept.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Irene Pennington, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation requested approval of the following donations:

32” Magnavox Television $ 300.00 Celadon-Bruce R. Wishart
19” Magnavox Television $ 150.00 Celadon-Bruce R. Wishart
Remotec Andros T6A Robot $ 119,727.00 Crisp County Sheriff’s Dept.
The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. C. Murray Kight, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lee O’Brien, Deputy Director of Legal Services, Department of Public Safety presented a Resolution which would authorize the Department of Public Safety to establish a system of organization of its Motor Carrier Compliance Division into Regions and Stations throughout the state.

Mr. Steve Cronic made a motion that the members of the Georgia Board of Public Safety authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to establish the Regions and Stations as divisions of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division. This was seconded by Chief Irene Pennington and voted approved by the Board members.

Commissioner McDonough noted that Mr. Lee O’Brien would be retiring from the DPS on April 1, 2013, and he will be missed and that Mr. O’Brien’s counsel has been invaluable. Mr. O’Brien shared that it has been a distinct honor and pleasure to come before the BPS on occasions and has enjoyed knowing everyone and will treasure the friendships and will miss his time with the DPS, but misses his time with his wife, more.

Vice-Chairman Wood notified the BPS members that Chief Bill Myers is retiring from the Gwinnett County Fire Department and will be resigning from the BPS.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Commissioner Owens for the use of the DOC Board room and hospitality.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members the April 18th, 2013 meeting will be at the National Guard Armory in Glennville, joint meeting with DOC and Pardons and Parole.

Commissioner Owens shared that on April 17th, law enforcement agencies will be participating at the National Guard Armory in Glennville trying to recruit servicemen coming out of the military after serving our country to come work for law enforcement in Georgia, which will be a big event for DOC. On the 18th, after the BPS meeting, DOC will offer tours of the prison area.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the May 9th meeting will be in the Valdosta area.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy thanked everyone for the calls and prayers during his hospital stay and recovery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.