



# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
33 HAZEN DR. CONCORD, NH 03305  
603/271-2791

JOHN J. BARTHELMES  
COMMISSIONER

July 24, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

### Requested Action

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety, to accept the donation of a scholarship from the State Farm Arson Dog Program with an estimated value of \$25,000.00 to attend the Fall 2015 class in Alfred, Maine for the acquisition and training of an accelerant detection canine. Effective upon Governor and Council approval.

### Explanation

The acceptance of this donation will provide for the training and acquisition of an accelerant detection canine for use with the State. The donated scholarship includes the cost associated with acquiring the canine; along with the food, kenneling, and veterinary costs for the canine during the imprinting/initial training phase; transportation of the canine to Maine; the training of the fire investigator who will be the handler, along with the handler's lodging and food for four weeks in Maine; the handler's travel expenses to and from Maine; and certification and testing fees.

Accelerant Detection Canines are trained to sniff out minute traces of accelerants or ignitable liquids (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) that may have been used to start a fire. Each dog works and lives with their handler and both canine and handler are trained as a team to investigate fire scenes. The canine teams are a tool to combat the violent crime of arson. They can effectively search multiple areas and layers of debris for evidence; reduce the number of samples sent to the lab, thus saving money; find ignitable liquids on people and clothing; access tight or hard to search areas; and find traces of ignitable liquids not detected by mechanical hydrocarbon detectors.

Respectfully submitted,

[Handwritten signature of John J. Barthelmes]  
John J. Barthelmes  
Commissioner



## Becker, Doris

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**From:** Rodenhiser, Keith  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 3:06 PM  
**To:** Leonard, Kyra; Becker, Doris  
**Subject:** FW: State Farm Arson Dog Program Scholarship notification – Fall 2015 class

Here is the acceptance letter....Additional email to follow shortly.

Regards,

Keith

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**From:** Heather Paul [<mailto:heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2015 8:47 PM  
**To:** Plumer, Sean  
**Cc:** Rodenhiser, Keith; 'Paul and Wendy Gallagher ([mainek9@aol.com](mailto:mainek9@aol.com))'  
**Subject:** State Farm Arson Dog Program Scholarship notification – Fall 2015 class

April 1, 2015

Sean Plumer, Fire Investigator  
New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office  
33 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH

Dear Investigator Plumer:

**Congratulations!** Your department has been selected for the State Farm Arson Dog Program in 2015! State Farm and Maine Specialty Dogs would like to invite you to participate in the Fall 2015 class in Alfred, Maine from August 2, 2015 through August 28, 2015.

**The State Farm scholarship includes all training fees, acquisition of the dog, room and board during training, chemist's certification of the K-9 team, and transportation expenses to and from the training facility in Alfred, Maine.** State Farm will assist you and your department with travel arrangements. Information on travel assistance and details of the arson dog school will be forwarded once attendance is confirmed.

As stated in the application, once the team graduates from the school, yearly maintenance, care and upkeep of the K-9 is the responsibility of the department. This would include yearly recertification training. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the training, the scholarship, recertification classes or need any other information regarding the program.

Your acceptance of this scholarship must be received no later than April 30, 2015. I can be reached by e-mail at [heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com](mailto:heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com) or by phone at (309) 766-0922.

Congratulations again and we are looking to working with you and your department.

Sincerely,



Heather Paul  
State Farm  
Arson Dog Program Coordinator

cc: Keith A. Rodenhiser – Deputy State Fire Marshal, New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office  
Paul Gallagher – Owner and Head Trainer, Maine Specialty Dogs

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Heather Paul  
State Farm, Brand/PR  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Bloomington, IL 61710  
Desk (309) 766-0922  
Cell (309) 826-7899  
[heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com](mailto:heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com)

## Becker, Doris

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**From:** Heather Paul <heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 3:14 PM  
**To:** Rodenhiser, Keith  
**Cc:** Leonard, Kyra; Becker, Doris  
**Subject:** RE: State Farm Arson Dog Program - Fall 2015 class - Additional Information Needed

Hi Keith! The estimated cost of the scholarship is \$25,000. This includes the following:

- Cost associated with acquiring the canine
- Food, kenneling and veterinary costs for the canine during the imprinting/initial training phase
- Transportation of the canine to Maine
- Training of the handler
- Lodging for the handler in Maine for 4 weeks
- Food for the handler in Maine for 4 weeks
- Travel expenses (gas, mileage, airfare) for the handler to and from Maine
- Certification and double-blind testing fees

Because every team is different, we can only give an estimated value of the scholarship.

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Heather Paul  
State Farm®, Brand/PR  
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Bloomington, IL 61710  
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Cell (309) 826-7899  
[heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com](mailto:heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com)

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**From:** Rodenhiser, Keith [<mailto:Keith.Rodenhiser@dos.nh.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 2:08 PM  
**To:** Heather Paul  
**Cc:** Leonard, Kyra; Becker, Doris  
**Subject:** RE: State Farm Arson Dog Program - Fall 2015 class - Additional Information Needed  
**Importance:** High

Hi Heather,

We are attempting to finalize the business/financial approvals for the upcoming K-9 School for Investigator Plumer. As such, our Business Office has some additional questions that I am hoping you can assist us with?

In order for us to be able to accept this scholarship “donation” from State Farm, we need a total cost/dollar amount for the dog, training, and entire program. The value of this donation would then be accepted by our Governor & Council.

I have included our Business Office personnel on this email so that they can chime in and/or follow-up with additional information.

Regards,

Keith A. Rodenhiser, CFEI

Deputy State Fire Marshal / Bureau Commander

New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office

Bureau of Investigations

33 Hazen Drive | Concord, NH 03305

Office: 603-223-4289 | Direct: 603-223-4297 | Mobile: 603-419-9466 | Fax: 603-223-4294 | Arson Hotline: 1-800-400-3526

Website: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/investigations/index.html>



**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:**

*The information contained in this electronic message and any attachment to this message may contain confidential or privileged information and are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s). Please notify the NH State Fire Marshal's Office immediately at (603) 223-4289 if you are not the intended recipient and destroy all copies of this electronic message and any attachments.*