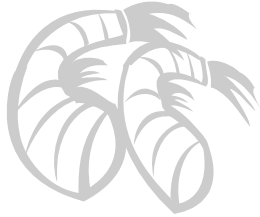




The Fourword

Volume 39, Number 1

January 2011



40th Annual Bull, Oyster & Shrimp Roast



Sunday

March 27, 2011

1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Tall Cedars Hall
Parkville, MD**

**\$35.00 per person
(Reservations are being accepted)**



**Music, Wheels, Raffles
Food by Atlantic Catering
Open Bar**



**For Tickets & Information
Contact Lodge 4 at (410) 668-0004**



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES

December 2010

Recorded by Kathryn Greenbeck

The December, 2010 General Business Meeting was held on December 27, 2010 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Chaplain Merkle led the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Secretary Folderauer, Brother Rommel and Brother Zito were on vacation. Brother Tony DiCara was working. 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 November 2010 General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Brother Bob Caskey. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- November 23 Attended a seminar concerning officer involved shootings.
- November 24–28 Vacation.
- November 30 Attended the County Council work session.
- December 1 Phase two range qualification and visited the funeral home with the Redmer family.

- December 2 Met with a member concerning retirement planning.
- December 6 Attended the Inauguration of the recently elected officials for Baltimore County.
- December 8 Attended the FOP 4 Holiday Reception.
- December 13 Attended a meeting concerning secondary employment issues.
- December 14 Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the County Council work session, and the confirmation hearing for Chief Johnson.
- December 15 Addressed the 131st recruit class.
- December 16 Attended the graduation ceremony of the 131st recruit class.
- December 20 Attended the County Council legislative session.
- December 23 Attended a meeting concerning same sex marriage benefits.
- December 27 Attended the Executive Board of Directors and General Membership meeting.

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- December 8 Attended the F.O.P. Lodge 4 Annual Holiday Reception.
- December 20 Worked at the Lodge office.
- December 27 Worked at the Lodge office, attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting and the General Membership Meeting.

~ 2nd V. P. ROSE ~

- December 6 Attended the Inaugural Ceremonies of Baltimore County elected officials.
- December 8 Attended the F.O.P. Lodge 4 Holiday Reception.

LODGE 4 OFFICE

9304 Harford Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234
Phone (410) 668-0004
FAX (410) 668-8126
Toll Free (888) 313-3501
www.foplodge4.org

ELECTED OFFICERS

Cole B. Weston
President
(443) 956-2679

Steven G. Comegna 1st Vice President <i>PC3 - Traffic</i> (410) 409-0293	David M. Rose 2nd Vice President <i>F.O.P Lodge 4</i> (443) 956-2643
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David J. Folderauer, Sr. Lodge Secretary <i>PC 4 - IST</i> (410) 382-2075	Robert W. Caskey Treasurer <i>CID-Robbery</i> (443) 956-2615
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W. Donald Patterson State Trustee <i>Materials & Facilities</i>	Richard J. Bergin Sergeant at Arms <i>VNS - CDVIT</i>
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Paul A. Merkle Chaplain <i>Retired</i>	L. Timothy Caslin Past President <i>Retired</i>
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EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kenneth F. Schubert Chairman <i>Employment</i> (410) 416-2800	Mike DiCara Vice Chairman <i>PC 6</i>
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Thomas G. Scally <i>CID - Arson</i>	Louis J. Lagna <i>Retired</i>
Donna Patterson <i>Planning & Research</i>	Patrick Zito <i>PC 7 - Traffic</i>
James P. Rommel, Jr. <i>K9</i>	Ryan Massey <i>Homicide</i>
Joe Caskey <i>Homicide</i>	Tony DiCara <i>PC 12</i>

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

tion.

- December 13 Met with Major Burris about secondary employment.
- December 14 Attended the County Council work session.
- December 15 Addressed the graduating recruit class at the Training Academy.
- December 20 Attended the County Council legislative session.
- December 21 Attended the Personnel Section Christmas party.
- December 27 Chaired a Legal Advisory Committee meeting, attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting and the General Business meeting.

~SECRETARY FOLDERAUER~

- December 8 Attended the F.O.P. Lodge 4 Annual Holiday Reception.
- December 27 Vacation.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- December 8 Attended the FOP Lodge 4 Holiday Reception.
- December 27 Attended an Investment Committee meeting, the Executive Board of Directors meeting and the General Membership meeting.
- If any member goes to PSB to get fitted for a ballistic vest and is told they will not be fitted, please call the Lodge and leave a message for Bob Caskey with your name, assignment, a contact number, and the reason that was given to you as to why you would not be fitted for a new vest. He will follow up with the Department.

STATE TRUSTEE'S REPORT

~Don Patterson~

- The next Maryland State FOP meeting will be held on January 29, 2011 at F.O.P. Lodge 69 in Catonsville.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Kenny Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on December 27, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Secretary Folderauer, Brother Rommel, and Brother Zito were on vacation. All other elected officers and board members were present. Legal Counsel Mike Marshall was also in attendance.
- 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. Tickets are available now.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

~Lou Lagna~

- In October, 2010, the ByLaws Committee received and reviewed a new bylaw in reference to the Treasurer's duties. The committee found the bylaw to be proper and recommended to adopt it.

Bereavements

Niles Krebs

Brother of Retired Brother John L. Krebs

Joseph A. Szczybor

Father-In-Law of Brother

Philip G. Harll

Mildred Sue Hubbard

Mother-In-Law of Brother

Shawn Hanley

Mary Hild

Grandmother of Brother

Joseph Robinson, Brother

Michael Forish & Sister

Anastasia Robinson and

Mother-In-Law of Retired

Brother Dennis Robinson

Louis Weaver, Jr.

Father of Brother Louis

Weaver, III



- A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the bylaw. The motion passed.
- A motion came from the Bylaws Committee to adopt the new bylaw. The motion received a proper second and passed unanimously.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- On December 6, 2010 the County Labor Commissioner's hearing officer, Jim Nolan, issued a decision in the grievance filed by two members who were denied health benefits for their same sex spouses. The County

denied the grievance. In his decision he stated that same sex spousal benefits are not provided for in the current Memorandum of Understanding and he does not have the authority to declare that they are or should be. The matter should be left to future negotiations or possibly to a court of law with the power to make and enforce such a declaration.

- The Grievance and Legal Advisory Committees will be discussing this further after consultation from legal counsel.

**LEGAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
~Dave Rose~**

- On November 22, 2010 the Court of Appeals denied Baltimore County's request for a Writ of Certiorari in the Stan Siedlecki case. In doing so, the Court is agreeing with the decision of the Court of Special Appeals, which states Stan Siedlecki is still disabled and should be given his pension for the position that he last held, which was as a police sergeant.
- The decision was brought up at the December Pension Board of Trustees meeting where Fred Homan took a position on behalf of Baltimore County that Stan Siedlecki was never brought back entirely and is only a temporary employee. Therefore, he is not entitled to any pension credit earned since Mr. Homan placed him in his current "hybrid position" as a "part time, non-merit Employment Investigator" in the Police Department on March 1, 2005. The Pension Board of Trustees voted to give Stan Siedlecki a

disability pension. There are numerous documents from the County stating that Stan Siedlecki retains all the benefits of a group IV member of the Employee's Retirement System. These documents state that Stan Siedlecki is paid at a rate equal to that of a sergeant with his years of service and is eligible to retire after 20 years of creditable service. In short he is a police officer in every way except duties, responsibilities and title.

- On December 22, 2010 Bro. Siedlecki received official notification from the pension office that his pension from March 2005 will be reinstated with any COLAs owed to him and his pension contributions since that time will be reimbursed to him. Since he is only a "temporary employee" he cannot accumulate pension credit.
- The Legal Advisory Committee met to discuss Brother Siedlecki's request to appeal to the County Board of Appeals. Copies of the Court of Special Appeals decision were given to the committee members. Advice of legal counsel, Mike Marshall, was sought. After some discussion, a motion was made to appeal the decision of the Employee's Retirement System to the Board of Appeals, contesting how the County calculated his pension. That motion passed. The committee recommendation was presented to the Executive Board and it was passed unanimously.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

If you go to PSB to get fitted for a ballistic vest and are told you will not be fitted, please call the Lodge and leave a message for Bob Caskey with your name, assignment, a contact number, and the reason that was given by the personnel at Headquarters as to why you would not be fitted for a new vest. Bob Caskey will be following up with the Department on this issue.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
~Rick Bergin~**

- The new legislative session in Annapolis begins on January 12, 2011.

**PENSION COMMITTEE
~ Cole Weston ~**

- The Pension Board of Trustees met on December 14, 2010 and approved 24 service, discontinued, vested and early retirements. One disability application was tabled to get additional information and one over 65 work extension was approved.

**POLICY REVIEW
COMMITTEE
~Dave Rose~**

- The committee has reviewed two new policies this month. There were no issues.
- In the current Memorandum of Understanding, there is a clause in Article 15 Section 15.1, which states the Police Administration and the FOP will form a joint committee to study secondary employment policies and procedures. The committee will issue a report of its findings no

**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 com-
pleted application with required
attachments is February 1, 2011.

Contact the Lodge 4 office for
more information.

later than June 30, 2011. In De-
cember, we had a preliminary
meeting with Major Burris and
we are looking to have addi-
tional meetings in 2011 in order
to abide by the MOU.

**POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE
~Steve Comegna~**

- The Political Action Committee met on Monday December 27, 2010. The following motions were presented to the Executive Board of Directors:
- To transfer four thousand dollars (\$4000.00) from our General Fund to our Political Action Fund after 1/1/2011, in accordance with the campaign finance laws of the State of Maryland.
- To purchase one (1) ticket to a fundraiser being held by State Delegate Jon Cardin (District # 11) on Thursday January 6, 2011. The ticket cost is \$100.00.
- To purchase two (2) tickets to a fundraiser being held by State

Delegate's Joe Boteler III and John Cluster (District # 8) on Thursday January 6, 2011. The ticket cost is \$75.00 per person for a total PAC expenditure of \$150.00.

- To purchase one (1) ticket to a fundraiser being held by State Delegate Adrienne Jones (District # 10 and Speaker Pro-Tem) on Friday January 7, 2011. The ticket cost is \$100.00.
- To purchase a \$250.00 sponsorship to a fundraiser being held by State Delegate John Olaszewski, Jr. on Monday January 10, 2011. The total PAC expenditure is \$250.00.
- These motions were presented to the Executive Board of Directors on Monday December 27, 2010 at the Executive Board of Directors Meeting. Each motion was made by the committee and received a proper second. Each motion was discussed and voted upon. The Executive Board of Directors approved each motion.
- The General Membership also approved each motion on Monday December 27, 2010 at the General Membership Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Brothers Ken Schubert, Joe Caskey, and Ryan Massey and Sister Donna Patterson were sworn into office for a new 2-year term on the Executive Board of Directors.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Polar Bear Plunge will be held on January 29, 2011. Brother Bergin is trying to get 40 people to participate this year. Contact him for more in-

formation.

- 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 December, the Lodge sent three (3) flower arrangements and six (6) sympathy cards to bereaving members. Three (3) fruit baskets were sent to members or their families for hospitalizations. Four (4) "Thank You" cards were received.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 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.



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

The March

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

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

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road