



# The Fourword

Volume 45 Number 8

August 2017



On July 15, 2017 we lost a friend and devoted leader of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Paul has been a member of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4 since 1974. He first served as Chaplain in 1991 and held that elected office for twenty three years (23). He was elected Chaplain of the Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police in 1996 and held that position until his passing. For over a decade he served as the appointed Chaplain to the Maryland Concerns of Police Survivors and provided counsel and support to the families of officers killed in the line of duty.

Paul served on several committees' including the chairman of the Donation Review Committee, responsible for the review and recommendation for all the financial donation requests that come in to FOP Lodge #4. The Constitution and By – Laws Committee, responsible for the review and recommendation of changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, and the memorial committee. This committee was responsible for raising over \$230,000.00 to complete a project of construction making the existing Baltimore County Police Memorial accessible to the public. The completion of this project allows family members, friends, co-workers and the public the ability to go directly to the memorial to pay their respects to the Baltimore County Police Officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

Paul received the Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police Life Time Achievement Award in August 2014.

Paul provided counsel and support to hundreds of sick or injured officers and their families in Maryland as well as members from other states and offered his home to members who traveled to Maryland to receive medical treatment.

His presence reminded us of the organizations foundation built on fraternalism and doing our very best for the membership we were elected to represent. His leadership, sound judgment and thoughtfulness assisted local and state leaders to become better at the positions they hold.

You will be missed my friend.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





## MEETING MINUTES July 2017

- The July General Business meeting was held on July 24, 2017 at FOP Lodge 4. First Vice President Comegna called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. Sister Kraemer gave the invocation. First Vice President Comegna led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- President Weston, Chaplain DiCara, Past President Caslin, Brother Rommel and Brother Massey were excused. All other officers were in attendance as well as Legal Advisor Mike Davey.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### ~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- June 27– Attended the County Council work session.
- June 28– Addressed the In-Service Training class and attended a fundraiser for Delegate Dana Stein from the 11th District.

- July 6– Met with labor counsel in reference to Article 6.1 C, me too clause arbitration.
- July 10– Consulted with labor counsel in reference to Article 6.1 C, me too clause arbitration.
- July 11– Testified at the arbitration hearing concerning the Article 6.1 C, me too clause of the MOU.
- July 12– Met with labor representatives concerning the state property tax credit bill.
- July 13– Visited Retired Chaplain Paul Merkle in the hospital.
- July 17-31– Vacation.

### ~ 1<sup>st</sup> V. P. COMEGNA ~

- June 27– Met with representatives from Advance Copiers in reference to our new copier.
- June 29– Visited Precinct #3, Franklin.
- July 7– Met with our labor attorney, President Weston, and Second Vice President Rose to prepare for the Step 4 Arbitration Hearing over Section 6.1C of the MOU.
- July 11– Attended the Arbitration Hearing for Section 6.1C of the MOU.
- July 14– Met with a possible candidate for the District #2 County Council seat.
- July 18– Attended a bi-monthly meeting of the FOP's P2P support group.
- July 19– Attended the viewing for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 20– Attended the funeral for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 24– Attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee, the July Executive Board of Directors meeting and Chaired the

## 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  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
*F.O.P. Lodge 4*  
(410) 409-0293

David M. Rose  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
*F.O.P. Lodge 4*  
(443) 956-2643

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

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

W. Don Patterson  
**State Trustee**  
*Retired*

Ryan Massey  
**Sergeant at Arms**  
*CIB - Homicide*

Anthony DiCara  
**Chaplain**  
*PC-8*

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  
*Retired*

Kathy Kraemer  
*PC-6*

David Sweren  
*PC-6*

Chris Hodnicki  
*CIB-GET*

James P. Rommel, Jr.  
*PC-3*

Ryan Franks  
*CIB-Property*

Robert Graff  
*PC-6*

Patrick Zito  
*Retired*

## LODGE STAFF

Nancy Skinner—Administrative Assistant

## LEGAL ADVISORS

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

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

## **Fourword Editors**

Donna Patterson  
Don Patterson

## *The Fourword*

July General Membership meeting.

### **~2<sup>nd</sup> V. P. ROSE~**

- June 27– Met with the Internal Affairs Commander and attended the County Council work session.
- July 5– Met with Captain McElwee and Major Wilson to discuss the Administrative Hearing Boards.
- July 6– Met with our labor counsel to prepare for the Article 6.1 C grievance at Step #4.
- July 11– Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting.
- July 13 – Visited Retired Chaplain Paul Merkle in the hospital.
- July 15 – Attended the viewing for Retired Baltimore County and Perryville Volunteer firefighter Brian Williams.
- July 18 – Attended the promotional draft.
- July 19 – Attended the viewing for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 20– Attended the funeral for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 24– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors and General membership meetings.

### **~SECRETARY PATTERSON~**

- July 19– Attended the viewing for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 20– Attended the funeral for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 24– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors and General Membership meetings.

### **~TRUSTEE PATTERSON~**

- July 19– Attended the viewing for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 20– Attended the funeral for Retired Brother Paul Merkle.
- July 24– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors and General Membership meetings.

### **~TREASURER CASKEY~**

- July 24– Treasurer Caskey was working and First Vice President Comegna gave the Lodge #4 Financial Report.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT ~ Ken Schubert~**

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on July 24, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. President Weston, Chaplain DiCara, Treasurer Caskey and Brother Graff were excused, all other board members were in attendance. Legal Advisor Mike Davey 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**

### **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE ~Don Patterson~**

- The Lodge #4 Annual Golf Tournament was held on Friday, August 18, 2017. Final report will be in next months newsletter.

### **DONATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**~Mike DiCara~**

- The Donation Review Committee met and discussed the following motions:
- To make a \$250.00 donation to a fundraiser for a Past State President Darryl Jones for the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van. Darryl is paralyzed from the waist down.
- To purchase 16 tickets to the Make-a-Wish Foundation fundraiser for an expenditure of \$2,400.00 to be held on September 9, 2017.
- To donate \$400.00 to cover the registration fee for the Battle of the Badges LEO Basketball Tournament to be held October 6-8, 2017.

### **GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ~Dave Rose~**

- The hearing for the Section 6.1 C grievance was held on July 11, 2017. The County Administration communicated to the FOP that they would not be participating in the arbitration hearing and they did not appear at the hearing. Our case was presented over the course of several hours. The court reporter has 30 days to get the transcript to the arbitrator and he will render a written decision soon after.
- On March 9, 2016, we filed a notice of intent to arbitrate as per Article 8, Section 8.3, Step #4 paragraph (b) of the MOU in our healthcare subsidy grievance. On June 15, 2016, we met with our labor attorney and healthcare consultant to discuss and prepare for the grievance as

we move forward into arbitration. We have tried to arrange a meeting with the County Administration to try and resolve the issue outside of arbitration but the County has not expressed a desire to do so. We selected an arbitrator from the AAA. We have not selected a hearing date. The County has communicated to the FOP that they have declined to participate in the arbitration of this grievance.

**LEGAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**  
~Dave Rose~

- We currently have three (3) hearing boards pending. These are pending because there is a show-cause petition filed in at least one (1) of them and the other two (2) were postponed until after the summer. These are the first hearing boards since January 2013.
- Pfc. Spivey's case was transferred to the Circuit Court by Assistant State's Attorney Coffin. It is scheduled for September 12, 2017.
- The Erica Schneider-Barnes appeal of her discontinued spousal death benefit has been scheduled for August 17, 2017.
- Mike Marshall and his staff are working on the Marvin Haw pension appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings. At this time no date has been set.

**Bereavements**

**Gloria Barber, Mother of Retired Brother Barry Barber**  
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**Doris Helena Butt, Grandmother of Sister Samantha Beale**  
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**James Pratt, Father of Sister Denise Yost**

**PENSION COMMITTEE**  
~Dave Rose~

- At the July 11, 2017 Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees approved twenty-eight (28) retirements, one (1) from the police department.

**POLICY REVIEW  
COMMITTEE**  
~Dave Rose~

- The committee members reviewed one (1) new/reviewed policy this month. The department is updating the Administrative Manual to reflect changes made to the LEOBR over the last couple of years in Annapolis, as well as our MOU to bring Article 2 up to date. We have met with them on several occasions to discuss the changes and approved a final draft which went out to our department members in Special Order 2017-01.

**POLITICAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE**  
~Steve Comegna~

- The Political Action Committee met on Monday, July 24, 2017. The committee brought forth one (1) recommendation for expenditure. That motion is as follows:
- To purchase a \$1,000.00 sponsorship to an event for Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell on July 25, 2017.
- There were also two (2) requests the committee did not take any action on.
- The Executive Board of Directors approved this expenditure on Monday, July 24, 2017. The expenditure was approved by the membership on Monday, July 24, 2017.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- During the month of July, FOP Lodge #4 sent one (1) card and flower arrangement to a bereaving member. One (1) fruit basket was sent to a member recovering from illness or surgery. Eleven (11) thank you cards were received. Four donations were made in lieu of flowers.
- The 2017 Baltimore County Police Reunion will be held on September 15, 2017 at Columbus Gardens.
- As of July 1, 2017, Heritage Parkville Gardens is closed. The Association of Retired Baltimore County Police Officers will hold the September and November meetings at Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Ave. Nottingham, MD 21236.

**RETIREMENTS**

**Ramunas Kligys  
Mark Warren  
Noel Arciaga  
Shubel Cooke  
Stephen Troutman  
Justin Sandridge**

**Births**

**Carsen Grace Canup,  
Daughter of Brother Chad Canup**

**Rowan Lee Vaughan,  
Daughter of Brother Blake Vaughan**

**Rob Phillip Reason, Son of Brother Rob Reason**

**Colin Matthew Stricklin,  
Son of Brother Jason Stricklin**

## Membership Passes to the National Aquarium

The Executive Board of Directors of Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4 has entered into a one year business partnership under the Corporate Membership program with the National Aquarium. This means we have four transferable passes for use by our members. If you are interested in using the passes: You can call or email the Office at (410) 668-0004, or office@foplodge4.org.

If they are available on the date you have requested they will be reserved for you.

It will be your responsibility to pick up and return the passes.

On the occasions when different members have passes reserved on adjacent dates we ask the parties to communicate and agree upon a drop-off/pickup location for transferring the passes.

Should the passes become lost or stolen while they are in the member's possession we will require the member to pay for the replacement cost.

These passes grant access to the aquarium through the corporate membership entrance which should reduce if not eliminate any waiting in line. We are pleased to be able to offer this as an additional benefit to the members of FOP Lodge #4.

## ***ARE YOUR BENEFICIARIES UP TO DATE ?***

***Please ensure that your beneficiary designees are current. Take a moment to verify that your loved ones are provided for in the manner you intend. The following offices can assist you.***

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b><i>Pension</i></b>   | <b><i>Retirement Office</i></b>                | <b><i>410 887-8246 or 1-877-222-3741</i></b> |
| <b><i>Life Insurance</i></b>                                  | <b><i>County Insurance</i></b>                 | <b><i>410 887-2568 or 1-800-274-4302</i></b> |
| <b><i>PBA</i></b>   | <b><i>Police Personnel</i></b>                 | <b><i>410 887-2208</i></b>                   |
| <b><i>Deffered Comp.</i></b>                                  | <b><i>Richard DeNardi/ Kevin McQuarrie</i></b> | <b><i>1-877-677-3678</i></b>                 |
| <b><i>Baltimore County Employees Federal Credit Union</i></b> |  | <b><i>410 828-4730</i></b>                   |

The September

**FOP Lodge 4  
GENERAL  
BUSINESS  
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,  
September 25, 2017  
7:30 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road

The October

**FOP Lodge 4  
GENERAL  
BUSINESS  
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,  
October 23, 2017  
7:30 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road