



The Fourword

Volume 43 Number 2

February 2015

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 health care and long term care insurance premiums. 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 nine (9) \$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



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES
January 2014

- The January General Business meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- December 23 Met with the FOP Lodge #4 lobbyist and attended the graduation of the 140th recruit class.
- December 29 Met with a member concerning retirement planning.
- December 31 Delivered New Year's Eve deli trays to the precincts, communications center, and the records section.
- January 7 Addressed the In-Service training class.
- January 8 Attended a fundraiser for Delegate John Cluster of the eighth legislative district.
- January 13 Attended the Retired Officers' Association meeting.
- January 14 Addressed the In-Service training class.
- January 15 Attended the Police Assistance and Relief Fund meeting.
- January 19 Attended the FOP Lodge 4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- January 20 Met with the Precinct 4 commander concerning a performance enhancement process situation.
- January 21 Addressed the In-Service training class.

- January 22 Attended the Bi-monthly meeting with Chief Johnson, his Bureau Chiefs, and members of the FOP Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors.
- January 26 Due to inclement weather the FOP Lodge #4 General Membership meeting was canceled.

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- December 23 Met with our lobbyist, John Stierhoff, Esq. and attended the graduation of the 140th Recruit Class.
- January 6, 13 and 20 Attended a meeting of the Body Worn Camera Committee.
- January 7 Completed and submitted our 2015 Campaign Finance Annual Report.
- January 8 Attended a fundraiser for Brother and State Delegate John Cluster (District #8).
- January 13 Attended a meeting of the Baltimore County Retired Police Officers' Association.
- January 19 Attended the January 2015 Executive Board of Directors Meeting.
- January 22 Attended the bi-monthly meeting between Chief Johnson and the Executive Board of Directors of FOP Lodge # 4.
- The January 26 General Business Meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

~2nd V. P. ROSE~

- December 23 Attended a meeting for the TASER camera pilot program.
- December 31 Delivered New Years Eve deli platters to Precincts 1 & 2.
- January 6 Attended the Body

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>F.O.P. Lodge 4</i> (410) 409-0293	David M. Rose 2nd Vice President <i>F.O.P. Lodge 4</i> (443) 956-2643
David J. Folderauer, Sr. Lodge Secretary <i>RATT</i> (410) 382-2075	Robert W. Caskey Treasurer <i>CID-Robbery</i> (443) 956-2615
W. Donald Patterson State Trustee <i>PC12</i>	Ryan Massey Sergeant at Arms <i>CID - Homicide</i>
Paul A. Merkle Chaplain <i>Retired</i>	L. Timothy Caslin Past President <i>Retired</i>

EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kenneth F. Schubert Chairman <i>Retired</i> (410) 404-2788	Mike DiCara Vice Chairman <i>PC 4</i>
Thomas G. Scally <i>CID - Arson</i>	Lou Lagna <i>Retired</i>
Donna Patterson <i>PC12</i>	Michael Cortes <i>Precinct 4 1ST</i>
James P. Rommel, Jr. <i>PC11</i>	Ryan Franks <i>PC 1</i>
Joe Caskey <i>CID - Homicide</i>	Kathy Kraemer <i>PC 6</i>

LODGE STAFF

Juanita Bouthner—Administrative Assistant
Nancy Skinner—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.

Fourword Editor
Kathryn Greenbeck
Precinct 8

ATTENTION ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Associate members are reminded that the dues assessment for 2015 was due and payable on or before February 1, 2015.

Associate members who have still not paid the 2015 assessment by March 31, 2015 will be dropped from the rolls.

In addition, fraternal organization license plates will be canceled for those associate members who have not renewed their membership for 2015.

This is the final notice for the 2015 assessment.

THANK YOU to those who have already renewed.

- The committee approved a \$250 donation to the 7th annual Baltimore Heroes St. Baldrick Event being held on March 8, 2015.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- There were no grievances filed this month.
- We did have an issue in precinct #8 involving the maintenance of the exercise equipment. Under Section 5.9 of the MOU it states that "The department shall continue to maintain the physical fitness equipment already in place." The members at Precinct #8 had submitted the paperwork to have the equipment repaired or replaced back in April 2014 and again in August 2014 without any results. I forwarded the copies of the paperwork and the responses our members received from the department budget office to Colonel Burris. I also sent him a copy of section 5.9 in the MOU. He responded back the same day in writing that he would look into the issue and acknowledged it was a contract issue. A week later he responded back and said the process to repair or replace the equipment had not been completed but that he was trying to assist in getting it done.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The County had filed three separate appeals to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals concerning the orders of the Baltimore County Circuit Court

- Worn Camera committee meeting.
- January 8 Attended a fundraiser for Delegate John Cluster and met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- January 13 Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting and the Body Worn Camera committee.
- January 14 Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- January 15 Met with a member to prepare for a performance appraisal appeal.
- January 19 Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- January 20 Attended the Body Worn Camera committee meeting.
- January 22 Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting with Chief Johnson.
- January 27 Attended the Body Worn Camera committee meeting.
- January 30 Assisted a member with a ratings appeal.

- January 19 Attended the EBOD meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Kenny Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on January 19, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. 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

BULL ROAST COMMITTEE

~Ken Schubert~

- The annual FOP Lodge #4 bull and oyster roast will be held on March 22, 2015 at Tall Cedars in Parkville.

DONATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Paul Merkle~

- The Donation review committee met on January 19, 2015.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- January 7, 11, 16, 30 Worked at the lodge.

Bereavements

**Retired Brother
James G. Bitz

**Ann V. Pfister
Mother of Brother Ed Pfister

**Donna Doyle
Mother-In-Law of Brother
Dale Sewell

**Sylvia M. Krieger
Grandmother of Brother
Jon Krieger

**Glenda Hart
Mother of Brother
Thomas Hynson

**Lorraine E. Buscemi
Grandmother of Sister
Angie Watson

**William M. Ward
Father of Sister
Morrow Lane

**Mary Josephine Connolly
Mother of Brother
Patrick Connolly

**Ida Mae Cunningham
Mother of Retired Brother
Stephen Cunningham

in a grievance that has been on-going for several years. They were appealing the November 5, 2013 order to restore the health care subsidy rate for the affected retirees, the March 6, 2014 order awarding the reimbursement to be paid to the affected retirees and the April 17, 2014 order awarding interest on the money owed to the affected retirees. The appeals were consolidated

and a hearing was held on November 3, 2014.

- On December 17, 2014 the Court of Special Appeals issued a very comprehensive and detailed decision, which denied all of the County's appeals for a second time and ruled in favor of the retirees and FOP Lodge #4.
- At this time the County has the option to file for a Writ of Certiorari to the Maryland Court of Appeals. The deadline was February 2, 2015.
- In the Brandt Bradford case, the ERS/County has filed an appeal to the Court of Special Appeals. No briefing schedule has been set.

**PENSION COMMITTEE
~Dave Rose~**

- At the January Pension Board of Trustees meeting the Board approved 43 total retirements. Six of those were from the police department.

**POLICY REVIEW
COMMITTEE
~Dave Rose~**

- The Special Order for the Taser Camera System Pilot Program the Department is implementing has been completed. The finalized policy allows for involved officers to view the video before making any written or oral statements in a police report or any investigation. This will ensure accuracy in any accompanying documentation and subsequent interview that may follow in a use of force investigation. The Department is still going to allow members the availability to "opt out" of the TASER certification if they choose. If a mem-

ber does get trained and is certified, he/she will be required to carry the TASER.

In January, the Department convened a Body Camera Workgroup at the direction of the County Executive to discuss Body Worn Cameras. The FOP has positions on the committee to provide input and perspective. We will report on this as further information comes forward. A committee report is due in 90 days.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of January, FOP Lodge #4 sent seven (7) cards and flower arrangements to bereaving members. Three (3) donations were made in lieu of flowers at the request of bereaving members. One (1) basket was sent to a member recovering from hospitalization. Twelve (12) thank you cards were received.

Association of
Baltimore County
Retired Police
Meetings 2015

March 3

April 7

May 5

September 8 *

November 3

All meetings are held at
Parkville Heritage Gardens at
7:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2015

ATHLETIC:

Chair: Don Patterson
Jim Rommel
Robert Graff, Jr.

BULL ROAST:

Chair: Ken Schubert
Mike DiCara
Kathy Kraemer
Don Patterson
Donna Patterson

BYLAWS:

Chair: Tim Caslin
Joe Caskey
Paul Merkle
Dave Rose

DONATION REVIEW:

Chair: Paul Merkle
Mike Cortes
Mike DiCara

EXPENDITURE REVIEW:

Chair: Pat Zito
Mike Cortes
Donna Patterson

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

Chair: Bob Caskey
Tim Caslin
Dave Rose

GRIEVANCE:

Chair: Dave Rose
Bob Caskey
Mike DiCara
Kathy Kraemer

HEALTH CARE REVIEW:

Chair: Steve Comegna
Kathryn Greenbeck

LEGAL ADVISORY:

Chair: Dave Rose
Bob Caskey
Steve Comegna
Ryan Massey
Donna Patterson
Jim Rommel

LEGISLATIVE:

Chair: Cole Weston

MEMBERSHIP:

Chair: Tom Scally
Ryan Franks
Ryan Massey

MEMORIAL:

Chair: Don Patterson
Paul Merkle
Donna Patterson

MERCHANDISE:

Chair: Donna Patterson
Ryan Massey
Jim Rommel

NEGOTIATIONS:

Chair: Cole Weston
Steve Comegna
Mike DiCara
Kathryn Greenbeck
Ryan Massey
Jim Rommel
Dave Rose

PENSION:

Chair: Dave Rose

POLICY REVIEW:

Chair: Dave Rose
Joe Caskey
Scott Huff
Tom Scally

POLITICAL ACTION:

Chair: Cole Weston
Bob Caskey
Steve Comegna
Ryan Franks
Kathy Kraemer

SCHOLARSHIP:

Chair: Richard Skinner
Scott Bachman
Tim Caslin
Eileen Cwalina

The March

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
March 23, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road

The April

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
April 27, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road