



# The Fourword

**Volume 53 Number 2**

**February 2025**

## President's Message

### Annapolis 2025

As we progress through the 2025 Maryland General Assembly legislative process, the Maryland State FOP including members of lodge #4, will be monitoring the many issues of concern to our members. This year the top priority items on the State Lodge agenda are listed below.

1. **Police Discipline – Order of Show Cause** – This important right was not included in the new legislation when the LEOBR was repealed and replaced in 2021. This legislation is sponsored by Delegate Cardin (HB537) and Senator Folden (SB532).
2. **Public Safety – Police Accountability** – The time limit of filing administrative charges was originally included in the LEOBR and was not included when it was repealed and replaced. There is a limit for external complaints, however there is not one for internal complaints. This legislation is sponsored by Delegate Cardin (HB238) and Senator Folden (SB533).
3. **Peer Support – Confidentiality** – This bill will codify into law, with certain limitations, that communications between an agency member and a trained peer support member is confidential. This confidentiality already exists statewide for fire and EMS personnel. This is a Lodge #4 initiative. This legislation is sponsored by Delegate Cardin (HB309) and Senators Waldstreicher and McCray Folden (SB326).
4. **Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition – Retired Law Enforcement Officials** – Establishing an exception to the prohibition against entering or trespassing on real property while wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm for a retired law enforcement official who has retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State or another state, or a local unit in the State or another state under certain circumstances.

Please go to the Maryland General Assembly website, create a MY MGA account and support this legislation and email senators and delegates urging their support.

Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County



**JANUARY 2025  
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police was held on Monday, January 27, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at Lodge #4. President Rose called the meeting to Order. Chaplain Kraemer led the membership in prayer and President Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of officers was conducted, Past President Folderauer and Brother Brzozowski were excused. All other board members were present as was Legal Advisor, Chaz Ball. A motion was made by Brother King to accept the minutes from the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Brother Bollinger.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

- December 17- Attended the retirement celebration for Ann Benesch.  
                  Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting with the Chief and his staff.  
                  Attended the Spending Affordability committee meeting.
- December 19- Attended the promotion ceremony.
- December 20- Attended an Investment Committee meeting.
- December 31- Delivered New Year's Eve platters to various precincts.
- January 3-     Attended the promotion ceremony.
- January 4-     Attended a fundraiser event for Delegate Grammer.
- January 6-     Attended a state lodge meeting; Attended a Legislative Committee meeting.
- January 8-     Attended the Spending Affordability Committee meeting.
- January 9-     Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- January 13-    Attended a meeting with the Executive Board of Directors.  
                  Attended a State Legislative Committee meeting.
- January 14-    Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting.  
                  Attended a BWC policy meeting.
- January 15-    Attended a negotiation session with the county administration.
- January 16-    Met with a financial advisor.
- January 20-    Attended an Executive Board of Directors meeting;  
                  Attended a State Legislative Committee meeting.
- January 21-    Met with Captain Donahue to discuss a policy review procedure update.  
                  Placed a wreath at the Baltimore County Police Memorial in honor of the anniversary of the  
                  LODD of Mark Parry.
- January 22-    Met with County Attorney Benjamin to discuss the military grievance settlement.
- January 23-    Met with our lobbyists and VP Massey in Annapolis to meet with several  
                  legislators to discuss our Peer Support bill; Responded to Shock Trauma for our injured officer.
- January 24-    Met with a member to discuss retirement options; Attended a Negotiations Committee meeting to  
                  discuss proposals.
- January 25-    Met with members of the Peer Support Unit to discuss testimony on SB326.  
                  Attended the Spending Affordability Committee meeting; Attended the General Membership  
                  meeting.

**First Vice President Mike DiCara**

- January 3-     Attended an event for County Councilman Julian Jones.
- January 6-     Attended a meeting of the Maryland State Lodge leadership.  
                  Attended a meeting of the State Lodge Legislative Committee.

- January 7- Conducted grievance training at the New Administrator School.  
Attended an event for County Councilman Izzy Patoka.
- January 9- Attended the Investiture Ceremony for a Circuit Court Judge.
- January 13- Attended the January meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- January 15- Attended a contract negotiations session with representatives of Baltimore County Government.
- January 20- Attended a meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- January 21-22-Attended 2025 In-Service Training.
- January 24th- Attended a meeting with County OHR for the Sergeant's promotional process.  
Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee.
- January 27- Attended the County Council's Spending Affordability Meeting.  
Attended the January General Membership Meeting.
- January 28- Presented the Lodge update at In-Service Training.

**Second Vice President Ryan Massey**

- January 6- Attended the Maryland State Lodge Meeting.  
Attended the Maryland State Legislation Meeting.
- January 13- Attended the monthly Executive Board of Directors Meeting.  
Attended the Maryland State Legislation Meeting.
- January 15- Attended the Negotiation meeting with County Administration.
- January 20- Attended the Maryland State Legislation Meeting.
- January 23- Met with the Maryland State Senator on JPR committee.
- January 24- Attended meeting with Negotiations Committee.
- January 27- Attended the Maryland State Legislation Meeting.

**Lodge Secretary Donna Patterson**

- Reported on the progress of the 2025 National Conference to be held in Miami, FLA.

**Treasurer Caskey**

- Reported on Lodge Finances.

**State Trustee Don Patterson**

- On January 18th, the Maryland State Lodge held its meeting in Cambridge.
- State lodge President Boatwright advised he worked hard with the National to get HR82, the WEP/GPO bill passed after 40 years of trying.
- 2nd Vice President Consoli advised there will still be a motorcycle ride to support our survivors, however, it will no longer be called the C.O.P.S. ride.

**Executive Board of Directors Chair Steve Comegna**

- The Executive Board of Directors met on January 13th and 20th.
- There was one motion from the Donation Review Committee brought before the Board during the meeting, it passed. The report is under Donation Review.
- A motion was made by Brother Caskey and seconded by Brother List, to approve the reports of Officers. The motion passed.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### **Bullroast - Don Patterson**

- Tickets are now on sale for this year's Bullroast. It will be on Sunday, March 30, 2025, 1-5 p.m. at the Boumi Temple, 5050 King Avenue, Rosedale, MD. \$55 per person.
- Please contact the lodge for tickets. 410-668-0004.

### **Bylaws - Ryan Franks**

- One Bylaw Article was submitted for an amendment, "Station Coordinators & Shift Representatives", and was read at the general membership meeting.
- Please see page 9 for the Bylaw in its entirety.

### **Donation Review - Ryan Franks**

- A motion was made to donate \$2,500 to the PAR Fund to pay for the cost of the "giveaway" for the 2025 PAR Fund Golf Tournament. It will be held on June 9, 2025 at the Greystone Golf Course. The donation will be acknowledged at the tournament.

### **Events - Don Patterson**

- The FOP Lodge 4 golf tournament is September 5, 2025 at Rocky Point Golf Course.

### **Expenditure Review - Matt Krauch**

- The committee examined expenditures for August, September, and October of 2024. All documents were in order.

### **Finance - Bob Caskey**

- A meeting to discuss investments with RBC was held on December 20, 2024.

### **Grievance - Mike DiCara**

- The Sean Brennan promotional grievance is still pending at Step 4.
- The final settlement agreement for the military pension credit based on the recent legislative changes has been drafted. President Rose met with County Attorney Benjamin on January 17th to finalize the details.

### **Healthcare Review Committee - Mike DiCara**

- No report.

### **Legal Advisory - Ryan Massey**

#### Pending Trial Boards

PFC S. Jones (1-21-25) will be rescheduled.

Cpl. Small (2-7-25)

PFC Junior (3-3-25 through 3-4-25)  
PFC Baldwin Jr. (3-14-25)  
PFC N. Davis (pending)

**Legislative - Ryan Massey**

- The committee is working on several bills to benefit our members. See cover for details.

**Membership - Matt Krauch**

- No report.

**Memorial - Donna Patterson**

- No report.

**Military Affairs - Mahindra Saywack and Dave Rose**

- See Grievance Committee for update.

**Negotiations - Dave Rose**

- The committee received the requested list of Arbitrators.

**Pension - Dave Rose**

- The Pension Board of Trustees met in January and a total of 30 retirements were approved, 5 were from the police department.

**Policy Review - Mike DiCara**

The Policy Review Committee received the following projects for consideration:

- End of Command Review P24-63, CJIS Requirements
- Command Review P24-52, Conduct and Misconduct - Misc. changes
- End of Command Review P24-55, Incidents Involving Unmanned Aircraft Systems

No bargaining issues were identified in any of the above policies.

- P21-60, Duty-Related Psychological Injury  
Potential bargaining issues were identified in this policy, and a response was sent to the Department. Changes were made to address our concerns and no further bargaining issues were present.

**Retiree Matters- Carroll Bollinger**

- The Social Security Fairness Act was signed on January 5, 2025.  
One year of back pay corrections will be calculated and you will receive the benefits from Social Security sometime in the future if you are eligible.  
Please check the FOP app or website for information regarding updates.

**Scholarship -Tim Caslin**

- College scholarship applications for Active and Retired members' children are available on-line through the website and app or please contact the Lodge office at 410-668-0004. **Applications are due March 1, 2025.**

**Uniforms/Equipment– Joe Brzozowski and Kevin Jobe**

- No report.

**Wellness - Rob Graff**

- The next Peer to Peer meeting will be April 10th at 4:30.
- A motion was made by Brother Zito and seconded by Brother Krauch to approve the Reports of Committees. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from Legal Counsel-Chaz Ball**

- There are six pending trial boards.

**Old Business**

- None.

**New Business**

- None.

**Good of the Order**

- Tax time is upon us. If you know a business that would wish to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, the donations are tax deductible under our 501C3. Reach out to the lodge for more information.

**Sick and or in Distress**

- None.

The last printed Fourword for Retired members will be April 2025. Please use the QR code to update you information so we can send you the newsletter and other information electronically. This will enable us to communicate with the membership more efficiently. To receive a digital copy, we need your email address in our database. Please use your phone to scan the QR code below and enter your updated information. Thank you for assisting us in this transition.



**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**

David M. Rose  
**President**  
(443) 956-2643

Mike DiCara <b>1st Vice President</b> <i>FOP Lodge#4</i> (410) 299-8835	Ryan Massey <b>2nd Vice President</b> <i>CIB Homicide</i> (443) 865-0237
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Donna M. Patterson <b>Lodge Secretary</b> <i>Retired</i> (410) 365-8481	Robert W. Caskey <b>Treasurer</b> <i>Retired</i> (443) 956-2615
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W. Don Patterson <b>State Trustee</b> <i>Retired</i>	Matt Gonzalez <b>Sergeant at Arms</b> <i>Training</i>
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Kathy Kraemer <b>Chaplain</b> <i>Retired</i>	Dave Folderauer <b>Past President</b> <i>Retired</i>
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**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Steven Comegna <b>Chairman</b> 410-409-0293	Ryan Franks <b>Vice Chairman</b> <i>OSS</i>
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Thomas G. Scally <i>Retired</i>	Doug Jess <i>PC-3</i>
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Dave Sweren <i>SOD/TAC</i>	Carroll Bollinger <i>Retired</i>
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Joe Peach <i>PC-11</i>	Matt Krauch <i>CIB-CACU</i>
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Ken Schubert <i>Retired</i>	Joe Brzozowski <i>PC-8</i>
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**LODGE STAFF**

Nancy Skinner — Administrative Assistant

**LEGAL ADVISORS**

Schlachman, Belsky, Weiner And Davey  
IAS Cases Michael Davey  
Phone (410) 685-2022

**FORWARD EDITOR**

Kathy Kraemer

**BEREAVEMENTS**

**Brother Steven McDonald**

**Brother Walter Washel, Jr.**

**Charles Wiseman**  
**Husband of Sister Linda Wiseman**

**Brother James Clyde McAulay**

**Nicole Jennifer Schaub**  
**Wife of Brother Jeff Schaub**

**Aspyn Lake de Wit**  
**Daughter of Brother Derik de Wit**

**RETIREMENTS**

**Tracy Ather**

**Christopher McLeod**

**Brian Tritz**

**Chad Walker**

## 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 or on the app. Also, IRS publications have information on the topic that refer to pensions of retired public safety officers.

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As of January 1, 2016, “law enforcement officers” can claim an income tax subtraction modification for the first \$5,000 of income earned if:

- (1) The law enforcement officer resides and works in the same political subdivision; and
- (2) The crime rate in the political subdivision exceeds the State’s crime rate. “law enforcement officer” is an individual who is authorized in his or her official capacity to make arrests and is a member of a law enforcement agency, including officers serving under a probationary status or at the pleasure of the appointing authority of a county or municipal corporation. Federal law enforcement officers do not qualify for the subtraction modification.

A list of the political subdivisions that have crime rates exceeding the State’s crime rate is provided to the Comptroller’s Office by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

If you are a Baltimore County Police Officer and you live in Baltimore County, you qualify for this tax credit.

A law enforcement officer may claim the subtraction, if applicable, by reporting it on Form 502 and Form 502SU.

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## Pension Subtraction Modification

In 2017 Governor Hogan signed the bill passed by the state legislature to provide for a \$15,000.00 Pension Exclusion for Retired Law Enforcement, Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Services Personnel starting at age 55.

Information can be located in section “v” on pages 9 of the Maryland 2024 State and Local Tax Forms and Instructions book published by the Comptroller of Maryland.

<https://interactive.marylandtaxes.gov/forms/24-forms/Resident-Booklet.pdf>

Each member is encouraged to consult with their individual tax preparer to determine how these provisions may apply.



**Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of FOP Lodge 4**

Whereas: The Committee titled “Station Coordinators & Shift Representatives” under Article Section 5 of the Bylaws is not utilized or filled.

Whereas: Lodge 4 has expanded their communication abilities with the membership by developing not only an “app” but several social media platforms with which to communicate.

Whereas: Access to these platforms and the “app” accomplishes the purpose/goals of the committee as described.

Therefore: Article V (Duties of Committees) of the Bylaws of the Lodge 4 Constitution will be amended by removing Section 5 “Station Coordinators and Shift Representatives” and renumbering Sections 6 through 10 to reflect the removal.

This proposal is submitted by Douglas Jess to President Dave Rose on January 22, 2025.

**54th Annual  
Bull, Oyster & Shrimp Roast**

**Sunday, March 30, 2025  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**



**Boumi Temple  
5050 King Avenue, Rosedale, MD**

**\$55 per person**

**Music and a Money Wheel  
Food provided by Atlantic Catering  
Open Bar  
Music Provided a DJ**

**Call the lodge for tickets, 410-668-0004**



**Fraternal Order of Police**  
Baltimore County Lodge #4  
9304 Harford Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BALTIMORE, MD  
PERMIT 5418

Change of Address Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The March  
**FOP Lodge 4**  
**GENERAL**  
**BUSINESS**  
**MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,**  
**March 24, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road

The April  
**FOP Lodge 4**  
**GENERAL**  
**BUSINESS**  
**MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,**  
**April 28, 2025**  
**4:00 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road