



The Fourword

Volume 38, Number 12

December 2010

NATIONAL FOP LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

National Blue Alert Legislation Introduced in Senate

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, welcomed the introduction of S. 3972, the "National Blue Alert Act." The bill would help establish a "National Blue Alert" system for the local, regional and national dissemination of time-sensitive information to help identify a suspect in the event that a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.

"Law enforcement officers are in harm's way each and every hour of their shift," Canterbury said. "This Blue Alert legislation provides law enforcement and the public with the tools needed for the expeditious apprehension of our most dangerous assailants—those who attack a law enforcement officer."

The legislation, introduced by Senators **Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)**, Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC), would mirror the existing "Amber Alert" system by using existing communications networks to immediately disseminate sensitive information to appropriate law enforcement and other public agencies when an officer goes missing, is severely injured or killed in the line of duty. Specifically, this bill would authorize \$5 million dollars through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in U.S. Department of Justice to encourage, enhance, and integrate "Blue Alert" plans through a system of training and support for State and local law enforcement units. For those States with such systems in place, an additional \$5 million is authorized to improve them with new technologies.

"This is about officer safety," Canterbury added, "We strongly support its passage and look forward to working with Senate leadership to pass the bill."

FOP Top Priority introduced in the Senate

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, hailed the introduction of S.3944, the "**Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act.**"

"Nearly 30,000 Federal law enforcement officers do not receive equal status with their Federal law enforcement colleagues under current pay and retirement laws of the government they so proudly serve," Canterbury said.

This legislation, introduced by **Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)**, would provide these brave men and women with 6(c) benefits and the ability to retire after twenty (20) years of service at the age of fifty (50), or twenty-five (25) years of service at any age. This is the same benefit currently received by most criminal investigators and Federal law enforcement officers in several agencies. This legislation will also provide for savings in training costs, improve recruitment and retention of qualified officers, and enhance public safety.

"We strongly endorse the passage of this bill and applaud the efforts of Senator Mikulski on the important issue of Federal retirement," said Canterbury.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES

November 2010

Recorded by Dave Folderauer

The November, 2010 General Business Meeting was held on November 22, 2010 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Chaplain Merkle led the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Brother Zito was on vacation. All other elected officers and board members were present. Legal advisor Mike Marshall was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Brother King to accept the minutes of the October 2010 General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Brother Grumbach. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- October 27 Addressed the In-Service training class.
October 28 Visited the funeral home with the Hess family and attended a fundraiser for County Executive candidate Kevin Kamenetz.
November 1 Addressed the new sergeants' class.
November 2 Attended the Retired Officer's Association meeting.

- November 3 Addressed the In-Service training class.
November 9 Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting.
November 10 Addressed the In-Service training class.
November 11 Attended the COP OUT annual fundraiser supporting the Police Assistance and Relief Fund.
November 13 Attended the Maryland State F.O.P. meeting in Hagerstown.
November 15 Attended the F.O.P. Executive Board of Directors meeting.
November 16 Met with the County Executive's transition team and attended the Department's awards ceremony.
November 17 Addressed the In-Service training class.
November 22 Attended the General Membership meeting.

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- November 3 Worked at the Lodge office and completed campaign finance data entry.
November 12 Attended a Leadership Training Seminar that was hosted by the Maryland State FOP Lodge.
November 13 Attended the quarterly meeting of the Maryland State FOP Lodge in Hagerstown, Maryland.
November 15 Worked at the Lodge office, submitted our Post-General Election Campaign Finance Report and attended the Executive Board of Directors Meeting.
November 22 Worked at the Lodge office and attended the General Membership Meeting.

LODGE 4 OFFICE

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Baltimore, Maryland 21234
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Toll Free (888) 313-3501
www.foplodge4.org

ELECTED OFFICERS

Cole B. Weston
President
(443) 956-2679

Steven G. Comegna 1st Vice President
David M. Rose 2nd Vice President

David J. Folderauer, Sr. Lodge Secretary
Robert W. Caskey Treasurer

W. Donald Patterson State Trustee
Richard J. Bergin Sergeant at Arms

Paul A. Merkle Chaplain
L. Timothy Caslin Past President

EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kenneth F. Schubert Chairman
Mike DiCara Vice Chairman

Thomas G. Scally CID - Arson
Louis J. Lagna Retired
Donna Patterson Planning & Research
Patrick Zito PC 7 - Traffic
James P. Rommel, Jr. K9
Ryan Massey Homicide
Joe Caskey Homicide
Tony DiCara PC 12

LODGE STAFF

Larry Sibley—Office Manager
Juanita Bouthner—Administrative Assistant

LEGAL ADVISORS

Schlachman, Belsky & Weiner, P.A.
Phone (410) 685-2022
IAS Cases Michael Marshall

The Fourword is the official monthly publication of Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 4.

Kathryn Greenbeck
Fourword Editor

Bereavements

Jocelyn G. Redmer
Mother of Retired Brother
Gregory D. Redmer, Sr.

Catherine M. Bennett
Grandmother of Brother
Michael A. Norris

Joseph J. Bonhoff, Sr.
Father of Brother
David M. Bonhoff

Pastor John O. Harrison
Grandfather of Retired
Sister Rashelle M. Harrison

Edwin C. Hildebrand
Former Associate Member
and Former Lodge4 Printer



~ 2nd V. P. ROSE ~

- October 27 Addressed In-Service training; attended the funeral of Off. Portz.
- October 28 Attended a fundraiser for Councilman John Olszewski.
- November 1 Addressed the new sergeants' class.
- November 2 Worked a poll location for John Cluster; attended the Retired Officer's Association meeting.
- November 3 Addressed In-Service training.
- November 8 Attended the Labor Advisory Council meeting in Annapolis.
- November 9 Attended a meeting between members from PC 12, Col. McCleese and Maj. Evans;

attended a Board of Appeals Hearing for a member; attended the County Council Work Session.

- November 11 Attended the Cop Out fundraiser at the Portside Pub.
- November 15 Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- November 17 Attended a ratings appeal with a member.
- November 18 Attended a trial board for a member.
- November 19 Attended a step #3 grievance hearing for 2 members.
- November 22 Counted ballots as a member of the election committee; attended the General Business meeting.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting and General Membership meeting, where I reported on the financial status of the lodge.
- Submitted a by-law change to bring the duties of the Treasurer up to date.
- I would like to remind members that Lodge #4 is not engaged in a solicitation in any fashion. If anyone receives a call or correspondence for Baltimore County FOP, please obtain the following information from the caller: the name of the caller with a call back number, who they work for (meaning which Lodge is using their services and which solicitation company they work for). The Maryland State Lodge does have a solicitation company but they should NOT be using Baltimore County's FOP Lodge name when they

ask for donations. If anyone experiences this problem, please contact me at the Lodge. I will follow up on the information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Kenny Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on November 15, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. All elected officers and board members were present. Legal Counsel Mike Marshall was also present.
- Motions that were made, after receiving a proper second, were discussed, voted upon, and appear in this issue under the appropriate committee reports.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

BULLROAST COMMITTEE

~Ken Schubert~

- The Annual FOP Lodge 4 Bull & Oyster Roast will take place on March 27, 2011 at Tall Cedars Hall in Parkville.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

~Lou Lagna~

- Brother Lagna advised that the by-law, which was submitted last month, was in proper format. The committee met and the by-law was approved. The committee recommended adoption of the new by-law. Brother King made a motion to waive the reading of the new by-law. The motion was seconded by Brother Cluster. The motion passed.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- On November 19, 2010 I attended a step #3 grievance hearing for two members who were grieving a denial of health benefits for their spouses. The grievants and their spouses are same sex couples who have been legally married in a state where same sex marriages are permitted. Both were originally given benefits under the recent open enrollment but later those benefits were revoked by County government officials when it was discovered the members' spouses were of the same sex.
- Maryland does have legislation that states only a man and a woman can be married in this state. But under Maryland common law, out of state marriages are recognized even if the marriage would not be legal in this state, unless the marriage is "expressly barred by the state" or the marriage is "socially repugnant." Case law in Maryland has set the "repugnant" level at a very high bar. An example of "repugnant" would be polygamy. The decision is pending.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- There have been no changes to the status of any pending suits against the County. The Smith Administration continued to appeal every decision to the next level.
- Members have continued to utilize the Estate Planning program. We have had nineteen members submit paid receipts to

the lodge for a reimbursement.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

~Don Patterson~

- The Baltimore County Police Memorial Fund is donating \$25,000 the National Police Museum. A banner will be displayed in the foyer of the new museum recognizing our donation.

PENSION COMMITTEE

~ Cole Weston ~

- The Pension Board of Trustees met on November 9, 2010 and approved 16 service, drop, and vested retirements and one ordinary disability. Seven cases of "Good and Faithful" service were considered to determine if the vested individuals who had been separated from employment could continue to keep their investment in the pension system. Four were allowed, two were denied, and one was tabled to obtain additional information.

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The committee reviewed one new policy this month. There were no issues.
- There still has been no agreement on a policy for handling speed camera violations. The department and the FOP have decided to wait until the Court of Appeals rules on the matter before we proceed any further.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Steve Comegna~

- The Political Action Committee did not meet this month.

- Our Post General Election Campaign Finance Report was submitted on November 15, 2010 (due 11/23/2010).

NEW BUSINESS

- New tables and chairs will be purchased for the Lodge meeting area.
- The Polar Bear Plunge will be held on January 29, 2011. Volunteers and teams are needed. Contact Brother Bergin for more information.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- The Executive Board of Directors election results were as follows (* denotes winners):
 - *Ken Schubert 746
 - *Joe Caskey 713
 - *Donna Patterson 662
 - *Ryan Massey 655
 - *Pat Zito 624
 - Kathy Greenbeck 454
- Congratulations to the five incumbent Board members who were re-elected to another 2-year term.

**LODGE 4
"FALLEN HEROES"
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Applications for the Fall, 2011/ Spring, 2012 scholarships are available now by contacting Lodge 4. Eight (8) \$3,000.00 awards are made each year.

The deadline to return the completed application with required attachments is February 1, 2011.

Contact the Lodge 4 office for more information.

- Brother Grumbach commented positively on the appearance of the new Lodge 4 website.
- December 3, 2010 was the 40th anniversary of FOP Lodge 4.
- Deli trays will be delivered to the precincts on New Year's Eve.
- The Super Bowl 5K race will be held on February 6, 2011 at the Dundalk campus of CCBC. You may register online at www.charmcityrun.com.
- During the month of November, the Lodge sent one (1) flower arrangement and four (4) sympathy cards to bereaving members. One donation was sent in a loved one's name at the request of the family. Two (2) food baskets were sent to members for the birth of a child and a hospitalization. Nine (9) "Thank You" cards were received.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Reminder for Retirees at Tax Time

The *Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act* allows a deduction of up to \$3,000 annually for premiums for health care insurance. The federal law went into effect Jan. 1, 2007. The deduction is for the federal income tax return only. More information can be obtained from the Lodge 4 website in the Contracts & Legislation section. Also, IRS publications have information on the topic that refer to pensions of retired public safety officers.



Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4

does not conduct telephone solicitation.

Citizens and organizations that wish to support Baltimore County Police Officers and their families may send donations to the following funds:

Police Assistance Relief (PAR Fund)

Please consider helping those who help others. Your tax deductible 501(c) 3 contribution supports Police Officers and their families when they are most in need.

Make your check payable to the "PAR Fund", and mail to
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Baltimore County Police Memorial Fund

Your tax deductible 501(c) 3 contribution supports the fund which is dedicated to maintain a memorial to honor those officers of the Baltimore County Police Department who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the community. **Make your check payable to the "Baltimore County Police Memorial Fund", and mail to** FOP Lodge 4, 9304 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234

Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4

annually awards seven (7) \$3,000.00 "Fallen Heroes Memorial Scholarships" for the children of Baltimore County Police Officers.

Make your check payable to "FOP Lodge 4", and mail to
9304 Harford Road,
Baltimore, MD 21234

The January

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
January 24, 2011
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road

The February

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
February 28, 2011
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road