



The Fourword

Volume 43 Number 4

April 2015

ROLL CALL MARYLAND 2014 *****

**Patrolman First Class
Jamel Clagett**
Charles County Sheriff's Office
December 21, 2014

FALLEN HEROES



*Greater love has no one
than this, that he lay down
his life for his friends.
John 15:13*



ROLL CALL BALTIMORE COUNTY *****

Officer Edward Kuznar
December 9, 1969

Officer Charles Huckeba
July 6, 1977

Corporal Sam Snyder
August 23, 1983

Officer Robert Zimmerman
November 14, 1986

Sergeant Bruce Prothero
February 7, 2000

Detective John Stem Sr.
October 19, 2000

Sergeant Mark Parry
January 21, 2002

Lieutenant Michael Howe
August 11, 2008

Officer Jason Schneider
August 28, 2013

Each year during the month of May, we reflect upon the tragic loss of life sustained by our Law Enforcement family. Nationally, during calendar year 2014, one hundred twenty six (126) officers were killed in the line of duty.

On May 1, 2015 the 29th annual Maryland Fallen Heroes Day will be observed at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. The staff at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens are committed to honoring Maryland's Public Safety Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as providing comfort and support to their families. Seven of the nine fallen heroes from the Baltimore County Police Department are interred at this location.

The Baltimore County Police Department will honor its fallen officers on May 8, 2015, at our Police Memorial in Towson. Please remember these officers and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

On May 15, 2015 the National Peace Officer's Memorial service will take place in our Nation's Capital. Tribute will be paid to our fallen colleagues for their acts of courage and heroism.

Never forget their passion for making this county, state, and nation a better place in which to live. Never forget their commitment to the Constitution of the United States of America, and to the enforcement of our nation's laws. Continue the work they started; support their families, and each other in their loss. It is our sustained diligence to the profession of law enforcement that validates the sacrifice of our fallen comrades.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES March 2015

- The March General Business meeting was held on March 23, 2015 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Chaplain Merkle gave the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- All Officers were in attendance as well as Legal Advisor Mike Marshall.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- A motion was made by Brother Grumbach to accept the minutes of the February General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Sister Kraemer. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- February 25-28-Attended a Law Enforcement Labor Summit and Legal Counselors Seminar.
- March 4- Addressed the In-Service Training class.
- March 10- Met with Delegate Sydnor of the 44th legislative district in his Annapolis office in reference to the LEOBR bills that will be heard by the House Judiciary Committee, and attended the Baltimore County Retired Officers Association meeting.

- March 11-Addressed the In-Service Training class.
- March 12- Attended the hearings in Annapolis before the House Judiciary Committee seeking to amend the LEOBR.
- March 14- Attended the funeral for John W. Armiger, Jr.
- March 16- Attended a PAC meeting and the Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- March 19- Met with representatives of Schlachman, Belsky and Weiner in reference to a member's estate.
- March 22- Attended/worked the FOP lodge #4 Annual Bull and Oyster Roast.
- March 23- Chaired the FOP Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- February 25-Conducted the FOP's block of instruction at In-Service-Training.
- February 28-Attended the quarterly meeting of Maryland State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, Inc. The meeting was held at Lodge # 3 (Baltimore City).
- March 02-Responded to the police involved shooting scene in Baltimore City. I also accompanied our members to City Headquarters, where we met with our lodge counsel.
- March 06-Visited Precinct # 03 (Franklin).
- March 10-Attended a meeting of the Body Worn Camera Committee and attended the March meeting of the Association of Baltimore County Retired Police, Inc.
- March 12-Attended the monthly meeting of the Police Assistance and Relief Fund (PAR Fund).

LODGE 4 OFFICE

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ELECTED OFFICERS

Cole B. Weston
President
(443) 956-2679

Steven G. Comegna
1st Vice President
F.O.P. Lodge 4
(410) 409-0293

David M. Rose
2nd Vice President
F.O.P. Lodge 4
(443) 956-2643

Donna M. Patterson
Lodge Secretary
PC-12
(410) 365-8481

Robert W. Caskey
Treasurer
CID-Robbery
(443) 956-2615

W. Don Patterson
State Trustee
Retired

Ryan Massey
Sergeant at Arms
CID - Homicide

Paul A. Merkle
Chaplain
Retired

L. Timothy Caslin
Past President
Retired

EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kenneth F. Schubert
Chairman
Retired
(410) 404-2788

Mike DiCara
Vice Chairman
PC-4

Thomas G. Scally
CID - Arson
Robert Graff
PC-6
James P. Rommel, Jr.
PC-11
Joe Caskey
CID - Homicide

Kathy Kraemer
PC-6
Michael Cortes
RATT
Ryan Franks
PC-1
Kathryn Greenbeck
PC-8

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 Editors
Donna Patterson
Don Patterson

- March 16-Attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee and attended the March 2015 Executive Board of Directors Meeting.
- March 19-Attended the bi-monthly meeting between Chief Johnson and the Executive Board of Directors of FOP Lodge # 4 and attended an event for Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell (District # 7).
- March 23-Attended a special meeting of the Executive Board of Directors and attended the March 2015 General Business Meeting.

~2nd V. P. ROSE~

- March 9-Met with two members to file grievances in reference to questions on the Corporal exam, met with Captain Martin, Lt. Dorsey and Lt. Norris of Internal Affairs and attended the State FOP legislative committee meeting in Annapolis.
- March 10-Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting and the body worn camera committee meeting.
- March 12-Attended and testified at the House Judiciary Committee hearings in Annapolis for several bills that effect law enforcement.
- March 16-Attended the executive board of directors meeting.
- March 18-Addressed In-Service Training.
- March 19-Attended the executive board of directors meeting with Chief Johnson.
- March 22-Attended the FOP Lodge #4 Annual Bull and Oyster Roast.
- March 23-Met with Councilwoman Bevins and Councilman Marks in reference to the pension offset provision bill and

attended the general membership meeting.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

- February 25-28-Attended a Law Enforcement Labor Summit.
- February 28-Attended the quarterly meeting of Maryland State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, Inc. The meeting was held at Lodge # 3 (Baltimore City).
- March 10-Attended the Retirees' meeting.
- March 16-Attended the executive board of directors meeting.
- March 19-Attended the executive board of directors meeting with Chief Johnson and attended an event for Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell (District # 7).
- March 22-Attended/worked the FOP Lodge #4 Annual Bull and Oyster Roast.
- March 23-Attended a special meeting of the Executive Board of Directors and then attended the March 2015 General Business Meeting.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- Worked at the Lodge 4 on the following dates: March 3, 15, 18, 23.
- March 22-Attended /worked the FOP Lodge #4 Annual Bull and Oyster Roast.
- March 26-Attended the General Membership meeting and reported the financial status of the lodge.

~TRUSTEE PATTERSON~

- February 25-28 Attended a Law Enforcement Labor Summit.
- February 28-Attended the quarterly meeting of Maryland State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police,

Bereavements

**Retired Brother
Robert Westerman, Sr.**

**Retired Brother
Steve Ensor, Sr.**

**Retired Brother
William L. Kling**

**Gladys C. Haas
Mother of
Brother Douglas Read**

**Friend of Lodge 4
John W. Arminger, Jr.**

Inc. The meeting was held at Lodge # 3 (Baltimore City).

- March 10-Attended the Retirees' meeting.
- March 12 Attended the hearings in Annapolis before the House Judiciary Committee seeking to amend the LEOBR.
- March 16-Attended the executive board of directors meeting.
- March 19-Attended the executive board of directors meeting with Chief Johnson, and attended an event for Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell (District # 7).
- March 22-Attended/worked the FOP Lodge #4 Annual Bull and Oyster Roast.
- March 23-Attended a special meeting of the Executive Board of Directors and attended the March 2015 General Business Meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Mike DiCara ~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on March 16, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Treasurer Caskey was working. All other board members and legal advisor Mike Marshall were 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

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

~Don Patterson~

- Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday August 21, 2015. Additional details to follow.

BULL ROAST COMMITTEE

~Don Patterson~

- The Bull Roast was held on March 22. It was very well attended. The event sold out this year with a total of 550 in attendance. Get your tickets early next year.

DONATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Paul Merkle~

- The committee met on March 16 and March 23 and made the following motions:
- Donate \$1,500.00 to Special Olympics MD in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to be held in June 2015.
- Donate \$500.00 to the Police Unity Tour and sponsor member Chad Schroyer arriving May 12, 2015.
- Donate \$250.00 in support of

Team Blue United participating in the National Police Week 5K raising funds for the Officer Down Memorial Page.

- All motions were approved by the Board of Directors.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- There were two grievances filed this month for questions #62 and #80 on the Corporals Exam. We are waiting for them to be scheduled for a hearing at OAH.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The County filed for a Writ of Certiorari to the Maryland Court of Appeals in the retiree health care subsidy case on January 30, 2015. The Court does not have to choose to hear the case. We will inform the membership of any update from the court. The reimbursements will remain in escrow until the case is finished.
- In the Brandt Bradford case, the ERS/County has filed an appeal to the Court of Special Appeals. No briefing schedule has been set.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

~Cole Weston~

- There were 17 Bills introduced in the House of Delegates which would have altered the LEOBR and a few on body camera's. The attack came from the Mayor and some Delegates from Baltimore City. FOP leaders throughout the state have worked very hard meeting delegates and senators to defeat the bills.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

~Tom Scally~

- Brother Scally made a motion to allow Christopher Grutkowski return as a retired member without paying back dues. Brother Grutkowski did not recall receiving the paperwork explaining the process for joining as a member after retirement and the lodge had no records to dispute his explanation. The motion passed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

~Don Patterson~

- On May 1, 2015, the Fallen Heroes ceremony will be held at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens.
- On May 8, 2015, the Baltimore County Police Memorial Ceremony will be held in Towson, at the Patriot Plaza. A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony at Parkville Heritage Gardens, 7631 Harford Road, 21234.
- On May 15, 2015 the National Police Officers' Memorial Service will be held in Washington, DC.

PENSION COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- At the March Pension Board of Trustees meeting the Board approved 21 total retirements. One of those was from the police department.
- Council Bill 11-15 was enacted by council at the March meeting. This raises the number of pension board members from 8 to 11. The Bill allows for two additional members to be appointed by the County Council and one additional member to be appointed by the County Executive. The appointed members must be County residences and cannot be employed, hold an

elected office or appointed position with the county or state. In addition, the members cannot be beneficiaries of this retirement system or any other retirement system in the state. They must have knowledge and experience in the administration and operation of pension systems, investments or trust funds. The terms will be for four years.

- The board members voted to delay the decision to reallocate any funds in the system until the new members could attend and provide input.

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE ~Dave Rose~

- In January, the Department convened a Body Worn Camera Workgroup at the direction of the County Executive. The Committee has concluded and a report is being drafted for the committee members to review and approve before it is submitted to the Chief.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ~Steve Comegna~

- Met on Monday, March 16. A motion to purchase a \$1,000 sponsorship to an event being held by Councilman Todd Crandell on Thursday, March 19. The motion was approved by the Board of Directors.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ~Tim Caslin~

- The scholarship committee processed a total of 41 applications for the 2015/2016 "FALLEN HEROES" Memorial Scholarship Awards. 17 of the 41 applicants were selected as finalists and were personally interviewed by all members of the Scholarship

Committee on March 21, 2015. The scholarship winners were Brandi Bradford, Kielte Conaboy, Joseph Dudenhoefter, Kaytlyn Fiedler, Alexander Harrison, Mary Moss, Alex Palmer, Julianne Palmer, Allison Prenger, Kiersten Prenger, Laura Prenger, Ashley Pryor, Olivia Roberts, Brianna Smith, Kylie Strong, Lacey Utz and Thomas Williams.

OLD BUSINESS

- EBOD met with the Chief in reference to issues brought forth by PC-2 Officers at last months meeting.
- Taser-the Chief is in support of Tasers and training additional officers to use them.
- Range-it was indicated that due to the construction at the Range additional practice sessions will be hard pressed to accommodate.
- Academy-in relation to safety concerns at the academy, the department has very little control to make changes.
- Patrol Vehicles-no reported safety issues were found with the passenger compartment in the Ford Taurus.

NEW BUSINESS

- Brother Rommel brought problems with the new dispatch

system. He feels there are Officer Safety issues due to lack of information being given out by the dispatchers.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of March FOP Lodge #4 sent three (3) cards and flower arrangements to bereaving members. Five (5) donations were made in lieu of flowers at the request of bereaving members. Four (4) baskets were sent to members recovering from hospitalizations. Eleven (11) thank you cards were received.



The May

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
May 18, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road

The June

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
June 22, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road